

Experimental Traffic Control Scheme - Bus Lanes (Northern Arterial Corridors, 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.

(Here will follow, where appropriate, recitals of the fact of any objections or other representations received).

Commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) The experimental traffic control scheme shall come into operation on 2026.

(2) In this scheme—

“bus” means a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than 8 passengers (exclusive of the driver);

“bus lanes” means the areas of those lengths of roads specified in the Schedules;

“cycle” has the meaning as in the Order of 1995^(d);

“lay-by” means a surfaced area adjacent to the carriageway intended for the waiting of vehicles;

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

“motor cycle” has the same meaning as in the Order of 1995;

“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^(f);
- (ii) licensed to operate carriage services under the road service licence provision of Part II of the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 1967^(g); or

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

(e) 1983 c. 54

(f) S.R. 1995 No. 447

(g) 1967 c. 37 (N.I.) to which there are no relevant amendments

- (iii) as it pertains to the lengths of road specified in the Experimental Traffic Control Scheme – Permitted Taxis in Bus Lanes – Belfast City Centre(a)
- “taxi” has the meaning assigned to it by Section 57(1) of the Taxis Act; and
- “the Taxis Act” means the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 c. 4.

Prohibitions on traffic

2. Subject to Article 4, a person shall not, except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform, cause or permit any vehicle other than a bus, cycle, motor cycle or permitted taxi to enter, proceed or wait in a bus lane specified in the Column 1 of Schedules 1 and 2 on the days and during the times specified in relation to that bus lane in Column 2.

3. A bus, cycle, motor cycle or permitted taxi may only wait in a bus lane to enable a person to board or alight from the vehicle and the period of waiting shall not exceed two minutes.

Exceptions

4. The prohibitions in Article 3 shall not render it unlawful for any person to cause or permit any vehicle to enter, proceed or wait in a bus lane so far as such entry, proceeding or waiting is reasonably necessary for the avoidance of an accident or to enable the vehicle to be used—

- (a) in an emergency by a medical practitioner, or for police, military, fire and rescue or ambulance purposes; or
- (b) in the services of the Department in pursuance of its statutory powers or duties; or
- (c) for any of the following operations provided that they can be conveniently carried out only from the bus lane—
 - (i) in an emergency in connection with the laying, erection, alteration or repair of any electronic communications apparatus as defined in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984(b); or
 - (ii) by or on behalf of the holder of a licence granted under Article 10 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992(c) or a licence granted under Article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996(d) in an emergency in connection with the discharge of the holder’s functions within the bus lane or an area accessible only from the bus lane; or
 - (iii) by or on behalf of a sewerage or a water undertaker in an emergency in connection with the discharge of that undertaker’s functions within the bus lane or an area accessible only from the bus lane; or
- (d) for access to or from premises adjacent to or accessible only from the bus lane; or
- (e) for access to or from a lay-by adjacent to or accessible only from the bus lane; or
- (f) for the removal of any obstruction to traffic.

Modification of Orders

5. The Department directs that, during the period that the experimental traffic control scheme is in force, the provisions specified in Column 1 of Schedule 3 are temporarily revoked to the extent specified in Column 2.

(a) Published in the Belfast Gazette on 19th September 2025 and in the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and Newsletter on 17th September 2025

(b) 1984 c. 12 as amended by 2003 c. 21 Schedule 3 paragraph 2(2)

(c) 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. 284, 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

(d) S.I. 1996/275 (N.I. 2) as amended by S.R. 2006 No. 358, S.R. 2011 No. 155 and S.R. 2013 No. 92

(L.S.)

A senior officer of the Department for Infrastructure

SCHEDULE 1

INBOUND BUS LANES

Article 2

<i>Length of road</i>	<i>Days and hours of operation</i>
1. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 160 metres north of its junction with Downview Avenue, to a point 55 metres north of its junction with Donegall Park Avenue, bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerbline of Antrim Road and by that road's junctions with Downview Avenue and Waterloo Gardens, and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
2. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 78 metres south of its junction with Donegall Park Avenue, to a point 34 metres south of its junction with Lansdowne Road, bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerbline of Antrim Road and by that road's junctions with Parkmount Road, Glastonbury Avenue and Lansdowne Road, and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
3. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 44 metres north of its southern junction with Fortwilliam Drive, to a point 30 metres north of its junction with Firmount. The lane is bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerbline of Antrim Road, by its southern junction with Fortwilliam Park, and by access to properties, and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the southern junction with Fortwilliam Park and at a pedestrian crossing.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
4. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 30 metres north of its junction with Firmount to a point 50 metres north of its junction with Fortwilliam Park, bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerbline of Antrim Road and by that road's junction with Firmount and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by a gap opposite the junction.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
5. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 95 metres south of its junction with Skegoneill Avenue to its junction with Jubilee Avenue, bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerbline of Antrim Road and by that road's junctions with Glandore Gardens, Glandore Avenue and Alexandra Park Avenue, and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
6. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from its junction with Limestone Road to its junction with Atlantic Avenue, bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerbline of Antrim Road and by that road's junctions with Pacific	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30

<p>Avenue and Baltic Avenue, and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.</p>	<p>p.m.</p>
<p>7. Antrim Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from its junction with New Lodge Road to a point 60 metres south of its junction with Pim Street, bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerblineline of Antrim Road and by that road's junctions with Dawson Street, Churchill Street and Pim Street, and on its western side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>8. Crumlin Road: The city bound part of the carriageway, from its junction with Brompton Park, to a point approximately 55 metres west of its junction with Hillview Road, bounded on its southern side by the edge of a white line, and on its northern side by the northern kerblineline of Crumlin Road and by that road's junctions with Kerrera Street and Flax Street.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>9. Crumlin Road: The city bound part of the carriageway, from a point approximately 60 metres east of its junction with Hillview Road, to its junction with Oldpark Road, bounded on its southern side by the edge of a white line, and on its northern side by the northern kerblineline of Crumlin Road and by that road's junctions with Rosewood Street, Yarrow Street, Albertville Drive and Century Street.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>10. Shore Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Shore Road, Belfast, from a point 45 metres north of its northern junction with Shore Crescent, to a point 190 metres south of its southern junction with Shore Crescent. The lane is bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerblineline of Shore Road and by its two junctions with Shore Crescent and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by gaps opposite the junctions and by a pedestrian crossing.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>11. Shore Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of Shore Road, Belfast, from a point 240 metres north of the northbound carriageway's junction with Low Wood Park, to a point 85 metres south of that junction. The lane is bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerblineline of Shore Road and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by a pedestrian crossing.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>12. York Road: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of York Road, Belfast, from a point 37 metres south of its junction with North Derby Street, to a point opposite its junction with Limestone Road. The lane is bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerblineline of York Road and by its junction with Milewater Street and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by a gap opposite the junction.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>13. York Street: The area of the southbound part of the carriageway of York Street, Belfast, from a point 60 metres south of the northbound carriageway's junction with Limestone Road, to a point 28 metres north of its junction with Whitla Street. The lane is bounded on its eastern side by the eastern kerblineline of York Street and an entrance to business premises and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by the gap opposite the entrance to business premises and by a pedestrian crossing.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>

SCHEDULE 2

Article 2

OUTBOUND BUS LANES

<i>Length of road</i>	<i>Days and hours of operation</i>
<p>1. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from its junction with Allworthy Avenue to a point 60 metres south of its junction with Cavehill Road, bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road and by that road's junction with Brookvale Avenue, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by a gap opposite the junction.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>2. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 55 metres north of its junction with Cavehill Road to its junction with Hughenden Avenue, bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road and by that road's junctions with Rosemount Gardens, Willowbank Gardens, Hopefield Avenue, Cedar Avenue and Kansas Avenue, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>3. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 135 metres south of its junction with Chichester Park North to its junction with Chichester Park North, bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>4. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 30 metres north of its junction with Chichester Park North, to a point 15 metres south of its junction with Chichester Road. The lane is bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road, by that road's junctions with Chichester Gardens and Chichester Avenue, by a lay-by and by access to a property, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>5. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 20 metres north of its junction with Old Cavehill Road, to a point 67 metres south of its junction with North Circular Road, bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road, by that road's junction with Slievemoyne Park and by accesses to properties, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by a gap opposite the junction.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>6. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 85 metres south of its junction with Innisfayle Park, to a point 55 metres south of its junction with Waterloo Park, bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road, by that road's junction with Innisfayle Park and by access to a property, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line, broken only by a gap opposite the junction.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>
<p>7. Antrim Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Antrim Road, Belfast, from a point 80 metres north of its junction with Waterloo Park, to a point 90 metres north of its junction with Downview Park, bounded on its western side by the western kerblines of Antrim Road and by that road's junction with Downview Park, and on its eastern side by the outer edge of a road marking in the form of a continuous</p>	<p>Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</p>

longitudinal white line, broken only by a gap opposite the junction.	
8. York Street: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of York Street, Belfast, from a point 8 metres south of its junction with St. Paul's Street, to its junction with Limestone Road. The lane is bounded on its western side by the western kerbline of York Street and by its junctions with St. Paul's Street and Hanna Street, and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
9. York Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of York Road, Belfast, from a point 38 metres north of its junction with Mountcollyer Avenue to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Alexandra Park Avenue. The lane is bounded on its western side by the western kerbline of York Road and by its junctions with Parkmount Street, Seaview Street and Castleton Avenue and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by gaps opposite the junctions.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
York Road and Shore Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of York Road and Shore Road, Belfast, from a point 56 metres north of its junction with Grove Place, to a point 94 metres south of its junction with Fortwilliam Crescent. The lane is bounded on its western side by the western kerbline of York Road and Shore Road and by its junctions with North Queen Street, Skegoniel Avenue, Northwood Parade, Northwood Road and Premier Drive and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by gaps opposite the junctions and by two pedestrian crossings.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Shore Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Shore Road, Belfast, from a point 65 metres north of its junction with Mount Vernon Road, to its junction with Donegall Park Avenue. The lane is bounded on its western side by the western kerbline of Shore Road and by its junction with Low Wood Park and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by a gap opposite the junction and by a pedestrian crossing.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Shore Road: The area of the northbound part of the carriageway of Shore Road, Belfast, from a point 102 metres north of its junction with Donegall Park Avenue, to a point 150 metres south of its junction with Gray's Lane. The lane is bounded on its western side by the western kerbline of Shore Road and by its junction with Greencastle Place and on its outer edge by a road marking in the form of a continuous longitudinal white line broken only by a gap opposite the junction and by a pedestrian crossing.	Monday to Friday inclusive, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

SCHEDULE 3

Article 5

Temporary Revocations

<i>Title</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of temporary revocation</i>
Bus Lanes Order (Northern Ireland) 2002	S.R. 2002 No. 173	Item nos. 7 and 8 of Schedule 1
The Bus Lanes (Antrim Road, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005	S.R. 2005 No. 583	The whole Order
The Bus Lanes (Antrim Road, Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2008	S.R. 2008 No. 215	The whole order
The Bus Lanes (Shore Road, York Road and York Street, Belfast (Order Northern Ireland) 2011	S.R. 2011 No. 294	The whole Order