

before works start. It can often be a small scheme which causes little disruption and is completed fairly quickly.

For major road schemes, despite the best intentions of the DfI to contact those affected, sometimes people are missed. If you have not been contacted by DfI or their contractors and feel you should have been, please contact the DfI.

Compensation for loss of trade

Whilst DfI regrets any inconvenience experienced by traders as a result of road works, the Department is not legally obliged to offer compensation to businesses for economic loss, providing it has accommodated reasonable access arrangements to the business premises during the period of the work.

Safety

Safety for all road users including road workers is the highest priority when completing any road scheme. All works and closures are planned to optimise safety, road space and work efficiency, whilst minimising road user congestion, delay and inconvenience and balancing traffic flow. It is important that all drivers do respect any temporary lower speed restrictions that are often put in place.

Safety of Road Workers

The safety of road workers should be a priority for all who use the roads. Motorists should show care and consideration when driving close to or through road works.

While traffic signs and cones offer some protection to road workers, signing layouts rely heavily on drivers reacting positively to the temporary arrangements, to negotiate road works safely.

Contact Details

If you would like any further information on this subject, please contact:

Department for Infrastructure

Clarence Court,
10 -18 Adelaide Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8GB

Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
(Text relay prefix 18001)

E-mail: info@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/dfi-roads

Alternative Formats

Should you require this leaflet in an accessible format e.g. Braille, audio-CD, minority ethnic language etc., please contact DfI as above.

Due to the continuing covid-19 pandemic, the Department has carried out a risk assessment and developed a safe system of work specifically related to Covid-19. These are based on the latest NI Executive, Industry and Public Health Agency regulations and guidance. These are kept under review, providing further assurance to our employees, our supply chains and the public.



**Every day connecting people safely,
supporting opportunities
and creating sustainable living places.**



Disruption caused by Road Works

Information for
Residents, Businesses
and Road Users

Keeping Traffic on the Move

Introduction

The public road network plays a vital role in promoting the social and economic well-being of Northern Ireland, where the majority of people and freight movements are made by road. Road works are essential to maintain, develop and improve our infrastructure.

Temporary traffic management measures during construction

All works involve planning for temporary traffic management measures which may include priority flow, temporary traffic lights, stop-go boards, single lane closures or road closures.

Why are roads closed during works?

Closing roads can be a legal requirement to ensure the safety of workers and other road users. A road closure is generally the last option for work that cannot be otherwise completed safely. Road closures generally mean work can be completed sooner because managing traffic often impedes the site works. For those road users who disregard 'road closed' signs you could get anything from a fixed penalty through to prosecution for careless driving.

Where practicable, roads will be opened to traffic during evenings or weekends, as works progress.

Will alternative routes be available?

Roads will only be closed where a suitable diversionary route exists, usually a local route. However diversions on busier roads need a diversionary route which can accommodate a similar type and volume of traffic. Unfortunately, this can mean longer diversions need to be used, if no local route is adequate for all road users.

Diversions routes

Diversions routes are planned and agreed in advance of the works to provide the most appropriate route for all road users. They will always be well signed.

Will traffic and travel information be available?

Information on high impact road closures will be available at www.trafficwatchni.com and usually on most local radio traffic bulletins.

Road closures lasting longer than two weeks will normally be advertised in local papers.

DfI aims to provide driver information signs at least one week ahead of the start of road closures/temporary traffic arrangements. Often variable message signs are placed at the side of the road to warn of impending major works. Letters detailing the road works are normally delivered to adjoining businesses and residential properties.

Road works at evening / night-time

DfI tries to carry out all road works at times to minimise disruption to road users, avoiding the peak traffic times of 08:00-09:30 and 16:30-18:00 Monday to Friday. DfI takes many factors into consideration when making the decision to undertake evening/night-time working. DfI considers the needs of the local community, businesses, schools, places of worship and public transport providers. Traffic flows for each area are considered and DfI will often change traffic management measures to suit the needs of the area. This is not possible on every occasion despite the best efforts of DfI to accommodate concerns.

Works on footways

Footway work will always be signed and guarding will be provided. The needs of older people or people with a disability will be catered for.

Utility companies and street works

Works carried out by utility companies e.g. BT, NIE, NI Water, Firmus Gas, Phoenix Gas etc and their contractors to install, inspect, maintain repair or replace apparatus are known as street works.

DfI is not responsible for these works however it does coordinate these works and carries out sample inspections to ensure the work is carried out safely and to an agreed standard. Utility companies must display an information board at major works displaying the name of the organisation carrying out the works and its contact details.

Consultation with the Community

DfI endeavours to consult with those people who are affected by road works. DfI takes part in formal meetings, has one to one discussions on site, gives information to the media, does letter drops and listens to those who bring concerns to its attention. The level of consultation will depend on the disruption and length of the works.

However, with all road works there has to be a balance provided between the needs of the road users, businesses and the contractor to ensure works are completed safely within time and budget.

Why did no one contact me?

A roads scheme can sometimes get the go-ahead at the last minute. This can be due to unexpected funding and there is little time to contact people