

## Traffic Signs Authorisation

The Department for Regional Development(a), gives the following authorisation in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 28(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(b) and now vested in it(c).

### *Interpretation*

1. In this authorisation—

“the 1997 Regulations” means the Traffic Signs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997(d);

“hours of darkness” and “retroreflecting material” have the meanings assigned to those terms by regulation 2 of the 1997 Regulations;

“sign” means the traffic sign shown in the diagram in Schedule 2; and

“variable message sign” means a device which may display—

(a) a legend of the type shown in the Table in Schedule 1 in accordance with the provisions of that Table; or

(b) a blank grey or a blank black face.

### *Control of traffic by signs and variable message signs*

2.—(1) The sign and the variable message sign are authorised for erection at locations in County Down for the purpose of indicating to traffic both vehicular and pedestrian the information relating to the Strangford ferry service shown therein.

(2) The locations referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(a) Portaferry Road, Route A2, Cloghy;

(b) Strangford Road, Route A25, Downpatrick;

(c) Portaferry Road, Route A20, Kircubbin;

(d) Portaferry Road, Route A20, Newtownards;

(e) Ferry slipway, Portaferry; and

(f) Ferry slipway, Strangford.

(3) The information indicated and conveyed by the sign shall be that specified in or under the diagram in Schedule 2.

(4) The information conveyed by the variable message sign shall be that specified in the table in Schedule 1.

### *Variable message sign to be placed in combination with sign*

3. A variable message sign may be placed in a road only in conjunction with the sign.

### *Sign to be of the size, colour and type shown in the diagram*

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this authorisation, the sign shall be of the size, colour and type shown in the diagram in Schedule 2.

(2) Dimensions indicated in the diagram in Schedule 2 are expressed in millimetres.

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(a) S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(1)

(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. 1997 No. 386

### *Variation of dimensions*

5. Any dimension specified for the sign in the diagram in Schedule 2 may be varied in accordance with the following Table.

**TABLE**

#### **Height of letters**

Item (1)	Dimensions shown in Diagram (2)	Permitted Variations (3)
1.	100 millimetres or more	Up to 5% of the dimension
2.	Less than 100 millimetres	Up to 7.5% of the dimension

### *Proportions and form of letters, numerals and other characters in the sign*

6. All letters incorporated in the sign shown in the diagram in Schedule 2 shall have the proportions and form as prescribed in Part II of Schedule 13 to the 1997 Regulations.

### *Proportions and form of letters, numerals and other characters in a variable message sign*

7. All letters, numerals and other characters incorporated in the legends shown in the table in Schedule 1 shall have the proportions and form as prescribed in Part V of Schedule 13 to the 1997 Regulations.

### *Size of variable message sign*

8. A variable message sign shall be of a size appropriate to display a legend of a type specified in the table in Schedule 1, having regard to the normal speed of traffic on the road on or near which the sign is situated.

### *Display of lamps*

9.—(1) When a variable message sign displays a legend of the type shown in the Table in Schedule 1, it may also display four lamps that shall: —

- (a) be of the size, colour and type shown in diagram 6022 of the 1997 Regulations when placed beside the carriageway or 6021 when mounted on a gantry or other structure over the carriageway; and
- (b) each show an intermittent amber light at a rate of flashing of not less than 60 nor more than 150 flashes per minute and in such a manner that one horizontal pair of lights is always shown when the lights of the other horizontal pair are not shown. The distance between the lamps shall be varied to accord with the overall size of the variable message sign.

(2) The display of a blank grey or blank black face on a variable message sign accompanied by four lamps of the kind mentioned in paragraph 7(1) shall indicate to drivers that they should take special care.

### *Illumination requirements*

10.—(1) The sign shown in the diagram in Schedule 2 may be illuminated by a means of internal or external lighting but if not so illuminated throughout the hours of darkness, it shall be illuminated by the use of retroreflecting material in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) Where retroreflecting material is used on any part of the sign, all other parts of that sign shall also be illuminated by means of retroreflecting material except any part of the sign coloured black.

(3) Where the sign is illuminated by means of external lighting, then that means of lighting shall be fitted to the structure on which the sign is mounted or which is otherwise specially provided, except that if the sign is mounted on a bridge, tunnel or similar structure over a road the means of lighting may alternatively be mounted separately in a manner such as to illuminate the sign effectively.

***Revocation***

**11.** The Traffic Signs Authorisation made on 12th June 2003 relating to the Strangford Lough Ferry variable message signs is hereby revoked.

Authorised Officer: H H Hamilton

Date: 23rd November 2012



## SCHEDULE 1

### INFORMATION ON STRANGFORD FERRY

A legend shown in column (2) may be combined with any legend shown in either column (3) or column (4) or any legends from both columns (3) and (4). Legends shown in columns (5) and (6) may be included on the Variable Message Signs located at the Portaferry and Strangford Ferry slipways.

Where the same legend appears in columns (3), (4) or (5) it should not be used more than once in the same message combination (with the exception of the test lettering in item (1))

The legend "DELAYS" may appear with no other wording. The legends "POSSIBLE" and "DELAYS" may be used in combination.

Item (1)	First line of message (2)	Additional line of message (3)	Further additional line of message (4)	Additional line (at slipways) (5)	Further additional line (at slipway) (6)
1.	"BBBBBBBBBB"	"BBBBBBBBBB"	"BBBBBBBBBB"	"BBBBBBBBBB"	"BBBBBBBBBB"
2.	"SUSPENDED"	"SAILING"	"ONLY"	"SERVICE"	"TODAY"
3.	"EXTRA"	"SAILINGS"	A Day of the week	"EVERY"	"HALF HOUR"
4.	"NO"	"SERVICE"	A number and "HOUR"	Time of day in "hh:mm" and "TO"	Time of day in "hh:mm"
5.	"FIRST"	"FOG"	A number and "HOURS"	"OUR"	"APOLOGIES"
6.	"LAST"	"STORM"	Time of day in "hh:mm"		"NORMAL"
7.	"PASSENGER"	"HIGH TIDE"	"DELAY"		
8.	"NORMAL"	"BREAKDOWN"	"DELAYS"		
9.	"QUEUES"	A number and "HOURS"	"NO"		
10.	"NEXT"	"POSSIBLE"	"SCHEDULED"		
11.	"HAPPY"	"CHRISTMAS"	"TIMETABLE"		
12.	"RUNNING"	"OFF"	"SCHEDULE"		
13.	"7.5 T"	"WEIGHT"	"LIMIT"		
14.	"11.5 T"		"BREAKDOWN"		
15.	"13.5 T"		"FOG"		
16.			"STORM"		
17.	"SIGN"	"UNDER"	"TEST"		

SCHEDULE 2

50  
(60)  
(75)  
(100)



Sign to be used in conjunction with variable message sign for Strangford Lough Ferry Service

