

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Frances Street, Newtownards (Footway) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2009

S.R. 2009 No. 218

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 68(1) and (5) 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 abandon 14.025 square metres of footway fronting Nos. 4 to 8 Frances Street, Newtownards.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Abandonment has been requested by Royal Mail in order to provide an access ramp for disabled persons entering and leaving Newtownards Post Office. The bed and soil of the area of road involved is unregistered and the Department have confirmed that the area is no longer necessary for road traffic.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The police have been consulted and have no objection to the scheme. Ards Borough Council have also been notified. A notice in respect of the proposed abandonment was published in the local press for 2 successive weeks and statutory undertakers notified of the proposal. An objection was received from NIE who have plant in the area but was subsequently withdrawn.

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 on 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.

R Sherman

1st June 2009