

Department for Regional Development – Roads Service

A55 Knock Road Widening

**Public Inquiry
November 2010**

Proof of Evidence – DRD A55/31

(Land Issues)

John McQuitty MSc, BA Hons

Lands

DRD Roads Service - Eastern Division

Hydebank

4 Hospital Road

Belfast BT8 8JL

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Vesting Powers	2
3.0	Disposal of surplus land	3
4.0	Conclusion	4

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Personal details

My name is John McQuitty. I am a Staff Officer in Roads Service. I have worked for Roads Service for approximately 9 years, and have been involved in lands acquisition and disposal for over 4 years.

1.2 Role in project

I have attended the progress meetings for this scheme and overseen the development of the proposed Vesting Order and provided input with regards to queries on the process for surplus lands.

2.0 Vesting Powers

- 2.1 The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 and the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 give Roads Service the powers to vest land for roads purposes.
- 2.2 The Notice of Intention to Make a Vesting Order (ref: DRD A55/13) for the A55 Knock Road scheme was published, along with the Draft Direction Order (ref: DRD A55/12) and Environmental Statement (ref: DRD A55/16) on 11 November 2009.
- 2.3 The proposed Vesting Order requires the acquisition of various interests from 24 plots.

3.0 Disposal of surplus land

- 3.1 As Roads Service already own substantial holdings in the area due to previous acquisition, most notably a previous Vesting Order dated 23/9/1990, a number of residents have queried what will happen to any surplus lands following the scheme.
- 3.2 Procedures for the disposal of surplus Government land are managed by Land and Property Service (LPS). Lands not required by the scheme will be subject to these normal disposal procedures. These procedures would include the trawling of lands around the different parts of Government.
- 3.3 The preferred method of sale and any rights to first refusal will be examined on a case by case basis by Land and Property Services and, if required, Departmental Solicitors.
- 3.4 Any development on the surplus lands will also be the subject of the planning permission process.
- 3.5 Roads Service cannot therefore give any assurances at this time on the long-term use of any surplus lands.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Department is satisfied that the procedures undertaken to date have been correct and proper and that no commitments can be made at this time on the future use of any surplus lands.