STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2012 No. 198

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

The Bus Lanes (Belfast City Centre) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012

Made - - - -	*17th May 2012*
Coming into operation -	*8th June 2012*

The Department for Regional Development(**a**) makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 4(1), (2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(**b**) and now vested in it(**c**).

The Department has consulted such persons as it considered appropriate in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 to that Order.

The Department has published a Notice in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of that Schedule.

No written objection or other representation has been received.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as The Bus Lanes (Belfast City Centre) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 and shall come into operation on 8th June 2012.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

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

"bus lane" means a length of road specified in the Schedule;

"cycle" has the same meaning as in the Order of 1995;

"medical practitioner" means a registered person within the meaning of the Medical Act 1983(**d**).

"motor cycle" has the same meaning as in the Order of 1995; and

"permitted taxi" means a taxi which is either—

(**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**) 1983 c. 54

(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(**a**); or

(ii) licensed to operate carriage services under the road service licence provision of Part II of the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(**b**).

Prohibitions on traffic

3. Subject to Article 4 and save as provided in Article 5, a person shall not, during the hours 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. on the days Monday to Saturday inclusive, 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.

Restriction of waiting

4. 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

5. 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—

(i) in an emergency by a medical practitioner, or for police, military, fire and rescue or ambulance purposes; or

(ii) in the services of the Department in pursuance of statutory powers or duties; or

(iii) for access to or from premises adjacent to or accessible only from the bus lane; or

(iv) for access to or from a Taxi Stand, lay-by, loading bay, disabled bay, coach bay or pay & display parking bay adjacent to or accessible only from the bus lane; or

(v) for the removal of any obstruction to traffic.

Amendment to bus lanes order

6.—(1) Schedule 1 to the Bus Lanes Order (Northern Ireland) 2002(**c**) shall be amended in accordance with paragraph 2.

(2) Delete item no. 12 relating to Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Regional Development on 17th May 2012

(L.S.)

D J Millar
A senior officer of the Department for Regional Development

(**a**) S.R. 1995 No. 447
(**b**) 1967 c. 37 (N.I.) to which there are no relevant amendments
(**c**) S.R. 2002 No. 173 as amended by S.R. 2005 No. 422, S.R. 2005 No. 480 and S.R. 2010 No. 333