

Experimental Traffic Control Scheme - Hill Street and Gordon Street, Belfast

The Department for Infrastructure^(a) makes the following experimental traffic control scheme in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 5(1) and (2) of The Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997^(b) (“the 1997 Order”) and now vested in it^(c).

In accordance with Article 5(10) of, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 to, the 1997 Order, the Department has consulted such persons as it considered appropriate.

The Department has published a notice in compliance with paragraphs 2 and 4 of that Schedule.

Two objections have been received and duly considered.

The Department has modified the draft Direction Order.

Commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) The experimental traffic control scheme shall come into operation on 4th December 2025.

(2) In this scheme—

“the 1993 Regulations” means the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993^(d);

“authorised officer” means an officer of the Department authorised in writing by the Department;

“disabled person” means a person who is of a description prescribed by regulation 4 of the 1993 Regulations;

“disabled person’s badge” means a badge of the form prescribed by regulation 3 of the 1993 regulations issued by the Department for display on a motor vehicle driven by a disabled person, or used for the carriage of a disabled person or of several disabled persons and includes a duplicate badge issued pursuant to regulation 5A of the 1993 regulations;

“disabled person’s vehicle” means a vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled person’s badge and is a vehicle which, immediately before or after any period of waiting allowed by virtue of an exemption specified in regulation 9 of the 1993 Regulations, has been or is to be driven by a

(a) Formerly the Department for Regional Development; see section 1(6) and (11) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (2016 c. 5 (N.I.))

(b) S.I. 1997/276 (N.I. 2)

(c) S.R. 1999 No. 481 Article 6(d) and Schedule 4 Part IV

(d) S.R. 1993 No. 202: relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 2000 No. 59, S.R. 2008 No. 501, S.R. 2016 No. 30, S.R. 2016 No. 173 and 2016 No. 227

disabled person, or as the case may be, has been or is used for carrying disabled persons as passengers.;

“medical practitioner” means a registered person within the meaning of the Medical Act 1983(a);

“permitted taxi” means a taxi which is either—

- (i) licensed to stand or ply for hire on a road or public place and subject to Bye-Laws made in respect of Motor Hackney Carriages standing or plying for hire made by the Council of the County Borough of Belfast on 4th June 1951 and which meets the specifications prescribed by regulation 41 of the Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995(b); or
- (ii) licensed to operate carriage services under the road service licence provision of Part II of the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(c).

“postal packet” has the same meaning as in section 65(1) of the Postal Services Act 2011(d);

“universal service provider” has the same meaning as in section 65(1) of the Postal Services Act 2011; and

“vehicle” has the same meaning as in the Order of 1995(e).

Prohibition of traffic (Hill Street)

2. Subject to Article 4 the use by vehicles of Hill Street, Belfast from its junction with Gordon Street to its junction with Waring Street is prohibited.

One-way traffic (Gordon Street)

3. A person shall not, except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform, cause or permit a vehicle to proceed along Gordon Street, Belfast from its junction with Hill Street, Belfast to its junction with Dunbar Street, Belfast other than in an easterly direction.

Exceptions

4. The prohibition in Article 2 shall not apply to—

- (a) a disabled person’s vehicle for the purpose of enabling the holder of a disabled person’s badge to board or alight from the vehicle;
- (b) a permitted taxi, if it cannot conveniently be used for such purposes outside the length of road described, to be used by or on behalf of a disabled person for the purpose of enabling that person to board or alight, and which remains on the road only for so long as is reasonably necessary for that purpose;
- (c) a vehicle the driver or rider of which is acting upon the direction, or with the permission of, a constable in uniform;
- (d) a vehicle to be used in an emergency by a medical practitioner, or for fire and rescue, ambulance, police or customs purposes or for the purposes of the security forces;
- (e) a vehicle used for the conveyance of goods to and from premises situated on the length of road described, between the hours of 6.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon, where the goods, by reason of their size and weight, could not reasonably be conveyed to or from such premises otherwise than by means of a vehicle, and provided that the vehicle is not used for any longer than may be necessary to enable goods to be loaded on to or unloaded from the vehicle;

(a) 1983 c. 54

(b) S.R. 1995 No. 447

(c) 1967 c. 37 (NI) to which there are no relevant amendments

(d) 2011 c. 5

(e) S.I. 1995/2994 (N.I. 18)

- (f) a vehicle to be used by or on behalf of a universal service provider for the purposes of the delivery to, or collection from, premises situated to the length of road of postal packets;
- (g) a vehicle, if it cannot conveniently be used for such purposes outside that length of road, to be used—
 - (i) in connection with any building, repair or demolition operations;
 - (ii) in connection with the removal of any obstruction to traffic;
 - (iii) by or on behalf of a district council or a government department in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;
 - (iv) by or on behalf of a sewerage undertaker or a water undertaker in connection with the discharge of that undertaker's functions;
 - (v) in connection with the discharge of the functions of the holder of a licence granted under Article 10 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992(a) or of a licence granted under Article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996(b); or
 - (vi) in connection with the laying, erection, alteration or repair of any electronic telecommunications apparatus as defined in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984(c).
- (h) a vehicle being used in accordance with an authorisation issued by an authorised officer of the Department and displayed on the front windscreen of the vehicle.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Infrastructure on 3rd December 2025

(L.S.)

R Balfour
A senior officer of the Department for Infrastructure

(a) S.I. 1992/231 (N.I.1) as amended by S.I. 2003/419 (N.I. 6), S.R. 2007 No. 283, S.R. 2007 No. 303, S.R. 2007 No. 320, S.R. 2007 No. 321, S.I. 2007/913 (N.I. 7) and S.R. 2011 No. 155
(b) S.I. 1996/275 (N.I. 2) as amended by S.R. 2006 No. 358 and S.R. 2011 No. 92
(c) 1984 c. 12 as amended by 2003 c. 21 Schedule 3 paragraph 2(2)