STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2011 No. 321

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

The Bus Lane (Victoria Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011

Made - - - - *15th September 2011*

Coming into operation - *7th October 2011*

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 Lane (Victoria Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011 and shall come into operation on 7th October 2011.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

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

"the bus lane" means the length of Victoria Street, Belfast, 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 the bus lane.

Restriction of waiting

4. A bus, cycle, motor cycle or permitted taxi may only wait in the 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 the 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 or a district Council 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 the removal of any obstruction to traffic.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Regional Development on 15th September 2011

(L.S.)

Robert J M Cairns
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