EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Westlink (Busways) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

S. R. 2014 No. 124

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Regional Development to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 20 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the rule is to amend The Westlink (Busways) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 ("the 2008 Regulations") which described the segregated busway which runs alongside the Westlink and regulates its use by prohibiting vehicles other than buses from using the busway subject to certain exceptions e.g. in the case of an accident or other emergency.

2.2. The rule will more accurately describe the busway as it was constructed and will include lengths of road at the Westlink near Roden Street, Belfast which were not included in the description in the schedule to the 2008 Regulations.

3. Background

3.1. The busway was provided as part of the M1/Westlink major road improvement scheme. It gives buses priority over queuing traffic to prevent delays, improve reliability and bus journey times and provide unrestricted access to the Europa Bus Centre.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and welcomes the proposal. Belfast City Council has also been advised of the proposal but no acknowledgement has been received.

4.2. There is no legal requirement to go to public consultation to make this rule.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No equality issues have been identified by the Department and no issues were raised following the publication of the notice in the press.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was not considered necessary as the proposal does not result in any costs or savings to business, charities or the voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No human rights issues have been identified by the Department and no issues were raised following the publication of the notice in the press.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.