

EIR Request (received 24 June 2025) - Reference: DFI/2025-0284

Further to my recent FOI request regarding bus lane layout on Great Victoria Street, I would also like to request:

1. Any internal or external assessments, studies, policies, safety reviews, risk assessments, or minutes of meetings that informed or justify the Department's view that "one car length" (approximately 6 metres) is a reasonable and safe distance within which to enter a bus lane to access a side road or private entrance.
2. Any documentation or correspondence that establishes how the Department decided this specific distance was appropriate in urban areas with high pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Response (issued 16 July 2025)

Thank you for your email dated the 24 June 2025, requesting the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. *Any internal or external assessments, studies, policies, safety reviews, risk assessments, or minutes of meetings that informed or justify the Department's view that "one car length" (approximately 6 metres) is a reasonable and safe distance within which to enter a bus lane to access a side road or private entrance.*
2. *Any documentation or correspondence that establishes how the Department decided this specific distance was appropriate in urban areas with high pedestrian and vehicle traffic.*

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as opposed to the FOI Act 2000. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information. EIR gives rights of public access environmental information held by public authorities.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at: [Guide to the Environmental Information Regulations](#).

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does not hold information relating to your request.

The Department does, however, consider one vehicle length to be a reasonable distance for enforcement purposes, as outlined in the following guidance on crossing bus lanes:

- to turn left into a side road next to a bus lane - however, you must turn as close as possible to the junction (it is considered reasonable that the turn should be made within one vehicle length of the junction).
- to turn right across a bus lane to enter a side street - however, you must make the turn as close as possible to the junction (it is considered reasonable that the turn should be made within one vehicle length).
- to access a private entrance (provided it is a vehicular access, and the vehicle does not wait in the bus lane) - you must make the turn as close as possible to the access point (it is considered reasonable that the turn should be made within one vehicle length).

Further details of Enforcement of bus lanes and bus only streets can be found at the following link <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/enforcement-bus-lanes-and-bus-only-streets>.

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