

DEPARTMENT: Infrastructure (DoI)		
IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF: The Highways (Amendment) Bill 2015		
Stage: Public consultation	Version: 1	Date: 1 April 2015
Related Publications: The DoI Service Delivery Plan 2013-2016		
Responsible Officer: Jeffrey Robinson, Director of Highway Services		
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SUMMARY: INTERVENTION AND OPTIONS
<p>Briefly summarise the proposal's purpose and the intended effects</p> <p>(1) To enable the adverse effects of a highway on its surroundings to be mitigated by developing those surroundings,</p> <p>(2) To enable the designation of improvement lines for the widening of highway blackspots,</p> <p>(3) To make further provision for the installation or improvement of highway lighting,</p> <p>(4) To enable the improvement of accesses to highways from adjoining land,</p> <p>(5) To make better provision with respect to highway amenities,</p> <p>(6) To enable the acquisition of land for the purposes of (1) or (2) or of land blighted by highway works,</p> <p>(7) To make supplementary provision as to the making up of private streets, and</p> <p>(8) To make other amendments of a lesser nature with respect to highways.</p>
<p>What are the options that have been considered</p> <p>Involving, as they do, amendments of primary legislation, the proposals can be achieved only by further primary legislation. The options are basically to do nothing, in which case the public interest would be compromised, or to act by way of the Bill.</p>
<p>Link to Government Strategic Plan</p> <p>To promote a safe and enhanced environment.</p> <p>Link to Department/Statutory Board/Office Aims and Objectives</p> <p>Inter alia, to improve highways and their surroundings and to ensure works are carried out on them safely.</p>
<p>Responsible Departmental Member</p> <p>Mr J Houghton MHK</p>

Ministerial sign off

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that the balance between the benefit and any costs is the right one in the circumstances.

**Signed by
Minister P Gawne MHK**

Date:
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SUMMARY: ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE

IMPACT OF PROPOSAL

Resource Issues - Financial (including manpower)

Statement

For the most part the provisions of the Bill are cost-neutral, being either self-financing or being administered by existing personnel as part of their ongoing responsibilities with no corresponding increase in budgetary provision. However, clauses 7 to 9, 16 and 19 of the Bill do carry with them the prospect of additional expenditure by the Department, but such expenditure is not at present quantifiable as it will depend on largely unforeseeable circumstances arising in the future.

Likely Financial Costs

One Off: As stated above.

Average Annual (excluding one off): As stated above.

Likely Financial Benefits

One Off and Average Annual (excluding one off):

At present unquantifiable due to unforeseeable circumstances, but in the longer term financial benefits will accrue from the safer and freer movement of traffic (including pedestrians) on highways, together with the facilitation of highway amenities.

If the proposal introduces provisions that will require another Department, Board, Office or Body to take on additional work or responsibility please ensure that they have been consulted early on in your considerations. Please provide a brief statement as to who they are and the consultation that has taken place.

Local authorities and the police, but it has been thought more advisable to leave consultation to the present exercise so that comments may be based on worked up proposals.

Are there any costs or benefits that are not financial i.e. social?

Such benefits arise, inter alia, from the facilitation of highway amenities, the improvement of highway surroundings, and the making up of private streets.

Which Business sectors/organisations will be impacted, if any, and has any direct consultation taken place?

Principally statutory undertakers and an exceedingly small number of businesses affected, for example, by improvement lines. Consultation has been left to this exercise for the reason stated above.

Does the proposal comply with privacy law? Please provide a brief statement as to any issue of privacy or security of personal information.

Yes, so no statement is necessary.

Has Treasury Concurrence been given for the preferred option?

Date of Treasury Concurrence: Not applicable.

Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks

A key assumption is that it is in the public interest for the Bill to cater for those matters which it addresses.

Approximate date for legislation to be implemented if known

Royal assent is anticipated later this year with the Bill being brought into force by order shortly afterwards.

SUMMARY: CONSULTATION [Note J]

Consultation in line with Government standard consultation process? Yes.

Date

1st Consultation: April 2015. 2nd Consultation: None.

Summary of Responses:

Responses have yet to arise as a result of this consultation.

EVIDENCE BASE

DoI has no further evidence etc to be set out other than that presented in an orderly way in this impact assessment and the accompanying letter. When read together, they are self-explanatory.