1980 No. 131

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Road Traffic (Dock Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made	*17th April 1980*
Coming into operation . . .	*2nd June 1980*

The Department of the Environment in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 19 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This order may be cited as the Road Traffic (Dock Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on 2nd June 1980.

Interpretation

2. In this order:—

"fire lane" has the meaning assigned to it in the schedule;

"fire vehicle" means a vehicle owned by the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland for the purpose of fire fighting or fire prevention;

"Department" means the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland;

"white line" has the meaning assigned to it in the schedule.

Restriction on traffic

3. Save as provided in article 6, no person shall, except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform or of a traffic warden, cause or permit any vehicle other than a fire vehicle, to enter, proceed or wait in the fire lane otherwise than for the purpose of crossing it.

4. Save as provided in article 5, no person shall, except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform or of a traffic warden, cause or permit any fire vehicle, to proceed along the fire lane otherwise than in a westerly direction.

5. Save as provided in article 6, no person shall, except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform or of a traffic warden, cause or permit any vehicle to proceed along Dock Street in the area of carriageway south of the fire lane otherwise than in an easterly direction: provided that the foregoing provision shall not apply so as to prevent any person causing or permitting a fire vehicle, which is proceeding in a westerly direction in the fire lane, to cross over the white line if it is necessary to do so in order to overtake a vehicle that is stationary in the fire lane or to avoid any other obstruction to traffic in the fire lane.

Exemptions

6.—(1) Nothing in the order shall render it unlawful for any person to cause or permit any vehicle to enter or proceed in any direction in the fire lane so far as such entry or proceeding is reasonably necessary to enable the vehicle to be used for the purpose of removing any bstruction to traffic in the fire lane or for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes or to wait in the fire lane for so long as may be necessary for any of those purposes.

(**a**) 1970 c. 2 (N.I.) as substituted by art. 14 S.I. 1978/1051 (N.I. 21)

(2) Save as provided in paragraph (3)(v), nothing in this order shall render it unlawful for any person to cause or permit any vehicle to enter or proceed in an easterly direction in the fire lane so far as such entry or proceeding is reasonably necessary to enable the vehicle to be used in accordance with any of the purposes specified in paragraph (3), or to wait in the fire lane for so long as may be necessary for any of those purposes.

(3) The purposes referred to in paragraph (2) are:—

(i) the service of a district council or the Department in pursuance of statutory powers or duties or in connection with the supply of gas or electricity or any telegraphic line as defined in the Telegraph Act 1878(**b**);

(ii) the avoidance of an accident;

(iii) the gaining of access to or from premises adjacent to or accessible only from the fire lane;

(iv) the loading or unloading of any goods or burden at premises adjacent to or accessible only from the fire lane: provided that such loading or unloading can be reasonably carried out only from the fire lane; and

(v) the boarding or alighting of any person: provided that such boarding or alighting does not cause the vehicle to wait in the same place for more than two minutes.

(4) For the purpose of this article a vehicle shall be deemed to wait for more than two minutes in the same place if any one part of the road is below any part of the vehicle or its load (if any) throughout a period exceeding two minutes whether or not the vehicle is moved during that period.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland on 17th April 1980.

(L.S.)

T. J. McCormick
Senior Assistant Secretary

(b) 1878 c. 76