



To: DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager

Re: Commercial Access Strategy for Belfast's Linen Quarter, in the vicinity of Blackstaff Square.

The Linen Quarter BID (Business Improvement District) have been working to develop a set of road redesign proposals in the Blackstaff Square area in response to concerns raised by hospitality and entertainment venues located in the area. An initial set of proposals, based on a district wide consultation with large venues and hotels, were presented to DfI officials during a meeting at the BID's office premises on 2nd March 2023.

At this meeting it was agreed that the BID would conduct a further round of consultation with businesses located in the area affected by the proposed changes. This second round of consultation took place between May and July 2023 and was targeted towards all businesses located in the Blackstaff Square area and included in-person briefing on 31st May in the Maldron Hotel and an online survey advertised through the BID's website, newsletter, and social media channels during the months of June and July.

Business invited to attend the briefing event on the 31st May are listed in the annex with their attendance recorded. Results and respondents (if declared) to the online survey are included in Annex A of the Commercial Access Strategy document.

The feedback from this second round was used to reconsider the initial proposal presented to the Department on March 2nd and informed the final proposals to the Department (listed below).

- Introduction of one-way traffic system eastbound through James Street South AND/OR removal of on street car parking in James Street South;
- Introduction of one-way traffic system southbound through Brunswick Street and introduction of a loading bay, taxi rank and blue badge parking alongside extended pavement on West side of Brunswick Street (to replace current northbound lane);
- Extended pavement to cover all current on-street parking bays on West side of Brunswick Street;
- Introduction of one-way loop system westbound through Clarence Street > McClintock Street > and eastbound through Franklin Street;
- Introduction of 2x coach parking bays on north side of Franklin Street;
- Introduction of loading bay on west side of McClintock Street;
- Removal of on-street car parking bays on southside of Franklin Street near junction with McClintock St to allow for coaches to turn from McClintock into Franklin Street;

- Further removal of on-street car parking bays on southside of Franklin Street (between Blackstaff Sq. and Bedford St) and introduction of westbound cycle lane as part of a Hamilton St - Franklin St cycleway;
- Introduction of a pedestrian priority space on Amelia Street / Blackstaff Square. Time-restricted access to and from business premises will be maintained across Blackstaff square.
- Introduction of a Linen Quarter wide 20mph zone and reconsideration of need for traffic island on Bedford Street;
- Relaxation of parking time limits for coaches decanting / picking up hotel guests to allow for a 30-minute time limit for on-street parking;
- Erection of a dedicated large-scale parking facility on the edge of city centre that would provide coach operators with a secure over-night parking option for their drivers.

Linen Quarter BID, acting on behalf of local organisations across the area, would be grateful if the Department could assess the feasibility of the proposals and provide a response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher McCracken
Managing Director



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Annex A

Table 1: Invitees and attendees at consultation meeting on 31 May 2023

Business	Attendance
Acton's restaurant	√
Andras House	
Attorney General NI	
BBC	
Brennan's bar	
CBRE	√
Crown Liquor Salon	
Deloitte NI	On LQ Board
Duneaneam	
EasyHotel	
Europa Hotel	
Fitzwilliam Hotel	
Grand Central Hotel	√
Grand Opera House	On LQ Board
Invest NI	Follow up Aug
James Street restaurant	
Kearney Sefton Solicitors	√
Lanyon Group	
Leonardo Hotel	
Little Italy	√
Maldron Hotel	√
McKibbin	√
NIACRO	√
Nora's Palace	Follow up Sept
Queen's University student accommodation	
Robinson's Bar	√
Shields House	
Starbucks Great Victoria Street	
Sweet Afton / Franklin's bar	Follow up June
Tesco Great Victoria Street	
Tourism NI	Follow up Aug
Travelodge Belfast City	√
Ulster Hall	On LQ Board
Wine Flair	Follow up Sept