

Changes to Legislation: as of 9 April 2026, this Act is up to date with all changes known to be in force.



Number 14 of 1993

ROADS ACT 1993

REVISED

Updated to 31 December 2025

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All Acts up to and including the *National Training Fund (Amendment) Act 2025* (21/2025), enacted 23 December 2025, and all statutory instruments up to and including the *European Union (Restrictive Measures concerning Iraq) Regulations 2026* (S.I. No. 1 of 2026), made 6 January 2026, were considered in the preparation of this Revised Act.

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Section

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Commencement.
4. Repeals.
5. Savers.
6. Minor and consequential amendments.
7. Regulations.
8. Revocation and amendment of orders and directions.
9. References to road classifications in previous enactments.

PART II

CLASSIFICATION OF ROADS AND ASSIGNMENT OF FUNCTIONS

10. Classification of national, regional and local roads.
- 10A. National managed road.
11. Declaration of public roads.
12. Abandonment of public roads.
13. Responsibility of road authorities for the maintenance and construction of public roads.
14. Agreements and arrangements between road authorities.
15. Power of Minister to issue directions and guidelines to road authorities.

- 15A. Requirements as regards railways, canals, etc.
- 15B. Power of Minister to specify national standards.
- 15C. Power of Minister to request information from road authority.

PART III

THE NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY

- 16. Establishment of National Roads Authority.
- 17. Functions generally of the Authority.
- 18. Preparation of plans by the Authority.
- 19. Specific functions of the Authority.
- 20. Directions by the Authority to road authorities.
- 21. Programmes for EC assistance.
- 22. The Authority and the physical planning process.
- 23. The Authority and traffic management.
- 24. Grants to the Authority.
- 25. Borrowing by the Authority.
- 26. Guarantee by the Minister for Finance of borrowing by the Authority.
- 27. Advances from the Central Fund.
- 28. Chairman and members of the Authority.
- 29. Chief Executive.
- 30. Staff.
- 31. Transfer of staff of public authorities.
- 32. Provision of services.
- 33. Indemnification of members of the Authority and other persons.
- 34. Membership of either House of the Oireachtas or of the European Parliament by members or staff of the Authority.
- 35. Membership of local authority.
- 36. Superannuation.
- 37. Disclosure of interests.
- 38. Disclosure of confidential information.
- 39. Prohibition of certain communications.
- 40. Declaration of interests.
- 41. Power of Minister to issue directions and guidelines to the Authority.
- 42. Application of *Third Schedule* to the Authority.

PART IV

MOTORWAYS, BUSWAYS AND PROTECTED ROADS

- 43. Motorways.
- 44. Busways.
- 45. Protected roads.
- 46. Prohibition and restriction of access to motorways, busways and protected roads.
- 47. Scheme for a motorway, busway or protected road.
- 48. Procedures to be followed by a road authority when submitting a scheme to the Minister.
- 49. Approval of scheme by Minister.
- 50. Environmental impact assessment report.
- 51. Environmental impact assessment.
- 51A. Consultations with An Bord Pleanála before making of application under *section 51*.
- 51AA. Power of An Bord Pleanála to approve scheme or proposed road development that contravenes materially any plan.
- 51AB. Alteration of proposed road development.
- 51B. Interpretation - *sections 51C to 51G*.
- 51C. Duty to notify, and to comply with modifications and conditions of approval.
- 51D. Minister or Authority to ensure compliance with modifications and conditions.
- 51E. Power to request information regarding compliance with modification or condition.
- 51F. Power to carry out assessment of developer's compliance with modification or condition.
- 51G. Power to direct action to ensure compliance with modification or condition.
- 52. Acquisition of land and implementation of scheme.
- 53. Control of works by a State authority, statutory undertaker or local authority.
- 54. Service areas.
- 54A. Service areas (public roads).
- 54B. Offence (service areas).
- 55. Special and emergency access to a motorway, busway or protected road.
- 55A. Judicial Review.

PART V

TOLL ROADS

- 56. Definitions for *Part V*.
- 57. Toll schemes.
- 58. Scheme prepared under section 57 of Roads Act, 1993, to be adopted by road authority.

- 59. Power to charge tolls.
- 60. Revocation of toll scheme.
- 61. Toll bye-laws.
- 62. Exemption from tolls.
- 63. Agreements for financing, maintenance, construction and operation of toll roads.
- 64. Offences under *Part V*.
- 64A. Access to records.
- 65. Toll regulations.
- 66. Continuance of existing schemes, bye-laws and agreements.
- 66A. Ministerial policy directives on road tolling.
- 66B. Continuance of existing schemes, byelaws and agreements.
- 66C. Transitional provisions regarding toll schemes.

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS

- 67. Road users' duty of care.
- 68. Cycleways.
- 69. Temporary dwellings on national roads, etc.
- 70. Dangerous structures, trees, etc.
- 71. Unauthorised signs, caravans, vehicles, etc. on public roads.
- 72. Skips.
- 73. Extinguishment of public rights of way.
- 74. Road races.
- 75. Temporary closing of roads.
- 76. Drainage, etc.
- 77. Road traffic noise.
- 77A. Use of cameras and other devices on roads to obtain data.
- 78. Powers of inspection.
- 79. Service of notices.
- 80. Offence of obstruction.
- 81. Prosecution and penalties.
- 82. Grants to road authorities.
- 82A. Administration of grants to road authorities.
- 83. Application of moneys.
- 84. Disposal of proceeds of sale.
- 85. Expenses of Minister.

FIRST SCHEDULE

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

SECOND SCHEDULE

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

THIRD SCHEDULE

THE NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY

 ACTS REFERRED TO

Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, 1919	1919, c. 57
Companies Acts, 1963 to 1990	
Cork Improvement Act, 1868	1868, c. xxxiii
County Management Acts, 1940 to 1991	
Dublin Corporation Act, 1890	1890, c. ccxlvii
Dublin Transport Authority (Dissolution) Act, 1987	1987, No. 34
Electoral Act, 1923	1923, No. 12
European Assembly Elections Act, 1977	1977, No. 30
European Assembly Elections Act, 1984	1984, No. 6
European Communities Act, 1972	1972, No. 27
Forestry Act, 1946	1946, No. 13
Holidays (Employees) Acts, 1973 and 1991	
Housing Act, 1966	1966, No. 21
Lands Clauses Acts	
Local Government Act, 1925	1925, No. 5
Local Government Act, 1941	1941, No. 23
Local Government Act, 1946	1946, No. 24
Local Government Act, 1953	1953, No. 12
Local Government Act, 1955	1955, No. 9
Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960	1960, No. 40
Local Government Act, 1991	1991, No. 11
Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963	1963, No. 28
Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1976	1976, No. 20
Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1982	1982, No. 21
Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1990	1990, No. 11
Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1990	
Local Government (Roads and Motorways) Act, 1974	1974, No. 6

Local Government (Toll Roads) Act, 1979	1979, No. 34
Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts, 1973 to 1991	
Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act, 1851	1851, c. 93
Presidential Elections Act, 1937	1937, No. 32
Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878	1878, c. 52
Redundancy Payments Acts, 1967 to 1991	
Referendum Act, 1942	1942, No. 8
Road Traffic Act, 1961	1961, No. 24
Road Traffic Acts, 1961 to 1987	
Statutory Instruments Act, 1947	1947, No. 44
Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act, 1851	1851, c. 92
Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854	1854, c. 103
Unfair Dismissals Acts, 1977 and 1991	
Waterford Corporation Act, 1896	1896, c. cxxv
European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Motorways) Regulations, 1988	S.I. No. 221 of 1988
European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989	S.I. No. 349 of 1989
Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 1990	S.I. No. 25 of 1990
Public Bodies Order, 1946	S.R. & O. No. 273 of 1946



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ROADS ACT 1993

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ROADS, TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY, TO PROVIDE FOR MOTORWAYS, BUSWAYS AND PROTECTED ROADS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TOLLING OF PUBLIC ROADS AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID. [26th June, 1993]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

PART I

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

- Short title. **1.**—This Act may be cited as the Roads Act, 1993.
- Interpretation. **2.**—(1) In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires—
- “the Act of 1925” means the [Local Government Act, 1925](#);
- “the Act of 1946” means the [Local Government Act, 1946](#);
- “the Act of 1955” means the [Local Government Act, 1955](#);
- F1[...]
- “the Act of 1974” means the [Local Government \(Roads and Motorways\) Act, 1974](#);
- F1[...]
- “the Act of 1979” means the [Local Government \(Toll Roads\) Act, 1979](#);
- F1[...]
- F2["Act of 2000" means [Planning and Development Act 2000](#)];
- F3["Act of 2024" means the [Planning and Development Act 2024](#)];
- “the Authority” means the National Roads Authority established under [section 16](#);

“busway” has the meaning assigned to it by [section 44](#);

“busway scheme” means a scheme in respect of a busway made F4[...] under [section 47](#);

“the Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána;

“consent” means consent in writing;

“contravention” includes failure to comply;

“development” has the meaning assigned to it by the Act of 1963;

F2["development plan" has the meaning assigned to it by F5[the Act of 2024];]

F6["EIA Directive" means Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011¹ as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014²;

"environmental impact assessment", in relation to a proposed road development, means a process in respect of the development—

(a) consisting of —

(i) the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report in accordance with [section 50](#),

(ii) the carrying out of consultation referred to in [section 51\(3\)](#),

(iii) the examination by An Bord Pleanála of the information presented in the environmental impact assessment report, any additional information provided in accordance with [section 51\(4\)](#) and any relevant information received through consultation under [section 51\(3\)](#),

(iv) the reaching by An Bord Pleanála of the reasoned conclusion referred to in [section 51\(5\)](#) on the significant effects of the proposed road development on the environment; and

(v) the integration by An Bord Pleanála of its reasoned conclusion into its decision under [section 51\(6\)](#),

and

(b) including an examination, analysis and evaluation by An Bord Pleanála under [section 51\(5\)](#) in order to identify, describe and assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the particular proposed road development, including significant effects derived from the vulnerability of the proposed road development to risks of major accidents and disasters relevant to it, on—

(i) population and human health,

(ii) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992³ and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009⁴,

(iii) land, soil, water, air and climate,

¹ OJ No. L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1

² OJ No. L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1

³ OJ No. L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7

⁴ OJ No. L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7

(iv) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape, and

(v) the interaction between the factors mentioned in *subparagraphs (i) to (iv)*;

"environmental impact assessment report" shall be construed in accordance with *section 50*;

"footpath" means a road over which there is a public right of way for pedestrians only, not being a footway;

"footway" means that portion of any road associated with a roadway which is provided primarily for use by pedestrians;

"functions" includes powers and duties and references to the performance of functions includes references to the performance of powers and duties;

F2["land" has the meaning assigned it by the Act of 2000;]

F7["local authority" means a local authority for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2001* (as amended by the *Local Government Reform Act 2014*);]

"local road" means a public road other than a national road or a regional road;

"maintenance" in relation to public roads includes improvement and management;

F2["Minister" means Minister for Transport;]

"motorway" has the meaning assigned to it by *section 43*;

"motorway scheme" means a scheme in respect of a motorway made F4[...] under *section 47*;

"national road" means a public road or a proposed public road which is classified as a national road under *section 10*;

F8["national managed road" means a national road or a proposed national road, or any part thereof, which is designated as a national managed road under *section 10A*;]

"owner" when used in relation to any thing which is the subject of a hire-purchase or leasing agreement includes the person in possession of that thing under the agreement;

"pedal cycle" and "pedal cyclist" have the meanings respectively assigned to them by the Act of 1961;

F2["planning authority" has the meaning assigned to it by the Act of 2000;

"planning permission" means permission under Part III of the Act of 2000;]

F9["powered personal transporter" has the same meaning as it has in section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1961;]

"proposed road development" means any proposed road development F10[which is subject to an environmental impact assessment] under *section 50*;

"protected road" has the meaning assigned to it by *section 45*;

"protected road scheme" means a scheme in respect of a protected road made F4[...] under *section 47*;

"public authority" means—

- (a) a Minister of the Government,
- (b) a board or other body established by or under statute,
- (c) a local authority;

“public road” means a road over which a public right of way exists and the responsibility for the maintenance of which lies on a road authority;

“regional road” means a public road or a proposed public road which is classified as a regional road under [section 10](#);

F2[“reserved function” is to be read in accordance with [section 131](#) of the [Local Government Act 2001](#);

“road” includes—

- (a) any street, lane, footpath, square, court, alley or passage,
- (b) any bridge, viaduct, underpass, subway, tunnel, overpass, overbridge, flyover, F11[[carriageway \(whether single or multiple and whether or not designated for a particular class of vehicle\)](#)], pavement or footway,
- (c) any weighbridge or other facility for the weighing or inspection of vehicles, toll plaza or other facility for the collection of tolls, service area, emergency telephone, first aid post, culvert, arch, gully, railing, fence, wall, barrier, guardrail, margin, F12[[verge](#)], kerb, lay-by, hard shoulder, island, pedestrian refuge, median, central reserve, channelliser, roundabout, gantry, pole, ramp, bollard, pipe, wire, cable, sign, signal or lighting forming part of the road, and
- (d) any other structure or thing forming part of the road F13[...]
 - (i) F11[[used, or the use of which is reasonably required, for](#)] the safety, convenience or amenity of road users or for the construction, maintenance, operation or management of the road or for the protection of the environment, or
 - (ii) prescribed by the Minister;

F2[“road authority” except in [Part V](#), means a local authority]

“roadway” means that portion of a road which is provided primarily for the use of vehicles;

F14[“rights” includes, in relation to a scheme, rights which are existing or which are proposed to be created in the scheme;

“scheme” has the meaning assigned to it by [section 47\(1\)](#);

“substratum of land” means any subsoil or anything beneath the surface of land required—

- (a) for the purposes of a tunnel or tunnelling or anything connected therewith, or
- (b) for any other purpose connected with a scheme;]

F15[“service area” means an area beside or in the proximity of a public road where services and facilities for users of the road are provided under a motorway or service area scheme;

“service area scheme” means a scheme in respect of a service area made under [section 47](#);

F2["special amenity area order" means an order confirmed under section 203 of the Act of 2000;]

"State authority" means any authority being a Minister of the Government or the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland;

"statutory undertaker" has the meaning assigned to it by the Act of 1963;

F2["structure" has the meaning assigned to it by the Act of 2000;]

"superannuation benefits" means pensions, gratuities and other allowances payable on resignation, retirement or death;

"traffic sign" has the meaning assigned to it by section 95 of the Act of 1961.

(2) Except where the context otherwise requires, a reference in any enactment or instrument to a public road, a road or a road authority shall be deemed to be a reference to a public road, a road or a road authority as defined in this Act.

(3) Nothing in this Act affects any existing rule of law in relation to the liability of a road authority for failure to maintain a public road.

(4) The maintenance of a public road includes the provision and maintenance of public lighting.

(5) In this Act a reference to a Part, section or Schedule is to a Part or section of, or Schedule to this Act, unless it is indicated that reference to some other enactment is intended.

(6) In this Act a reference to a subsection, paragraph or subparagraph is to the subsection, paragraph or subparagraph of the provision in which the reference occurs, unless it is indicated that reference to some other provision is intended.

F6[(6A) A reference in this Act to an Annex is a reference to an Annex to the EIA Directive.]

(7) In this Act a reference to any enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended or adapted by or under any subsequent enactment.

Commencement. **3.**—This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as may be fixed therefor by any order or orders of the Minister, either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so fixed for different purposes and different provisions of this Act.

Repeals. **4.**—(1) The enactments mentioned in the *First Schedule* are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the *third column* of that Schedule.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding the provisions of any enactment enacted before the passing of this Act and any such enactment shall stand repealed to the extent that it is inconsistent with any provision of this Act.

Savers. **5.**—(1) (a) Notwithstanding *section 4*, orders made under section 2 (1) of the Act of 1974 that were in force immediately before the commencement of *section 10*, shall continue in force and shall be deemed to have been made under *section 10 (1) (a)*.

(b) Notwithstanding *section 4*, orders made under section 2 (2) and (2A) of the Act of 1974 shall continue in force as if motorway or busway schemes in respect of the motorways

or busways specified in those orders had been approved by the Minister under *section 49*.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding *section 4*, any scheme approved (with or without modifications) by the Minister under section 4 of the Act of 1974 shall continue in force and shall be deemed to be a scheme approved under *section 49*.

(b) Notwithstanding *section 4*, any scheme made by a road authority under section 4 of the Act of 1974 but not approved by the Minister before the repeal of section 4 of the Act of 1974 by *section 4* of this Act shall be deemed to be a scheme made under *section 47*.

(3) Notwithstanding *section 4*, regulations made under the Act of 1974 shall continue in force and shall be deemed to be regulations made under *section 7*.

Minor and consequential amendments.

6.—Each enactment mentioned in the *Second Schedule* is hereby amended in the manner stated in the *third column* of that Schedule.

Regulations.

7.—(1) The Minister may make regulations prescribing any matter or thing which is referred to in this Act as prescribed or to be prescribed or in relation to any matters referred to in this Act as the subject of regulations or for the purpose of giving full effect to this Act.

(2) Every regulation made under this Act, other than a regulation under *section 10* or *17*, shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution annulling the regulation is passed by either such House within the next subsequent twenty-one days on which that House has sat after the regulation is laid before it, the regulation shall be annulled accordingly but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(3) Where it is proposed to make regulations under *section 10* or *17*, a draft thereof shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and the regulations shall not be made until a resolution approving of the draft has been passed by each such House.

Revocation and amendment of orders and directions.

8.—(1) The Minister may by order revoke or amend any order made by him under any provision of this Act, other than *section 3*.

(2) The Minister or the Authority may by direction revoke or amend any direction given by him or it under this Act.

(3) Orders made under *section 12, 49, 51, 58, 60, 61* or *73* of this Act shall be exempted from the provisions of *section 3 (1)* of the *Statutory Instruments Act, 1947*.

(4) Where an order referred to in *subsection (3)* has been made, the road authority concerned shall, as soon as may be, give notice thereof to its members.

References to road classifications in previous enactments.

9.—(1) The Minister may by order adapt any enactment or instrument by deleting any reference to a main road, a county road, an urban road, a trunk road or a link road and substituting therefor a reference to a national road, a regional road or a local road as he sees fit.

(2) A reference in any enactment or instrument to a national road shall be deemed to be a reference to a national road as defined in this Act.

PART II

CLASSIFICATION OF ROADS AND ASSIGNMENT OF FUNCTIONS

Classification of national, regional and local roads.

- 10.—(1)** (a) The Minister may by order classify any existing public road or any proposed public road as a national road.
- (b) The Minister may by order classify any existing public road or any proposed public road as a regional road.
- (c) A public road, other than a national road or a regional road, shall be a local road.
- (d) Where a public road has been classified as a national road or a regional road under this subsection and where that road has been realigned or a by-pass has been constructed on it, such realignment or by-pass shall, unless otherwise provided by order of the Minister under this subsection, be a national road or a regional road, as the case may be, and that section of the existing road which remains following the realignment or the construction of the by-pass shall be a local road.
- F18[(e) Where a new section or a replacement section of a national or regional road is proposed or has been provided, the new or replacement section is, unless provided by order of the Minister under this subsection, a national or regional road, as the case may be. Any section of the existing road which remains following the construction of the new or replacement section becomes a local road.]
- (2) (a) The Minister may make regulations—
- (i) prescribing classes of public roads in addition to or in substitution for the classes referred to in *subsection (1)*, and
- (ii) making provision for the assignment of responsibility for the maintenance and construction of such classes of public roads and for the adaptation for that purpose of any of the provisions of *section 13*
- (b) Regulations under this subsection may provide either generally or in a particular case that a reference in any enactment (including this Act) or instrument to a national road, a regional road or a local road is to be construed as a reference to a public road of a class prescribed in such regulations.
- (3) (a) The Minister (in the case of national roads and regional roads) and a road authority (in the case of local roads) may by order—
- (i) designate particular roads for particular purposes,
- (ii) divide a particular class of roads into subclasses.
- (b) Where the Authority stands established under *section 16* the Minister shall consult with it before classifying a public road or a proposed public road as a national road under *subsection (1) (a)* or before making an order under *paragraph (a)* of this subsection relating to a national road.
- (4) (a) The Minister shall assign a number or other identifying mark to each national road and regional road.
- (b) A road authority shall assign a number or other identifying mark to each local road in respect of which it has responsibility.
- (5) (a) A road authority shall keep a schedule and map of all public roads in respect of which it has responsibility.

(b) A road authority shall prepare the schedule and map as soon as practicable after the commencement of this section and shall take all reasonable measures to keep the schedule and map up to date.

(c) The schedule and map shall be kept at the offices of the road authority and shall be available for inspection during office hours.

(d) The schedule and map may be kept otherwise than in a legible form provided that the information contained therein is capable of being reproduced in a legible form.

(e) Articles 85, 86 and 87 of the Public Bodies Order, 1946 are hereby revoked.

(6) A road authority shall, at the request of the Minister and in such manner as may be specified by him, carry out an inventory of all public roads, or of any class or subclass of public road, in respect of which it has responsibility.

F19[National managed road

10A.— The Minister may by order designate a national road or a proposed national road, or any part thereof, as a "national managed road".]

Declaration of public roads.

11.—(1) (a) A road authority may, by order, declare any road over which a public right of way exists to be a public road, and every such road shall be deemed to be a public road and responsibility for its maintenance shall lie on the road authority.

(b) Where a road authority proposes to declare a road to be a public road it shall—

(i) satisfy itself that the road is of general public utility,

(ii) consider the financial implications for the authority of the proposed declaration,

(iii) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the road which it is proposed to declare to be a public road is located a notice indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a map showing such road may be inspected and stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to such declaration before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection),

(iv) consider any objections or representations made to it under *paragraph (iii)* and not withdrawn.

(2) The consideration of objections or representations and the making of an order under *subsection (1)* shall be reserved functions.

(3) The Minister may prescribe criteria for the declaration of roads to be public roads and a road authority shall comply with any such prescribed criteria when exercising its functions under this section.

(4) Every national road, regional road, motorway, busway and protected road shall be a public road and it shall not be necessary for a road authority to make an order under *subsection (1)* in relation to any such road.

(5) A certificate of a road authority that a road is a public road shall be *prima facie* evidence thereof.

(6) Every road which, immediately before the repeal of an enactment by this Act, was a public road shall be a public road.

(7) Any road constructed or otherwise provided by a road authority after the commencement of this section shall, unless otherwise decided by such road authority, be a public road and it shall not be necessary for the authority to make an order under *subsection (1)* in relation to any such road.

Abandonment of public roads.

12.—(1) Save as is provided for in *section 73*, a road authority shall not abandon a public road except in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Where a road authority proposes to abandon a public road it shall—

(a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the public road proposed to be abandoned is located a notice indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a map showing such public road may be inspected and stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to such proposal before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection) and stating that persons making such objections or representations may make a request in writing to state their case at an oral hearing conducted by a person appointed by the road authority for that purpose,

(b) affix a copy of such notice in a prominent position at each end of the public road proposed to be abandoned and leave it in place for a period or periods which shall in aggregate be not less than fourteen days,

(c) consider any objections or representations made to it under *paragraph (a)* and not withdrawn,

(d) if it considers it appropriate, afford an opportunity to persons making objections or representations and who so request in writing to state their case at an oral hearing conducted by a person appointed by the road authority and consider the report and any recommendation of the person so appointed.

(3) (a) A road authority may make an order abandoning the public road specified in the notice published under *subsection (2) (a)*, or a part thereof.

(b) A road authority shall not make an order under *paragraph (a)* until it has complied with *subsection (2)*.

(4) (a) An order made under *subsection (3)* relating to a national road or a regional road shall have no effect unless and until the Minister approves the order.

(b) The Minister may, by order, approve the order with or without modifications or he may refuse to approve the order.

(c) The Minister shall consult with the Authority before making an order under this subsection relating to a national road.

(5) (a) A road authority shall no longer be responsible for the maintenance—

(i) of a local road — from the date on which the order abandoning it is made by the road authority,

(ii) of a national road or a regional road — from the date on which the Minister approves with or without modifications the order abandoning it.

(b) The abandonment of a public road shall not affect any public right of way over such road and a road authority shall not do anything to interfere with such right of way save as is provided for in law.

(6) A road authority shall as soon as may be after a public road has been abandoned publish notice of such abandonment in the newspaper or newspapers in which notice of the proposed abandonment was published under *subsection (2) (a)* and shall notify in writing any person who made written objections or representations to it in relation to such abandonment.

(7) The consideration of objections or representations and the report and any recommendations of a person appointed under *subsection (2)* and the making of an order under *subsection (3)* shall be reserved functions.

(8) A person who, without lawful authority, removes, or who defaces or damages a notice erected under *subsection (2) (b)* shall be guilty of an offence.

(9) Where, before the repeal of section 26 of the Act of 1925 by *section 4*, an application has been made to the Minister under the said section 26 for an order abandoning a public road and such application has not been determined by the Minister or withdrawn, the application shall continue to be dealt with and determined as if the said section 26 had not been repealed.

(10) (a) The Minister may make regulations for the purposes of this section.

(b) Regulations under this subsection may, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of *paragraph (a)*, specify criteria for the abandonment of public roads and a road authority shall comply with any such specified criteria when exercising its functions under this section.

Responsibility of road authorities for the maintenance and construction of public roads.

13.—F20[(1) Subject to *Part III*, the maintenance and construction of all national and regional roads in a county or city is a function of the council of that county or city.

(2) It is the function of a local authority to maintain and construct all local roads—

(a) in the case of a county council — in its administrative area, other than the administrative area of any borough or town referred to in Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 to the *Local Government Act 2001* situated within the county of the council, and

(b) in the case of any other local authority — in its administrative area.

(3) The local authorities referred to in *subsections (1)* and *(2)* are road authorities for the purposes of the roads referred to in those subsections and shall, subject to *Part III* and in respect of those roads, perform all the functions assigned to road authorities by or under any enactment (including this Act) or instrument.

(4) The expenses of a county council in respect of its functions under *subsection (2)* shall be charged on the county of the council exclusive of any borough or town that is situated within the county.]

(5) In the performance of their functions under *subsections (1)* and *(2)*, a road authority shall consider the needs of all road users.

(6) (a) A person or group of persons may, with the consent of a road authority, carry out maintenance works on a local road.

(b) A consent under *paragraph (a)* may be given by the road authority subject to such conditions, restrictions and requirements as it thinks fit.

(c) Where a road authority gives its consent under *paragraph (a)* and the works have been carried out in a *bona fide* manner and in accordance with every condition, restriction or requirement specified under *paragraph (b)*—

(i) the works shall be deemed to have been carried out by the road authority, and

(ii) the person or group (and each member thereof) who carried out the works shall be indemnified by the road authority against all actions and claims howsoever arising in respect of the works and the carrying out of works.

(d) A road authority may provide materials, plant, equipment and the services of its staff to a person or group carrying out works under this subsection.

(7) A road authority may do all such things as arise out of or are consequential on or are necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions under this Act or otherwise in relation to public roads or are ancillary thereto.

F21[(7A) Without prejudice to the generality of this section and save as otherwise provided by law, a road authority may carry out works to reduce, increase or modify—

(a) any lane, footpath, carriageway, pavement or footway, within an existing road,

(b) any median, island, pedestrian refuge, or verge, forming part of the road,

(c) any structure forming part of the road, and

(d) any land or substratum of land on which any of the foregoing is situated.]

F22[(8) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (7)* and save as otherwise provided by law, a road authority may—

(a) provide any amenity, structure, infrastructure or thing on, in, under or over a road for the benefit, utility, safety or convenience of road users,

(b) undertake landscaping, planting or any similar activity on, in, under or over a road in the interests of amenity and the environment,

(c) provide artistic features,

(d) undertake works on, in, under or over a road to install, re-lay, relocate, divert, remove or replace any wire, pipe, drain, duct, cable or other similar infrastructure,

(e) provide any structure or infrastructure on, in, under or over a road for, or in connection with—

(i) the charging of electric vehicles,

(ii) the provision of information to road users, or

(iii) the transmission of information to vehicles being used on a road.]

(9) Notwithstanding the definition of “road” in *section 2*, nothing in this Act shall be construed as imposing on a road authority any liability, duty or obligation to—

- (a) construct or maintain fences or retaining walls adjoining a public road which are the responsibility of any other person and which do not form part of the road, or
- (b) construct or maintain any bridges, tunnels, railway crossings or any other structure which by virtue of any enactment are the responsibility of a railway company or other person.

(10) (a) A person who, without lawful authority or the consent of a road authority—

- (i) defaces a public road by writing or by any other means,
- (ii) damages a public road,
- (iii) excavates a public road,
- (iv) (I) places or deposits any material or thing on a public road,
- (II) permits dung or urine from an animal owned by him or any material or thing which falls from a vehicle owned or used by him, to be left on a public road, or
- (III) does any other thing,

such that the material, thing, dung or urine or the doing of such other thing is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road, shall be guilty of an offence.

(b) A consent under *paragraph (a)* may be given by the road authority subject to such conditions, restrictions or requirements as it thinks fit and any person who fails to comply with such conditions, restrictions or requirements shall be guilty of an offence.

(c) Where a person does anything in contravention of *paragraph (a)*, a road authority may remove any defacement, repair any damage, fill in any excavation, remove any material, thing, dung or urine or remove or reduce any hazard, potential hazard, obstruction or interference and may recover from such person, as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction, any costs reasonably incurred by it.

F21[(11) *Subsection (10)* shall not apply to the National Transport Authority when, in the performance of a function in accordance with subsection (2)(b) or (5)(a) of section 44 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008, it is exercising the powers of a road authority.]

Agreements and arrangements between road authorities.

14.—(1) (a) Whenever it appears to the Authority that an agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 ought to be made between road authorities for the purpose of any of the functions of those authorities relating to national roads the Authority may request the road authorities to enter into an agreement in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Authority may specify.

(b) Where any road authority concerned refuses or fails to comply with a request under *paragraph (a)*, the Authority may, after affording an opportunity to the road authorities to make representations to it in writing and considering any representations made, direct them to enter into an agreement in accordance with such terms and conditions as it may specify and the road authorities shall comply with any direction given by the Authority.

- (c) An agreement entered into under this subsection shall not be revoked save with the consent of the Authority.
- F23[(d) The Authority may request the road authorities which have entered into an agreement under this subsection to amend it in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Authority may specify or revoke the agreement.
- (e) Where any road authority concerned refuses or fails to comply with a request under *paragraph (d)*, the Authority may, after affording an opportunity to the road authorities to make representations to it in writing and considering any representations made, direct them to amend the agreement in accordance with such terms and conditions as it may specify, or to revoke it. The road authorities shall comply with any such direction given by the Authority.]
- (2) An agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 which provides for the exercise or performance of any function by one road authority for another road authority may contain terms as to—
- (a) the vesting of the function in the first-named authority to such extent and for such period as may be specified in the agreement, and
- (b) the making of payments or the transfer of financial responsibility,
- and may provide for an area of charge other than the area of charge specified in section 10 of the Act of 1946.
- (3) (a) Two or more road authorities may make arrangements for the joint discharge of any of their functions.
- (b) Whenever it appears to the Authority that arrangements should be made by two or more road authorities for the joint discharge of any of their functions relating to national roads the Authority may request the road authorities to enter into arrangements in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Authority may specify.
- (c) Where any road authority concerned refuses or fails to comply with a request under *paragraph (b)*, the Authority may, after affording an opportunity to the road authorities to make representations to it in writing and considering any representations made, direct them to enter into arrangements in accordance with such terms and conditions as it may specify and the road authorities shall comply with any direction given by the Authority.
- (d) An arrangement entered into under *paragraph (b)* or *(c)* shall not be revoked save with the consent of the Authority.
- (4) An agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 or arrangements under *subsection (3)* may relate to all or part of the area of a road authority.
- (5) (a) Whenever it appears to the Minister that an agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 ought to be made between road authorities for the purpose of any of their functions relating to public roads (other than national roads) he may, after affording an opportunity to the authorities concerned to make representations to him in writing and considering any representations made, direct them to enter into an agreement.
- (b) The Minister may direct that any such agreement shall contain such terms as he may specify and the authorities concerned shall comply with any direction given by the Minister.

(c) An agreement entered into under this subsection shall not be revoked save with the consent of the Minister.

(6) (a) Whenever it appears to the Minister that arrangements should be made by two or more road authorities for the joint discharge of any of their functions relating to public roads (other than national roads) he may, after affording an opportunity to the authorities concerned to make representations to him in writing and considering any representations made, direct that they make such arrangements as he may specify.

(b) The Minister may direct that any such arrangements shall contain such terms as he may specify and the authorities concerned shall comply with any direction given by the Minister.

(c) Any arrangements entered into under this subsection shall not be revoked save with the consent of the Minister.

(7) Any existing agreement in relation to public roads made by road authorities under section 59 of the Act of 1955 shall cease to have force or effect following the expiry of the period of one year from the commencement of this section unless within that period it is continued in force by the said road authorities with, in the case of a national road, the approval of the Authority.

(8) (a) Where an agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 is made after the commencement of this section or where arrangements are made under this section and where such agreement or arrangements relate to national roads, such agreement or arrangements shall have no force or effect until approved (with or without modifications) by the Authority.

(b) Paragraph (a) shall not apply to an agreement or arrangements made following a direction by the Authority under subsection (1) or (3).

(9) The Authority may, in relation to national roads, enter into an agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 or into arrangements under subsection (3) as if it were a road authority and the provisions of subsection (8) (a) shall not apply to such agreement or arrangements.

(10) The Authority and every road authority shall carry out any agreement or arrangements to which this section relates and to which it is a party in accordance with the terms thereof.

(11) It shall be the duty of a road authority which is a party to an agreement under section 59 of the Act of 1955 relating to public roads (including an existing agreement continued in force under subsection (7)) or arrangements under this section to furnish to the Minister a copy of such agreement or arrangements.

Power of Minister to issue directions and guidelines to road authorities.

15.—(1) The Minister may give a direction in writing to a road authority in relation to any of the functions assigned to it by or under any enactment (including this Act) relating to the maintenance or construction of public roads and the road authority shall comply with such direction.

(2) The Minister shall lay a copy of any direction given by him under subsection (1) before each House of the Oireachtas.

(3) The Minister may give policy or other guidelines to road authorities in relation to any of the functions assigned to them by or under any enactment (including this Act) relating to the maintenance or construction of public roads and the authorities shall have regard to the guidelines when performing such functions.

(4) The Minister shall lay a copy of any guidelines given by him under *subsection (3)* before each House of the Oireachtas.

F24[Requirements as regards railways, canals, etc.

15A.—A road authority shall not construct or reconstruct a bridge or viaduct over, or a tunnel under—

(a) a railway, save with the consent of the Minister for Public Enterprise, or

(b) any inland waterway within the meaning of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (Powers and Functions) Act, 1998, or any navigable water, save with the consent of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.]

F25[Power of Minister to specify national standards

15B.— (1) The Minister may specify national standards in respect of the design, construction or maintenance of public roads.

(2) Any person, road authority or public authority carrying out works involving the design, construction or maintenance of public roads shall comply with the national standards (if any) specified by the Minister under *subsection (1)*.

(3) The Minister may request the Authority to amend any standards specified by it under *section 19(1)(e)* and the Authority shall comply with any such request.]

F26[Power of Minister to request information from road authority

15C.— The Minister may request a road authority to furnish him or her with such information as he or she may require in connection with any of the authority's functions in relation to regional and local roads, under this Act, and the authority shall comply with any such request.]

PART III

THE NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY

Establishment of National Roads Authority.

16.—(1) There shall be a body to be known as An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta, or, in the English language, the National Roads Authority to perform the functions assigned to it by or under this Act.

(2) The Authority shall stand established on such day as the Minister shall by order appoint.

Functions generally of the Authority.

17.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part and, in particular, to such directions and guidelines as may be given by the Minister under *section 41*, it shall be the general duty of the Authority to secure the provision of a safe and efficient network of national roads and for that purpose it shall have—

(a) overall responsibility for the planning and supervision of works for the construction and maintenance of national roads, and

(b) such other functions in relation to the construction or maintenance of national roads as are assigned to it by or under this Act.

(2) In the performance of its functions under *subsection (1)*, the Authority shall consider the needs of all road users.

(3) The Minister may, by regulations, assign to the Authority such additional functions in relation to the construction or maintenance of national roads as from time to time he considers appropriate.

(4) The Minister may make regulations providing that any function relating to national roads conferred on him or on a road authority under any enactment (including this Act), or on the Commissioner under the Road Traffic Acts, 1961 to 1987, shall, where the Minister is satisfied that the function could be more effectively performed by the Authority, in lieu of being performed by him or by that authority or by the Commissioner, be performed by the Authority with effect from a date specified in the regulations.

(5) Whenever regulations under *subsection (4)* are in force in relation to a particular function, a reference in any enactment concerned to the Minister, to the road authority concerned or to the Commissioner shall be construed as including a reference to the Authority and the function to which the regulations relate shall be a function of the Authority.

(6) Regulations under *subsection (3)* or *(4)* may contain such incidental, supplementary, consequential and transitional provisions as appear to the Minister to be necessary for the purpose or in consequence of, or to give full effect to, the regulations.

Preparation of plans by the Authority. **18.—**F27[...]

Specific functions of the Authority. **19.—**F28[(1) The Authority may, in relation to national roads or proposed national roads, do all or any of the following:

(a) prepare, or arrange for the preparation of—

(i) designs for construction or improvement works,

(ii) programmes of F29[maintenance (including maintenance works)], or

(iii) schemes for the provision of traffic signs;

F29[(b) secure the carrying out of construction and maintenance (including maintenance works) and the provision of traffic signs and consult with the Commissioner,]

(c) secure the provision of facilities for the parking of vehicles;

F30[(ca) prepare, or arrange for the preparation of, schemes for the provision of a safe and efficient network of recharging infrastructure and refuelling infrastructure for such zero to low emission vehicles as the Minister may prescribe and provide and maintain, or secure the provision and maintenance of, such a network;]

(d) allocate moneys and make payments in relation to construction or F29[maintenance (including maintenance works)], or in relation to any other function assigned to it by or under this Act;

F31[(e) subject to *section 15B(3)*, specify standards in relation to design, construction or F29[maintenance (including maintenance works)] to be complied with by a person, road authority or public authority carrying out such works;]

(f) carry out, arrange to have carried out or assist the carrying out of, training, research or testing activities in relation to any of its functions;

(g) provide any amenity, structure or thing (including, without limitation, service areas, rest areas or lay-bys) for the safety and convenience of road users;

(h) undertake landscaping, planting or any similar activities in the interests of amenity and the environment; or

(i) provide artistic features.]

(2) The Authority shall, as far as possible, arrange that the functions referred to in F32[*paragraphs (a) to (c)*] of *subsection (1)* shall be performed on its behalf by the relevant road authority but, in any case where the Authority considers that it would be more convenient, more expeditious, more effective or more economical that the function concerned should be performed by it, it may decide accordingly.

(3) The Authority may do all such things as arise out of or are consequential on or are necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions or are ancillary thereto.

(4) No action or other proceedings shall lie or be maintainable against—

(a) the Authority,

(b) a committee performing functions delegated to it by the Authority,

(c) a road authority performing functions on behalf of the Authority,

(d) a body providing services to the Authority,

for the recovery of damages in respect of any injury to persons, damage to property or other loss alleged to have been caused or contributed to by a failure of the Authority to perform or to comply with any of the functions conferred on it.

(5) (a) The Authority shall not be liable for damage caused as a result of any failure to maintain a national road.

(b) In *paragraph (a)* “damage” includes loss of property, loss of life and personal injury.

F28[(6) Development consisting of the carrying out of any works by or at the direction of, or on behalf of, the Authority under this Act in relation to the construction or maintenance of a national or other public road or anything related or incidental to such is exempted development for the purposes of the Act of 2000.]

(7) Where a decision is made by the Authority under *subsection (2)* or under *section 20 (5) (a)* to perform a particular function otherwise than through a road authority, the following provisions shall have effect—

(a) the Authority shall be empowered (notwithstanding any other enactment) to perform the function, including the acquisition of land for that purpose, and to do any other thing which arises out of or is consequential on or is necessary for the purposes of or would facilitate the performance of the function;

(b) for the purpose of *paragraph (a)*, land may be acquired by agreement or by means of a compulsory purchase order made by the Authority and submitted to and confirmed by the Minister in accordance with the provisions contained in section 76 of, and the Third Schedule to, the *Housing Act, 1966* or by means of a scheme made by the Authority and approved by the Minister under *Part IV* of this Act;

(c) the provisions of any enactment concerned shall apply in relation to the performance of the function subject to such modifications as may be necessary.

(8) The provisions of the [Housing Act, 1966](#) shall apply in relation to the compulsory acquisition of land under *subsection (7)* as if it were an acquisition under Part V of that Act and for that purpose a reference to a housing authority shall be construed as a reference to the Authority.

(9) Before acquiring land by agreement under *subsection (7)*, the Authority shall obtain an independent valuation of the land.

(10) The Minister may by order make such provision as appears to him to be necessary to enable *subsection (7)* to have full effect, including provision for the application, modification or adaptation of any enactment.

F33[(11) [The Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967 to 2005 do not apply to any lettings effected by the Authority or any road authority, in each case, in performing the functions conferred on it by this Act.](#)]

Directions by the Authority to road authorities.

20.—(1) The Authority may, in relation to a national road, direct a road authority to—

- (a) make a motorway scheme and submit it to the Minister for his approval,
- (b) make an application to the Minister for a bridge order under the Act of 1946,
- (c) make a protected road scheme and submit it to the Minister for his approval,
- (d) acquire land by making a compulsory purchase order or otherwise,
- (e) submit a compulsory purchase order to the Minister for confirmation,
- (f) prepare an F35[[environmental impact assessment report](#)] and apply to the Minister for the approval referred to in [section 51](#),
- (g) prepare, or arrange for the preparation of, designs for specified construction or improvement works,
- (h) enter into contracts for specified construction or maintenance works,
- (i) undertake specified construction or maintenance works,
- (j) prepare, or arrange for the preparation of, a programme of maintenance works,
- (k) prepare, or arrange for the preparation of, a scheme for the provision of traffic signs,
- F36[(l) [provide a specified traffic sign under and in accordance with section 95 of the Act of 1961,](#)]
- (m) do any other thing which arises out of or is consequential on or is necessary or expedient for the purposes of or would facilitate the construction or maintenance of a national road,

and the road authority shall, notwithstanding section 39 of the Act of 1963 or any other enactment, take all such measures as are necessary to comply with such a direction.

(2) Before issuing a direction under *subsection (1)* in relation to any works which would, in the opinion of the Authority, if carried out require a road authority to contravene materially a development plan or a special amenity area order, the Authority shall—

(a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the proposed works would be carried out a notice stating that it proposes to issue such direction and that objections or representations may be made in writing to the Authority in relation to such proposed direction before a specified date (which shall be not less than one month after the date of first publication of the notice),

(b) serve a notice on the road authority and, where the road authority is not the planning authority, on the planning authority stating that it proposes to issue such direction and that objections or representations may be made in writing to the Authority in relation to such proposed direction before a specified date (which shall be not less than one month after the date on which the notice was served),

(c) consider any objections or representations made to it under *paragraph (a) or (b)* and not withdrawn.

(3) Before issuing a direction (other than a direction to which *subsection (2)* relates) to a road authority, the Authority shall consult with such road authority.

(4) A direction under *subsection (1)* may specify the time within which such direction is to be complied with and such other matters as the Authority considers necessary.

(5) (a) Subject to *paragraph (b)*, where a road authority refuses or fails to comply with a direction under *subsection (1)*, the Authority may, notwithstanding any other enactment and in any case in which it appears to it that the circumstances so warrant, perform the function specified in the direction subject to such modifications (if any) as it considers appropriate.

(b) The Minister may, by regulations, specify a class of case in which a decision by the Authority under *paragraph (a)* shall not have effect unless and until it is approved by him.

Programmes for EC assistance.

21.—(1) (a) The Authority shall, in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Minister may specify, prepare programmes or such other documentation as may be required by him or any other Minister of the Government for the purposes of making or supporting an application to the European Communities for financial assistance (whether in the form of grants or loans) in respect of national roads.

(b) Any such programme or other documentation shall be submitted to the Minister, who following consultation with any other Minister concerned, may—

(i) approve it,

(ii) approve it with modifications,

(iii) direct that it be resubmitted to him in a modified form for approval,

(iv) refuse to approve it.

(c) An approved programme or other documentation shall not be submitted to the European Communities except by the Minister or other Minister of the Government concerned.

(2) The Authority shall, with the consent of the Minister, and in such manner as may be specified by him, assist in promoting the case for financial assistance (whether in the form of grants or loans) by the European Communities in respect of national roads.

(3) In this section “European Communities” has the meaning assigned to it by the [European Communities Act, 1972](#).

The Authority and the physical planning process.

22.—(1) The Authority may, in relation to its functions under this Act, at any time make recommendations in writing to a planning authority as to the content of that authority's development plan and any such recommendations shall be considered by the planning authority.

(2) When performing any function in relation to the construction or improvement of a national road F37[...] the Authority shall—

- (a) consider the proper planning and development of the area in which that road is or is to be situated,
- (b) consider the effects (if any) the works concerned would have on the environment of the area concerned, and
- (c) have regard to the provisions of the development plan and any special amenity area order or tree preservation order relating to such area.

(3) (a) Where in the performance of its functions under [section 19](#) or [20](#), the Authority proposes that a national road be constructed along a particular alignment and the appropriate road authority under [section 13](#) objects to that alignment, the road authority may make representations in writing to the Authority and the Authority shall consider such representations.

(b) Where following the consideration by the Authority of representations received under *paragraph (a)*, agreement on the alignment has not been reached and the representations have not been withdrawn, the road authority may make representations in writing to the Minister in relation to the matter.

(c) The road authority shall send a copy of any representations made by it under *paragraph (b)* to the Authority and the Authority may, within one month after the date on which the copy is received, make representations in writing to the Minister.

(d) The making of representations by a road authority under this subsection shall be a reserved function.

The Authority and traffic management.

23.—(1) The Authority may at any time make recommendations in writing to the Commissioner in relation to the performance of his functions under the Road Traffic Acts, 1961 to 1987 and the Commissioner shall have regard to such recommendations in the performance of his functions.

(2) The Minister shall consult with the Authority before—

- (a) making an order in relation to a national road under section 94 of the Act of 1961,
- (b) making regulations under section 101D of the Act of 1961 (as inserted by [section 9](#) of the [Dublin Transport Authority \(Dissolution\) Act, 1987](#)),
- (c) making regulations in relation to national roads under Part IV of the Act of 1961.

(3) F38[...]

Grants to the Authority.

F39[24.— The Minister may, subject to such conditions as he sees fit, in each financial year make grants, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas towards—

(a) the capital and current expenditure of the Authority, or

(b) the expenditure of the Authority in respect of its functions under this Act in relation to regional and local roads,

and grants under *paragraph (a)* shall be made having particular regard to the maintenance requirements of national roads.]

Borrowing by the Authority.

25.—(1) (a) The Authority may borrow money (including money in a currency other than the currency of the State) but where money is borrowed by the Authority, such borrowing shall be subject to the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance.

(b) The Authority may, with the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance, raise money (including money in a currency other than the currency of the State) by the making of promissory notes or the drawing or accepting of bills of exchange.

(2) For the purpose of borrowing, the Authority may create and issue bonds, debentures and other securities bearing such rate of interest and subject to such conditions as to repayment, redemption or otherwise as the Authority thinks fit.

(3) The Authority shall exercise the powers conferred on it by this section so that the amount or amounts of principal which the Authority may at any particular time be liable to repay on foot of any liability or liabilities incurred under this section does not, or do not in their aggregate, exceed £500,000,000.

(4) For the purposes of this section, moneys borrowed or raised in a currency other than the currency of the State shall be deemed to be the equivalent in the currency of the State of the actual moneys borrowed or raised, such equivalent being calculated according to the rate of exchange for that currency and the currency of the State at the time such moneys were borrowed or raised, as the case may be.

Guarantee by the Minister for Finance of borrowing by the Authority.

26.—(1) The Minister for Finance, after consultation with the Minister, may guarantee, in such form and manner and in such money (including money in a currency other than the currency of the State) and on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit—

(a) the due repayment by the Authority of the principal of any moneys borrowed by the Authority or the payment of the interest on such moneys, or both the repayment of such principal and the payment of such interest, and

(b) the due payment of a promissory note made by the Authority or a bill of exchange drawn or accepted by the Authority,

and any such guarantee may include a guarantee of the payment by the Authority of commission and incidental expenses arising in connection with such borrowing, promissory note or bill of exchange.

(2) The Minister for Finance shall, as soon as may be after the expiration of every financial year, lay before each House of the Oireachtas a statement setting out with respect to each guarantee under this section given during that year or given at any time before, and in force at, the commencement of that year—

(a) particulars of the guarantee,

(b) in case any payment has been made by him under the guarantee before the end of that year, the amount of the payment and the amount (if any) repaid to him on foot of the payment, and

(c) the amount of moneys covered by the guarantee which was outstanding at the end of that year.

(3) Moneys paid by the Minister for Finance under a guarantee under this section shall be repaid to him (with interest thereon at such rate or rates as he appoints) by the Authority within such period from the date of the advance of the moneys out of the Central Fund as may be specified by that Minister after consultation with the Authority.

(4) Where the whole or any part of moneys required by *subsection (3)* to be repaid to the Minister for Finance has not been paid in accordance with that subsection, the amount so remaining outstanding shall be repaid, at such times as the Minister for Finance shall determine, to the Central Fund out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

(5) Notwithstanding the provision of moneys under *subsection (4)* to repay the amount to the Central Fund, the Authority shall remain liable to the Minister for Finance in respect of that amount, and that amount (with interest thereon at such rate or rates as the Minister for Finance appoints) shall be repaid to him by the Authority at such times and in such instalments as he appoints.

(6) Moneys paid by the Authority under *subsection (3)* or *(5)* shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer in such manner as the Minister for Finance thinks fit.

(7) In relation to guarantees given by the Minister for Finance under this section in money in a currency other than the currency of the State—

(a) each of the references to principal or interest and the reference to commission and incidental expenses in *subsection (1)*, and the reference to a promissory note or bill of exchange in *paragraph (b)* thereof, shall be taken as referring to the equivalent in the currency of the State of the actual amount of such principal, interest, commission and incidental expenses, promissory note or bill of exchange, as the case may be, such equivalent being calculated according to the cost in the currency of the State of such amount at the time the calculation is made,

(b) the reference to moneys in *subsection (2)* shall be taken as referring to the equivalent in the currency of the State of the actual moneys, such equivalent being calculated according to the rate of exchange for that currency and the currency of the State at the time the calculation is made, and

(c) each of the references to moneys in *subsections (3)* to *(5)* shall be taken as referring to the cost in the currency of the State of the actual moneys.

Advances from the Central Fund.

27.—All moneys from time to time required by the Minister for Finance to meet sums which may become payable by him under *section 26* shall be advanced out of the Central Fund or the growing produce thereof.

Chairman and members of the Authority.

28.—(1) (a) The Minister shall appoint the members of the Authority and shall appoint one of the members to be Chairman of the Authority.

(b) Save where a person stands appointed under *section 29* to be the Chief Executive, the Minister may, when appointing the Chairman or at any time during the Chairman's term of office, direct that the Chairman shall perform the functions referred to in *section 29 (2)*.

(c) The number of members of the Authority shall not be less than ten nor more than fourteen.

(d) Each member of the Authority shall be a person who in the opinion of the Minister has wide experience and competence in relation to roads, F40[railway infrastructure,] transport, industrial, commercial, financial or environmental matters, local government, the organisation of workers or administration.

(2) The Minister shall, when appointing the Chairman or another member of the Authority, fix his term of office which shall be for a period not exceeding five years, and, subject to *subsection (5)* and *section 34*, that person shall hold his office on such terms and conditions as the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, determines.

(3) A person appointed under this section whose term of office expires by the effluxion of time shall be eligible for reappointment.

(4) The Chairman and the other members of the Authority shall be paid by the Authority such remuneration (if any) and allowances for expenses as the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, determines.

(5) (a) The Chairman and any other member of the Authority may resign from office by letter addressed to the Minister and the resignation shall take effect from the date of the receipt of the letter by the Minister.

(b) The Minister may remove from office any such person if in the opinion of the Minister he has become incapable through ill-health of effectively performing his duties or has committed stated misbehaviour or his removal appears to the Minister to be necessary or desirable for the effective performance by the Authority of its functions.

(6) The Authority may act notwithstanding a vacancy amongst its members.

Chief Executive.

29.—(1) (a) Save where a direction is in force under *section 28 (1) (b)*, there shall be appointed from time to time a person to be the chief executive officer of the Authority (“the Chief Executive”).

(b) The first Chief Executive shall be appointed by the Minister.

(c) Each subsequent Chief Executive shall be appointed by the Authority with the consent of the Minister.

(d) The Chief Executive shall hold office for such period and upon such terms and conditions (including terms and conditions relating to remuneration) and allowances for expenses as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, determine from time to time.

(2) (a) The Chief Executive shall report directly to the Authority, carry on and manage and control generally the administration and business of the Authority and perform such other functions as the Authority may determine from time to time.

(b) The Chief Executive may delegate any of the functions referred to in *paragraph (a)*.

(3) The Chief Executive shall be entitled to attend and speak (but, save where he is a member of the Authority, not vote) at any meeting of the Authority or of any committee or consultative group appointed by it.

(4) Save as is provided for in any other enactment,

(a) the Minister may at any time for stated reasons terminate the employment of the first Chief Executive;

(b) the Authority may, with the consent of the Minister, at any time for stated reasons terminate the employment of any subsequent Chief Executive.

Staff.

30.—(1) The Authority may appoint such persons to be employees of the Authority as it may determine subject to the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance as to numbers and grading.

(2) (a) An employee of the Authority shall be paid, out of moneys at the disposal of the Authority, such remuneration and allowances for expenses as the Authority with the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance, may determine.

(b) An employee of the Authority referred to in *paragraph (a)* shall hold his employment on such other terms (including terms specifying the duration of such employment) and conditions as the Authority, with the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance, may determine.

(3) In this Part, except in this section, a reference to an employee of, or a person employed by, the Authority shall include the Chief Executive.

Transfer of staff of public authorities.

31.—(1) (a) A public authority may designate for employment by the Authority any person employed by the public authority and whose principal duties relate to a function assigned or transferred to the Authority under this Act, or to be so assigned or transferred to the Authority.

(b) A designation under this subsection by a public authority other than the Minister shall be made only with the consent of the Minister and the Authority.

(c) A public authority shall not designate an employee under this subsection, without having notified in writing the employee and any recognised trade unions or staff associations concerned, of its intention to do so and considered any representations made by him, or by them or by any of them, in relation to the matter within such time as may be specified in the notification.

(2) The Authority shall accept into its employment a person designated under *subsection (1)* for employment by it.

(3) Acceptance into the employment of the Authority of a person designated under this section shall have effect on such day as may be specified by the Minister after consultation with the Authority.

(4) The terms and conditions relating to tenure which are granted by the Authority in relation to a person accepted into its employment under this section shall not, while the person is in the employment of the Authority, be less favourable to him than those prevailing immediately before his acceptance into such employment save in accordance with a collective agreement negotiated with any recognised trade unions or staff associations concerned. If a dispute arises

between the Authority and any such person as to the terms and conditions prevailing immediately before his acceptance into the employment of the Authority, the matter shall be determined by the Minister for Finance, after consultation with the Minister.

(5) Save in accordance with a collective agreement negotiated with any recognised trade unions or staff associations concerned, a person referred to in *subsection (4)* shall not, while in the employment of the Authority, receive a lesser scale of pay or be made subject to less beneficial terms and conditions of service (other than those relating to tenure) than the scale of pay to which he was entitled and the terms and conditions of service (other than those relating to tenure) to which he was subject immediately before the day on which he was so accepted.

(6) Until such time as the scale of pay and the terms and conditions of service (other than those relating to tenure) of a person referred to in *subsection (4)* are varied by the Authority, following consultation with any recognised trade unions and staff associations concerned, the scales of pay to which such person was entitled and the terms and conditions of service (other than those relating to tenure), restrictions, requirements and obligations to which the person was subject immediately before such acceptance shall continue to apply and may be applied or imposed by the Authority, while the person is in the employment of the Authority; no such variation shall operate to worsen the scale of pay or the terms or conditions of service aforesaid applicable to an employee immediately before he was accepted into the employment of the Authority, save in accordance with a collective agreement negotiated with any recognised trade unions or staff associations concerned.

(7) Previous service of any person in a public authority from which he was accepted into the employment of the Authority under this section shall be reckonable for the purposes of, but subject to any other exceptions or exclusions in, the Redundancy Payments Acts, 1967 to 1991, the Holidays (Employees) Acts, 1973 and 1991, the Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts, 1973 to 1991, and the Unfair Dismissals Acts, 1977 and 1991.

Provision of services.

32.—(1) For the purpose of enabling the Authority to perform its functions, the Minister may provide services (including services of staff) to the Authority on such terms and conditions (including payment for such services) as may be agreed and the Authority may avail of such services.

(2) The Authority may provide services (including services of staff) to the Minister, a road authority or any other body or person on such terms and conditions (including payment for such services) as may be agreed and the Minister, a road authority or any other body or person may avail of such services.

(3) A road authority may provide services (including services of staff) to the Minister, another road authority or any other body or person on such terms and conditions (including payment for such services) as may be agreed, and the Minister, the other road authority or any other body or person may avail of such services.

(4) A public authority may provide to the Authority any services (including services of staff) required by the Authority for the performance of any of its functions under this Act on such terms and conditions (including payment for such services) as may be agreed and the Authority may avail of such services.

Indemnification of members of the Authority and other persons.

33.—Where the Authority is satisfied that a member of the Authority, an employee of the Authority, a person whose services are provided to the Authority under *section 32* or a member of a committee or consultative group established by the Authority has discharged his duties in

relation to the functions of the Authority in a *bona fide* manner, it shall indemnify such member, employee or person against all actions or claims however so arising in respect of the discharge by him of his duties.

Membership of either House of the Oireachtas or of the European Parliament by members or staff of the Authority.

34.—(1) Where a member of the Authority—

- (a) accepts nomination as a member of Seanad Éireann, or
- (b) is elected to either House of the Oireachtas or to the European Parliament, or
- (c) is regarded pursuant to [section 15](#) (inserted by the [European Assembly Elections Act, 1984](#)) of the [European Assembly Elections Act, 1977](#), as having been elected to such Parliament to fill a vacancy,

he shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Authority.

(2) Where a person employed by the Authority—

- (a) accepts nomination as a member of Seanad Éireann, or
- (b) is elected to either House of the Oireachtas or to the European Parliament, or
- (c) is regarded pursuant to [section 15](#) (inserted by the [European Assembly Elections Act, 1984](#)) of the [European Assembly Elections Act, 1977](#), as having been elected to such Parliament to fill a vacancy,

he shall thereupon stand seconded from employment by the Authority and shall not be paid by, or be entitled to receive from, the Authority any remuneration or allowances in respect of the period commencing on such acceptance, or election, as the case may be, and ending when he ceases to be a member of either such House or such Parliament.

(3) A person who is for the time being entitled under the Standing Orders of either House of the Oireachtas to sit therein or is a member of the European Parliament shall, while he is so entitled or is such a member, be disqualified from becoming a member of, or being employed by, the Authority.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (2)*, that subsection shall be construed as prohibiting, *inter alia*, the reckoning of a period mentioned in that subsection as service with the Authority for the purposes of any superannuation benefits.

Membership of local authority.

35.—(1) (a) F41[...]

- (b) Subject to *paragraph (c)*, no person shall be employed by the Authority while he is a member of a local authority.
- (c) The Minister may by order designate a class, description or grade of employment to which the provisions of *paragraph (b)* shall not apply while such order is in force.

(2) Where a person (whose employment has not been designated by the Minister under *subsection (1) (c)*) is elected as a member of a local authority or co-opted as a member of a local authority, he shall be released on special leave by the Authority and shall not be paid by, or be entitled to receive from, the Authority any remuneration or allowances—

- (a) in case he is elected as a member of a local authority — in respect of the period commencing on his election and ending when he ceases to be a member of the local authority,

(b) in case he is co-opted as a member of the local authority — in respect of the period commencing on such co-option and ending when he ceases to be a member of the local authority.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (2)*, that subsection shall be construed as prohibiting, *inter alia*, the reckoning of a period mentioned in *paragraph (a) or (b)* of that subsection as service with the Authority for the purposes of any superannuation benefits.

Superannuation.

36.—(1) The Authority may, with the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance, make a scheme or schemes for the granting of superannuation benefits to or in respect of—

(a) persons appointed under *sections 29 and 30* to, or accepted under *section 31* into, wholetime employment of the Authority, and

(b) the Chairman of the Authority where he by direction of the Minister under *section 28 (1) (b)* performs the functions referred to in *section 29 (2)*.

(2) A scheme under *subsection (1)* shall fix the time and conditions of retirement for all persons to or in respect of whom superannuation benefits are payable under the scheme and different times and conditions may be fixed in respect of different classes of persons.

(3) The Authority may, with the consent of the Minister and the Minister for Finance, make a scheme amending or revoking a scheme under this section, including a scheme under this subsection.

(4) If any dispute arises as to the claim of any person to, or the amount of any superannuation benefit payable in pursuance of a scheme or schemes under this section such dispute shall be submitted to the Minister who shall refer it to the Minister for Finance, whose decision shall be final.

(5) No superannuation benefits shall be granted by the Authority on the resignation, retirement or death of a person to whom *subsection (1)* relates otherwise than in accordance with a scheme or schemes under this section.

(6) A scheme under this section shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution annulling the scheme is passed by either such House within the next twenty-one days on which that House has sat after the scheme is laid before it, the scheme shall be annulled accordingly but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(7) A scheme or schemes under *subsection (1)* shall, as respects a person accepted into wholetime employment of the Authority under *section 31*, provide for the granting to or in respect of him of superannuation benefits upon and subject to terms and conditions that are not less favourable to him than the terms and conditions applied to him immediately before the day on which he was so accepted into the employment of the Authority in relation to the grant of such benefits.

(8) Where, during the period between the establishment of the Authority and the coming into operation of a scheme under this section, superannuation benefits would have been granted to or in respect of a person accepted into wholetime employment of the Authority, under *section 31*, in respect of his employment with the public authority concerned, the superannuation benefits shall be granted and paid to or in respect of the person by the Authority and, for that purpose, his pensionable service with the Authority shall be aggregated with his previous pensionable service.

Disclosure of interests.

37.—(1) Where a member of the Authority, an employee of the Authority, a person whose services are provided to the Authority under *section 32*, a member of a committee or consultative group established by the Authority or a consultant, adviser or other person engaged by the Authority, has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest in, or material to, any matter which falls to be considered by the Authority, committee or consultative group or by him, he shall comply with the following requirements—

- (a) in advance of any consideration of the matter, he shall disclose to the Authority and as the case may be to any meeting of the Authority, committee or consultative group considering the matter the nature of his interest;
- (b) he shall neither influence nor seek to influence a decision to be made in relation to the matter;
- (c) he shall take no part in any consideration of the matter;
- (d) he shall withdraw from the meeting for so long as the matter is being discussed or considered by the Authority, committee or consultative group and, where he is a member of such Authority, committee or consultative group shall not vote or otherwise act as such member in relation to the matter.

(2) A person shall be regarded as having a beneficial interest in (but not confined to) each of the following cases—

- (a) he, any member of his household or any nominee of his or his household is a member of a company or any other body which has a beneficial interest in, or material to, a matter referred to in *subsection (1)*;
- (b) he or any member of his household is in partnership with or is in the employment of a person who has a beneficial interest in, or material to, such a matter;
- (c) he or any member of his household is a party to any arrangement or agreement (whether or not enforceable) concerning land to which such a matter relates;
- (d) any member of his household has a beneficial interest in, or material to, such a matter.

(3) A person shall not be regarded as having a beneficial interest in, or material to, any matter by reason only of an interest of his or of any company or of any other body or person mentioned in *subsection (2)* which is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a person in considering or discussing, or in voting on, any question with respect to the matter, or in performing any function in relation to that matter.

(4) Where a question arises as to whether or not a course of conduct, if pursued by a person, would be a failure by him to comply with the requirements of *subsection (1)*, the question shall be determined by the Authority and particulars of the determination shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting concerned.

(5) Where at a meeting of the Authority, a committee or consultative group a disclosure is made under this section, particulars of the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting concerned and, for as long as the matter to which the disclosure relates is being considered by the meeting, the person by whom the disclosure is made shall not be counted in the quorum of the meeting.

F42[(6) Where the Minister is satisfied that a member of the Authority has failed to comply with a requirement of *subsection (1)* he or she may, if he or she thinks fit, remove that member from office or take such other action as he or she considers appropriate, and where a person

is removed from office under this subsection he or she is disqualified from being a member of the Authority.

(7) Where a person (other than a member of the Authority) to whom *subsection (1)* applies fails to comply with that subsection, then the Authority shall decide the appropriate action (including removal from office or termination of contract) to be taken.]

Disclosure of confidential information.

38.—(1) A person shall not disclose confidential information obtained by him while performing duties as a member of the Authority, as an employee of the Authority, as a person whose services are provided to the Authority under *section 32*, as a member of a committee or consultative group established by the Authority or as a consultant, adviser or other person engaged by the Authority unless he is duly authorised to do so.

(2) In this section “confidential information” includes—

- (a) information that is expressed by the Authority or the Minister to be confidential either as regards particular information or as regards information of a particular class or description,
- (b) commercial information in relation to contractors, consultants, providers of finance or any other person,
- (c) proposals of a commercial nature or tenders submitted to the Authority or a road authority by contractors, consultants or any other person,

and “duly authorised” means authorised in writing by the Authority or by some person authorised in that behalf by the Authority.

(3) A person who contravenes *subsection (1)* shall be guilty of an offence.

Prohibition of certain communications.

39.—(1) A person who communicates with a member of the Authority or of a committee or consultative group established by the Authority or with a person employed by the Authority or a person whose services are provided to the Authority under *section 32*, or with a consultant, adviser or other person engaged by the Authority, for the purpose of influencing improperly his consideration of any matter which falls to be considered or decided by the Authority, committee or consultative group shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) If a member or a person to whom a communication is made becomes of opinion that a communication is in contravention of *subsection (1)*, it shall be his duty not to entertain the communication further and he shall inform forthwith the Chairman of the Authority in writing of the substance of such communication and the Chairman shall acknowledge in writing the receipt of such information.

Declaration of interests.

40.—(1) It shall be the duty of a person to whom this section applies to give to the Authority a declaration in the prescribed form, signed by him, and containing particulars of every interest of his which is an interest to which this section applies and for so long as he continues to be a person to whom this section applies it shall be his duty, where there is a change regarding any such interest or where he acquires any other interest to which this section applies, to give to the Authority a new declaration in the prescribed form.

(2) (a) This section applies to—

- (i) a member of the Authority,

- (ii) a member of a committee performing a function delegated to it by the Authority, and
 - (iii) an employee of the Authority or a person whose services are provided to the Authority under *section 32* where such employee or person is of a class, description or grade prescribed for the purpose of this section.
- (b) This section applies to the following interests—
- (i) any estate or interest which a person to whom this section applies has in any land or in any activity,
 - (ii) any business of dealing in or developing land, or any activity, in which such a person is engaged or employed and any such business carried on by a company or other body of which he, or any nominee of his, is a member,
 - (iii) any profession, business or occupation in which such a person is engaged, whether on his own behalf or otherwise, and which relates to dealing in or developing land or to any activity.
- (3) A person to whom this section applies and who has an interest to which this section applies shall be regarded as complying with the requirements of *subsection (1)* if, and only if, he gives to the Authority a declaration mentioned in that subsection within the period of twenty-eight days beginning—
- (a) in case the person is such a person on the commencement of this section — on such commencement,
 - (b) in case the person becomes such a person after the commencement of this section — on the day on which he becomes such a person,
 - (c) in case there is a change regarding an interest particulars of which are contained in a declaration already given by the person or where the person acquires any other interest to which this section applies — on the day on which the change occurs or the other such interest is acquired.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be regarded as having an estate or interest in land or an activity if he, or any nominee of his, is a member of a company or other body which has an estate or interest in the land or the activity.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, a person shall not be regarded as having an interest to which this section applies if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a person in considering or discussing, or in voting on, any question with respect to any matter arising or coming before the Authority or a committee of the Authority, or in performing any function in relation to any such matter.
- (6) Where a person to whom this section applies has an interest to which this section applies by reason only of the beneficial ownership of shares in a company or other body by him or by his nominee and the total nominal value of those shares does not exceed the lesser of—
- (a) one thousand pounds, or
 - (b) one-hundredth part of the total nominal value of either the issued share capital of the company or body, or where that capital is issued in shares of more than one class, the issued share capital of the class or classes of shares in which he has an interest,
- subsection (1)* shall not have effect in relation to that interest.

(7) The Authority shall for the purposes of this section keep a register (which register is in this section referred to as the register of interests) and shall enter therein the particulars contained in declarations given to the Authority under this section.

(8) The register of interests shall be available for inspection by any person at the Authority's headquarters during office hours and a copy of the register or any entry in the register may be obtained by any person on the payment to the Authority of such fee (if any) as the Authority shall fix not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy.

(9) Where a person ceases to be a person to whom this section applies, any particulars entered in the register of interests as a result of a declaration being given by the person to the Authority under this section shall be removed, as soon as may be after the expiration of the period of five years beginning on the day on which the person ceases to be such a person, from the said register by the Authority.

(10) Subject to *subsection (11)*, a person who fails to comply with *subsection (1)* or who, when purporting to comply with the requirements of the said *subsection (1)*, gives particulars which are false or which to his knowledge are misleading in a material respect, shall be guilty of an offence.

(11) In any proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that at the relevant time he believed, in good faith and upon reasonable grounds, that—

- (a) the relevant particulars were true,
- (b) there was no matter as regards which he was then required to make a declaration under *subsection (1)*, or
- (c) the matter in relation to which the offence is alleged was not one as regards which he was so required to make such declaration.

(12) In this section “activity” means—

- (a) the provision of consultancy services in relation to road construction or maintenance,
- (b) the carrying out or the management of road construction or maintenance works,
- (c) the provision, manufacture or supply of equipment, plant, materials or any other thing for the purpose of road construction or maintenance,
- (d) the provision to the Authority or a road authority of training, research or testing services in relation to its functions, and
- (e) any other prescribed activity.

Power of Minister to issue directions and guidelines to the Authority.

41.—(1) The Minister may give a direction in writing to the Authority in relation to any of the functions assigned to it by or under this Act and the Authority shall comply with the direction.

(2) The Minister shall lay a copy of any direction given by him under *subsection (1)* before each House of the Oireachtas.

(3) (a) The Minister may give policy, financial or other guidelines to the Authority in relation to the performance of the functions assigned to it by or under this Act and the Authority shall have regard to such guidelines when performing its functions.

(b) The Minister shall not give financial guidelines to the Authority under *paragraph (a)* save with the consent of the Minister for Finance.

(4) The Minister shall lay a copy of any guidelines given by him under *subsection (3)* before each House of the Oireachtas.

Application of *Third Schedule* to the Authority.

42.—The *Third Schedule* shall apply in relation to the Authority.

PART IV

MOTORWAYS, BUSWAYS AND PROTECTED ROADS

Motorways.

43.—F43[(1) In this Act "motorway" means

(a) a public road or proposed public road specified to be a motorway in a motorway scheme approved under *section 49*, or

(b) a national road or a proposed road development for the construction of a national road declared to be a motorway under *section 8* of the Roads Act 2007.]

(2) A person shall not have or be entitled to direct access from any land adjoining a motorway to the motorway, or from the motorway to such land, nor shall a right to such direct access be granted at any time.

F44[(2A) Notwithstanding *subsection (2)* and *section 46(4)*, direct access from any adjoining land to a motorway or from the motorway to such land may be granted by a road authority to the Railway Procurement Agency, an applicant or a railway undertaking (within the meaning of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act, 2001) in respect of a railway (within the meaning of that Act)—

(a) authorised by a railway order under *section 43* of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act, 2001, or

(b) the subject of an application for a railway order under *section 37* of that Act,

subject to such conditions as the road authority may decide, and, accordingly, any such access shall not be a contravention of *subsection (2)* or *section 46(4)*.]

(3) The Minister may prescribe—

(a) the classes of vehicles which shall be permitted to use a motorway and different classes of vehicles may be prescribed in relation to motorways generally, particular motorways or particular parts of particular motorways, and

(b) conditions in relation to the use of motorways generally, particular motorways or particular parts of particular motorways by vehicles or specified classes of vehicles (including conditions specifying the periods of use of motorways by specified classes of vehicles) and different conditions may be prescribed in relation to different motorways or different classes of vehicles.

(4) (a) Pedestrians and pedal cyclists shall not use a motorway.

(b) Persons in charge of, or having control over, animals shall not permit them to be on a motorway.

F45[(c) A person shall not drive a powered personal transporter on a motorway.]

(5) (a) A person who uses a motorway in contravention of regulations under *subsection (3)* shall be guilty of an offence.

(b) A person who contravenes *subsection (4)* shall be guilty of an offence.

(6) A reference in any enactment or instrument to a motorway shall be deemed to be a reference to a motorway as defined in this Act.

Busways.

44.—(1) A busway means a public road or proposed public road specified to be a busway in a busway scheme approved by the Minister under *section 49*.

(2) Save as is provided in *subsection (4) (a)*, a person shall not have or be entitled to direct access from any land adjoining a busway to the busway, or from the busway to such land nor shall a right to such direct access be granted at any time.

(3) The Minister may F46[...] prescribe—

(a) the classes of vehicles which shall be permitted to use a busway and different classes of vehicles may be prescribed in relation to busways generally, particular busways or particular parts of particular busways, and

(b) conditions in relation to the use of busways generally, particular busways or particular parts of particular busways by vehicles or specified classes of vehicles (including conditions specifying the periods of use of busways by specified classes of vehicles) and different conditions may be prescribed in relation to different busways or different classes of vehicles.

(4) (a) Pedestrians (other than for the purposes of access to or from vehicles prescribed under *subsection (3)*) and pedal cyclists shall not use a busway.

(b) Persons in charge of, or having control over, animals shall not permit them to be on a busway.

F47[(c) A person shall not drive a powered personal transporter on a busway.]

(5) (a) A person who uses a busway in contravention of regulations under *subsection (3)* shall be guilty of an offence.

(b) A person who contravenes *subsection (4)* shall be guilty of an offence.

Protected roads.

45.—(1) A protected road means a public road or proposed public road specified to be a protected road in a protected road scheme approved by the Minister under *section 49*.

(2) A protected road scheme approved by the Minister may provide for the prohibition, closure, stopping up, removal, alteration, diversion or restriction of any specified or all means of direct access to the protected road from specified land or from specified land used for a specified purpose or to such land from the protected road.

(3) (a) A protected road scheme approved by the Minister may prohibit or restrict the use of the protected road or a particular part thereof by—

(i) specified types of traffic,

(ii) specified classes of vehicles,

but shall not prohibit or restrict such use—

- (I) by ambulances or fire brigade vehicles,
- (II) by vehicles used by members of the Garda Síochána or the Defence Forces in the performance of their duties as such members,
- (III) for the purpose of maintaining such protected road.

(b) A person who contravenes a prohibition or restriction under *paragraph (a)* shall be guilty of an offence.

Prohibition and restriction of access to motorways, busways and protected roads.

46.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, neither a planning authority nor An Bord Pleanála shall decide to grant, or grant, planning permission, nor shall a decision by a planning authority to grant any planning permission be regarded as having been given under F48[[section 34\(8\) of the Act of 2000](#)]—

- (a) for any development of land which would permit or involve direct access to or from a motorway or a busway or which would contravene the provisions of a protected road scheme approved by the Minister under [section 49](#) relating to direct access to or from a protected road,
- (b) for any development of land proposed to be compulsorily acquired under a scheme made by a road authority under [section 47](#),
- (c) for any development of land where such development would affect materially the exercise by the road authority of the rights proposed to be compulsorily acquired in relation to land under a scheme made by a road authority under [section 47](#),
- (d) for any development of land which would contravene the provisions of a scheme made by a road authority under [section 47](#).

(2) (a) Where the Minister, by order under [section 49](#), refuses to approve a scheme, *subsection (1)* shall cease to apply in relation to such scheme with effect from the date of the making of such order.

(b) Where the Minister, by order under [section 49](#), approves a scheme with modifications, *subsection (1)* shall, with effect from the date of the making of such order, apply only to such scheme as approved with modifications.

(3) Compensation under F48[[section 190 of the Act of 2000](#)] shall not be payable in respect of the refusal of permission for any development of land of a kind referred to in *subsection (1)* or in respect of the imposition, on the granting of permission to develop land, of any condition relating to—

- (a) the prohibition of direct access to or from a motorway or a busway,
- (b) the prohibition, closure, stopping up, removal, alteration, diversion or restriction of direct access to or from a protected road which is provided for in a protected road scheme approved by the Minister under [section 49](#).

(4) Save as is provided for in [section 54](#), no person shall undertake any development of land which would permit or involve direct access to or from a motorway or a busway or which would contravene the provisions of an approved protected road scheme relating to direct access to or from a protected road.

- (5) (a) Where a means of direct access from any land to a motorway or a busway or to any land from a motorway or a busway has been constructed, or otherwise provided, by any person in contravention of *section 43 (2)* or *44 (2)* or *subsection (4)* of this section, the road authority may, without giving notice to the owner of the land or to any other person, take all steps necessary to close, stop up or remove the means of access and may recover from the owner of the land as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction any expenses reasonably incurred by the road authority in closing, stopping up or removing that means of access.
- (b) Where a means of direct access from any land to a protected road or to any land from a protected road contravenes a protected road scheme approved by the Minister under *section 49*, the road authority may (as appropriate in accordance with the provisions of such scheme) take all steps necessary to close, stop up, remove, alter, divert or restrict the means of access and may, where the means of access was provided subsequent to the approval by the Minister of the protected road scheme, recover from the owner of the land as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction any expenses reasonably incurred by the road authority in closing, stopping up, removing, altering, diverting or restricting that means of access.
- (6) (a) Any person who constructs or provides or attempts to construct or provide a means of direct access to or from a motorway or a busway in contravention of *section 43 (2)* or *section 44 (2)* shall be guilty of an offence.
- (b) Any person who contravenes *subsection (4)* shall be guilty of an offence.
- (c) Any person who constructs, provides or retains or attempts to construct, provide or retain a means of direct access which contravenes a protected road scheme approved by the Minister under *section 49* shall be guilty of an offence.
- (7) Any person (other than a road authority) who interferes with (otherwise than with the prior written consent of the road authority) or damages any fence or other boundary forming part of a motorway, a busway or a protected road shall be guilty of an offence.

Scheme for a motorway, busway or protected road.

F51[47.—(1) A road authority or the Authority may make—

- (a) a motorway scheme,
- (b) a service area scheme,
- (c) a busway scheme,
- (d) a protected road scheme, or
- (e) a protected road scheme amending a protected road scheme approved under section 49,

referred to in this Part as a “scheme”.]

- (2) (a) A scheme under this section shall be in the prescribed form and shall (where appropriate) specify—
- (i) the proposed motorway, busway F52[, protected road or service area] to which the scheme relates,

- (ii) any land F53[or any substratum of land] which is proposed to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the proposed motorway, busway F52[, protected road or service area],
 - (iii) any rights proposed to be compulsorily acquired in relation to land for the purposes of the proposed motorway, busway F52[, protected road or service area],
 - (iv) any public and private rights of way proposed to be extinguished over the land referred to in *subparagraphs (ii) and (iii)*,
 - (v) any land in respect of which it is proposed to prohibit, close, stop up, remove, alter, divert or restrict a means of direct access to or from the proposed motorway, busway F52[, protected road or service area],
 - (vi) any land used for a specified purpose in respect of which it is proposed to prohibit, close, stop up, remove, alter, divert or restrict a means of direct access to or from the proposed protected road,
 - (vii) any planning permissions for the development of land proposed to be revoked or modified and the extent of any such modification,
 - (viii) such other matters as may be prescribed from time to time by the Minister.
- (b) The matters referred to in *paragraph (a)* shall (where appropriate) be described by reference to a map or maps.
- (c) The land F53[or substratum of land] referred to in *paragraph (a) (ii)* and the rights in relation to land referred to in *paragraph (a) (iii)* shall include all land F53[substrata of land] and rights in relation to land necessary for or incidental to the construction or maintenance of a motorway, a busway or a protected road and all land F53[, substrata of land] or rights in relation to land required for access roads, ramps, toll facilities, service areas F54[(provided under a motorway or protected road scheme)] and maintenance depots.
- (3) Where it is proposed to prohibit or restrict the use of a protected road or a particular part thereof by—
- (a) specified types of traffic, or
 - (b) specified classes of vehicles, the protected road scheme shall specify the proposed prohibitions or restrictions.
- (4) (a) Where in accordance with subsection (2) a scheme made by a road authority F54[or the Authority] specifies a planning permission which is proposed to be revoked, that planning permission shall stand suspended from the date of the making of the scheme until the Minister approves or refuses to approve the scheme under section 49 and if the scheme is approved the planning permission shall be revoked.
- (b) Where in accordance with *subsection (2)* a scheme made by a road authority F54[or the Authority] specifies a planning permission which is proposed to be modified, that planning permission shall stand modified to such extent as is specified in the scheme from the date of the making of the scheme until the Minister approves or refuses to approve the scheme under *section 49* and if the scheme is approved the planning permission shall be modified to such extent as is specified in the scheme as approved.

- (c) A planning authority shall enter in F55[the register kept by it under section 7 of the Act of 2000] particulars of—
- (i) the planning permissions proposed to be revoked or modified under a scheme made under this section and the extent of such modification,
 - (ii) the decision of the Minister under section 49 (3) insofar as it affects the planning permissions referred to in subparagraph (i).
- (d) For the purposes of this section “planning permission” means a planning permission (which has not ceased to have effect in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1982).

F57[Procedures to be followed by road authority when submitting scheme to Bord Pleanála.

48.— Before submitting a scheme to An Bord Pleanála under *section 49* a road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, shall—

- (a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the proposed motorway, service area, busway or protected road is to be located a notice in the prescribed form—
 - (i) stating that a scheme has been made,
 - (ii) indicating the times at which, the period (not being less than 6 weeks) during which and the place where a copy of the scheme and the map referred to in it may be inspected, and
 - (iii) stating that objections may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the scheme during that period,
- F58[(iv) stating that a person may question the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) and
- (v) identifying where practical information on the review mechanism can be found.]
- and
- (b) serve on every owner and occupier of any land referred to in a scheme and on every person who, in the opinion of the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, is affected by the proposed revocation or modification of a planning permission specified in the scheme, a notice in the prescribed form stating—
 - (i) the nature and extent of the scheme,
 - (ii) that the scheme will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval, and
 - (iii) the period (which is that referred to in *paragraph (a)(ii)*) within which objections may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the scheme.]

Approval of scheme by Minister.

49.—F59[(1) A road authority or the Authority shall submit any scheme made by it under *section 47* to An Bord Pleanála for its approval.]

(2) Before approving a scheme submitted to him the Minister shall—

- (a) cause a public local inquiry into all matters relating to the scheme to be held,

(b) consider any objections to the scheme which have been made to him and not withdrawn,

(c) consider the report and any recommendation of the person conducting such inquiry.

(3) The Minister may, by order, approve a scheme with or without modifications or he may refuse to approve such a scheme and shall publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the proposed motorway, busway F60[, [protected road or service area](#)] is to be located notice of his decision, including, where appropriate, particulars of any modifications to the scheme.

(4) The Minister may, in any case where he considers it reasonable to do so, direct the road authority to provide for any person who, by reason of the implementation of a motorway, busway F60[, [protected road or service area](#)] scheme—

(a) is permanently deprived of reasonable access to or from his property or to or from one part of his property to another — a suitable alternative means of access,

(b) is, during construction, temporarily deprived of reasonable access to or from his property or to or from one part of his property to another — a temporary means of access during the course of such construction, and the road authority shall comply with any such direction.

(5) Where a scheme made by a road authority under *section 47* specifies a planning permission which it is proposed to revoke or modify and where the Minister—

(a) refuses to approve the scheme, or

(b) approves the scheme with modifications and the effect of such modifications is that the specified planning permission will not be revoked or modified or will be modified in a form other than that specified in the scheme as made by the road authority, the duration of such planning permission shall, notwithstanding F61[[section 40 of the Act of 2000](#)], be extended by a period specified in the order of the Minister under *subsection (3)*, the duration of which shall be equivalent to the period beginning on the date on which the scheme was made by the road authority and ending on the date on which the decision referred to in *paragraph (a) or (b)* was made by the Minister.

F62[(6) Where the Authority has submitted a scheme for approval under *subsection (1)* references to road authority in the other provisions of this section in respect of the scheme are to read as references to the Authority.]

F64[Environmental impact assessment report]

F65[50.— (1) (a) A road development that is proposed that comprises any of the following shall be subject to an environmental impact assessment:

(i) the construction of a motorway;

(ii) the construction of a busway;

(iii) the construction of a service area;

(iv) any prescribed type of road development consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road.

(b) If An Bord Pleanála considers that any road development proposed (other than development to which *paragraph (a)* applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have

significant effects on the environment it shall direct that the development be subject to an environmental impact assessment.

(c) Where a road authority or, as the case may be, the Authority considers that a road development that it proposes (other than development to which *paragraph (a)* applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, it shall inform An Bord Pleanála in writing prior to making any application to the Bord for an approval referred to in *section 51(1)* in respect of the development.

(d) In particular, where a proposed development (other than development to which *paragraph (a)* applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be located on—

(i) a European Site within the meaning of Regulation 2 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011),

(ii) land established or recognised as a nature reserve within the meaning of section 15 or 16 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (No. 39 of 1976),

(iii) land designated as a refuge for fauna or flora under section 17 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (No. 39 of 1976), or

(iv) land designated a natural heritage area under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000,

the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, proposing the development shall decide whether or not the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(e) Where a decision is being made pursuant to this subsection on whether a road development that is proposed would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, An Bord Pleanála, or the road authority or the Authority concerned (as the case may be), shall take into account the relevant selection criteria specified in Annex III.

(f) Where a road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, makes a decision under *paragraph (d)* it shall—

(i) make the decision available for inspection by members of the public, and

(ii) make an electronic version of the decision available on its website.

(1A) (a) Unless An Bord Pleanála is satisfied that a road development that is proposed consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road (other than development to which *subsection (1)(a)* applies)—

(i) would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, or

(ii) would be likely to have significant effects on the environment,

An Bord Pleanála shall require the road authority, or as the case may be the Authority, proposing the road development to provide it with information on the characteristics of the road development proposed and its likely effects on the environment.

(b) Where a road authority or the Authority is subject to a requirement by An Bord Pleanála under *paragraph (a)* it shall—

- (i) provide the information specified in Annex IIA, and
 - (ii) where relevant, take into account the available results of other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to any Act of the Oireachtas or under European Union legislation (other than the EIA Directive).
- (c) Where a road authority or the Authority is subject to a requirement by An Bord Pleanála under *paragraph (a)* it may also provide a description of any features of the development or measures envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment.
- (d) Where An Bord Pleanála receives information from a road authority or the Authority under *paragraph (b)* it shall make a determination as to whether the road development proposed should be subject to an environmental impact assessment on the basis of such information, taking into account the relevant selection criteria specified in Annex III and, where relevant, the results of preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to any Act of the Oireachtas or under European Union legislation (other than the EIA Directive).
- (e) A determination under *paragraph (d)* shall—
- (i) where An Bord Pleanála determines that the development should be subject to an environmental impact assessment, specify with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III the main reasons for that determination, and
 - (ii) where An Bord Pleanála determines that the development should not be subject to an environmental impact assessment, specify—
 - (I) the main reasons for that determination by reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III, and
 - (II) any features of the proposed road development and measures proposed by the road authority, or as the case may be the Authority, to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment.
- (f) Subject to *paragraph (g)*, An Bord Pleanála shall make its determination under *paragraph (d)* as soon as possible and within 90 days from the date on which the road authority or, as the case may be, the Authority has submitted all the information required by An Bord Pleanála under *paragraph (a)*.
- (g) An Bord Pleanála may, in exceptional cases, including where it is justified by the nature, complexity, location or size of the proposed road development, extend the 90 day period referred to in *paragraph (f)* in order to make its determination and in such cases it shall inform the road authority or, as the case may be, the Authority in writing of the reasons justifying the extension and of the date when its determination is expected.
- (h) An Bord Pleanála shall make an electronic version of any determination under *paragraph (d)* available to the public on its website.
- (1B) A road authority or, as the case may be the Authority, shall prepare an environmental impact assessment report in respect of any road development that it proposes that is subject to an environmental impact assessment under this section.
- (2) The road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, shall ensure that an environmental impact assessment report referred to in *subsection (1B)*—

(a) is prepared by competent experts,

(b) subject to *subsection (3)*, contains the following information:

- (i) a description of the proposed road development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;
- (ii) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed road development on the environment;
- (iii) a description of any features of the proposed road development and of any measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- (iv) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, which are relevant to the proposed road development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the proposed road development on the environment;
- (v) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in *subparagraphs (i) to (iv)*;
- (vi) any additional information specified in Annex IV that is relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular proposed road development or type of proposed road development and to the environmental features likely to be affected,

and

(c) takes into account the available results of other relevant assessments carried out pursuant to any Act of the Oireachtas or under European Union legislation with a view to avoiding duplication of assessments.

(3) Where An Bord Pleanála issues an opinion under *subsection (4)* the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, shall—

- (a) prepare the environmental impact assessment report referred to in *subsection (1B)* based on that opinion, and
- (b) include in the report the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed road development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment.

(4) (a) An Bord Pleanála shall, on the request of a road authority, or the Authority, that proposes a road development to which this section applies, made before the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, has submitted an environmental impact assessment report—

- (i) consult with the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be,
- (ii) consult the authorities referred to in *section 51(3)(b)*, and
- (iii) taking into account the information provided by the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, in particular on the specific characteristics of the project, including its location and technical capacity, and its likely impact on the environment, issue an opinion on the scope, and level of detail, of the information

to be included by the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, in the environmental impact assessment report in accordance with *subsection (2)*.

(b) The issuing of an opinion under this subsection shall not prejudice the exercise by An Bord Pleanála of its powers pursuant to *section 51(4)* to require the road authority concerned or the Authority, as the case may be, to furnish it with specified additional information in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development.

(5) In this section, "construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road" includes any change or extension to a proposed road development already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed.]

Environmental
impact assessment.

51.—F66[(1) A proposed road development shall not be carried out unless An Bord Pleanála has approved it or approved it with modifications.

(2) The road authority concerned or the Authority, as the case may be, shall apply to An Bord Pleanála for the approval referred to in *subsection (1)* in relation to a proposed road development it proposes and shall submit to An Bord Pleanála the F67[environmental impact assessment report] prepared in respect of the development.]

F68[(2A) An Bord Pleanála shall ensure that it has, or has access as necessary to, sufficient expertise to examine the environmental impact assessment report.]

(3) Where a road authority F68[or the Authority] has made an application for approval under *subsection (2)*, it shall as soon as may be—

(a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the proposed road development would take place a notice in the prescribed form—

(i) stating that it has made an application to the Minister for the approval of the proposed road development,

(ii) stating that an F67[environmental impact assessment report] in respect of the proposed road development has been prepared,

(iii) indicating the times at which, the period F69[(not being less than 6 weeks)] during which and the place where a copy of the F67[environmental impact assessment report] may be inspected,

(iv) stating that a copy of the F67[environmental impact assessment report] may be purchased on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making such copy, F70[...]

(v) stating that submissions may be made in writing to the Minister in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development F69[during the period referred to in *paragraph (a)(iii)*];

F71[(vi) where relevant, stating that the proposed road development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Northern Ireland, and

(vii) specifying the types of decision F72[An Bord Pleanála] may make, under *section 51(6)*, in relation to the application;]

F68[(aa) send to An Bord Pleanála an electronic version of —

- (i) the notice referred to in *paragraph (a)*,
 - (ii) the environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed development, and
 - (iii) a map of the location of the proposed road development to a scale of not less than 1:1000 in relation to built-up areas and 1:2500 in relation to all other areas, or such other scale as may be agreed with the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in a particular case, and marked so as to identify clearly the land or structure to which the application relates,]
- (b) send a copy of the F67[environmental impact assessment report] together with a notice in the prescribed form, stating that the authority has made an application for approval of the proposed road development and that submissions may be made in writing to the Minister F69[within a specified period (which shall be that referred to in *paragraph (a)(iii)*)] in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development to each of the following—
- (i) the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland,
 - (ii) Bord Fáilte Éireann,
 - (iii) An Taisce — the National Trust for Ireland,
 - F73[(iv) the Environmental Protection Agency,
 - (v) any other prescribed body or person;]
- (c) send a copy of the F67[environmental impact assessment report] to the prescribed authority in Northern Ireland where the proposed road development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Northern Ireland or where that authority so requests, together with a notice in the prescribed form, stating that the authority has made an application for approval of the proposed road development and that submissions may be made in writing to the Minister in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development.
- F74[(d) where the F67[environmental impact assessment report] and a notice has been sent to the prescribed authority in Northern Ireland pursuant to *paragraph (c)*, enter into consultations with that authority regarding the potential effects on the environment of the proposed road development and the measures envisaged to reduce or eliminate such effects.]

F68[(3A) An Bord Pleanála shall make an electronic version of the documents specified in *subsection (3) (aa)* available to the public on its website (at the location referred to in *subsection (3B) (g)*).

(3B) An Bord Pleanála shall send to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government each of the following:

- (a) the name of the road authority, or as the case may be, the Authority, proposing the road development together with a contact name, email address and phone number for correspondence;
- (b) a description of the location of the proposed development;
- (c) a description of the proposed development;

- (d) notice that An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority to which the application has been made;
- (e) a map of the location of the proposed road development to a scale of not less than 1:1000 in relation to built-up areas and 1:2500 in relation to all other areas, or such other scale as may be agreed with the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in a particular case, and marked so as to identify clearly the land or structure to which the application relates;
- (f) a searchable electronic version of the notice referred to in *subsection (3)(a)*;
- (g) notification of the location where information in electronic form that relates to the application, including any determination under *section 50(1A) (d)*, is available on An Bord Pleanála's website.]

F73[(4) Where a road authority or the Authority has applied to An Bord Pleanála for an approval in accordance with *subsection (2)*, An Bord Pleanála may require the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, to furnish it with any additional information specified in Annex IV which is directly relevant to reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment and a road authority or, as the case may be the Authority shall comply with any such requirement.]

F75[(4A) The Minister shall, where he considers that additional information furnished in accordance with a requirement under *subsection (4)* contains significant additional data in relation to the effects on the environment of the proposed road development, require the relevant road authority to —

- (a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the proposed road development would take place a notice stating that significant additional information in relation to the said effects has been furnished to the Minister, that the additional information will be available, for inspection or for purchase (on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy) , at a specified place and at specified times during a specified period, and that submissions or observations in relation to the additional information may be made in writing to the Minister before a specified date, and
- (b) send notice of the furnishing to the Minister of significant additional information, and a copy of the additional information, to the bodies and persons and the authority (where appropriate) referred to in *subsections (3) (b) and (c)* and to indicate to such bodies and persons and the authority (where appropriate) that submissions or observations in relation to the additional information may be made in writing to the Minister before a specified date.]

F68[(4B) Where An Bord Pleanála requires the relevant road authority, or as the case may be the Authority, to publish a notice in accordance with *subsection (4A)(a)* the relevant road authority, or as the case may be the Authority, shall provide An Bord Pleanála with an electronic version of that notice and An Bord Pleanála shall make the electronic version of the notice and an electronic version of the additional information referred to in *subsection (4A)* available at the location referred to in *subsection (3B)(g)*.

(4C) Where An Bord Pleanála receives any submissions made in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development it shall make them available in electronic form at the location referred to in *subsection (3B) (g)*.]

F73[(5) Before approving a proposed road development An Bord Pleanála shall —

(a) duly take into account—

- (i) the environmental impact assessment report submitted under *subsection (2)*,
- (ii) any additional information furnished under *subsection (4)*,
- (iii) any submissions made in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development, and
- (iv) where a copy of the environmental impact assessment report was sent in accordance with *subsection (3)(c)*, the results of consultations and the information gathered under *subsection (3)(d)*,

(b) consider the report and any recommendation of the person conducting an inquiry referred to in *subsection (7)* where evidence is heard at such inquiry in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development,

and

(c) taking into account the results of the examination referred to in *paragraphs (a)* and *(b)*, reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed road development on the environment.]

F68[(5A) An Bord Pleanála shall make a decision under *subsection (6)* in relation to a proposed road development within a reasonable period of time following receipt of an environmental impact assessment report under *subsection (2)* or, where relevant, of receipt of additional information under *subsection (4)*.]

F73[(6) An Bord Pleanála, having reached a reasoned conclusion under *subsection (5)(c)* and being satisfied that the reasoned conclusion remains up-to-date, may, by order, approve a proposed road development, with or without modifications and subject to whatever environmental conditions (including conditions regarding monitoring measures, parameters to be monitored and the duration of monitoring) it considers appropriate, or may refuse to approve such development.]

F73[(6A) An order under *subsection (6)* approving a proposed road development shall include—

- (a) the reasoned conclusion referred to in *subsection (5)*,
- (b) any environmental conditions, including conditions regarding monitoring measures, parameters to be monitored and the duration of monitoring, to which the approval is subject, and
- (c) a description of any features of the proposed road development, or any measures envisaged, to avoid, prevent or reduce, or offset significant adverse effects on the environment.]

F68[(6B) An order under *subsection (6)* refusing to approve a proposed road development shall include the main reasons for the refusal.

(6C) Where An Bord Pleanála makes an order referred to in *subsection (6)* it shall—

- (a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the proposed road development would take place, and in electronic form at the location referred to in *subsection (3B) (g)*, a notice stating—

- (i) that An Bord Pleanála has approved or, as the case may be, refused to approve the proposed road development,
 - (ii) the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to approve or refuse to approve is based, including—
 - (I) information about the public participation process,
 - (II) a summary of the results of the consultations and the information gathered pursuant to *section 50* and this section (in particular, where a copy of the environmental impact assessment report was sent in accordance with *subsection (3)(c)*, the results of consultations and the information gathered under *subsection (3)(d)*), and,
 - (III) a description of how the results referred to in *clause (II)* have been incorporated or otherwise addressed,
 - (iii) where the proposed road development was approved subject to modifications or environmental conditions (including conditions regarding monitoring measures, parameters to be monitored and the duration of monitoring), particulars of those modifications or conditions,
 - (iv) that a copy of the order is available for inspection during specified hours, at a specified place, for a specified period of time, and in electronic form at the location referred to in *subsection (3B)(g)*, and
 - (v) that practical information regarding the judicial review procedures by which a person may seek to question the validity of a determination by An Bord Pleanála on a proposed road development can be found at the location referred to in *subsection (3B)(g)*,
- (b) forward to each of the bodies referred to in *subsection (3)(b)* a copy of the order under *subsection (6)*,
- and
- (c) where a copy of the environmental impact assessment report was sent in accordance with *subsection (3)(c)*, forward to the prescribed authority in Northern Ireland a copy of the order under *subsection (6)*.]
- (7) (a) The person conducting—
- (i) a public local inquiry under *section 49*, or
 - (ii) a local inquiry in relation to a bridge order under *section 47* of the Act of 1946, or
 - (iii) a public local inquiry in relation to the compulsory acquisition of land,
- which relates wholly or partly to a proposed road development in respect of which a road authority has applied for an approval under this section shall be entitled to hear evidence in relation to the likely effects on the environment of such development.
- (b) Where an application for approval under this section relates to a proposed road development, and
- (i) a scheme submitted to the Minister for approval under *section 49*, or

(ii) an application submitted to the Minister for a bridge order under the Act of 1946,
or

(iii) a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister for confirmation,

relate wholly or partly to the same proposed road development, the Minister shall make a decision on such approval and on the approval of such scheme or the making of such bridge order or the confirmation of such compulsory purchase order at the same time.

(8) (a) The European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Motorways) Regulations, 1988 (S.I. No. 221 of 1988) are hereby revoked.

(b) The European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 (S.I. No. 349 of 1989) and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 1990 (S.I. No. 25 of 1990) shall not apply to proposed road development.

F76[(9) F77[...]]

F68[(10) In carrying out an environmental impact assessment on a proposed road development under this section, An Bord Pleanála shall, where appropriate, coordinate the assessment with any assessment of the proposed development under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992³ or Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009⁴.]

F78[Consultations with An Bord Pleanála before making of application under section 51

51A.— (1) Where a road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, proposes to make an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála pursuant to *section 51(2)* in relation to a proposed road development, it may, before making the application, make a request to An Bord Pleanála to enter into consultations in relation to the proposed road development.

(2) An Bord Pleanála shall—

(a) accede to a request under *subsection (1)* as soon as possible, and

(b) ensure that consultations held are completed as expeditiously as is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development and, for that purpose, take all such steps as are open to it to ensure that, in so far as is practicable, there are no avoidable delays at any stage in the holding of those consultations.

(3) In any consultations, An Bord Pleanála may give advice to the road authority concerned or the Authority regarding the proposed application for approval under *section 51(2)* and, in particular, regarding—

(a) the procedures involved in making such an application and in considering such an application, and

(b) what considerations, relating to—

(i) the effects of the proposed road development on the environment, or an area, site or land, referred to in *section 50(1)(d)*, or

(ii) proper planning and sustainable development,

that may, in the opinion of An Bord Pleanála, have a bearing on its decision in relation to the application.

³ OJ No. L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7

⁴ OJ No. L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7

(4) A road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, shall, for the purposes of consultations, supply to An Bord Pleanála sufficient information in relation to the proposed road development so as to enable An Bord Pleanála to assess that development.

(5) An Bord Pleanála may consult with any person who may, in the opinion of An Bord Pleanála, have information which is relevant for the purposes of consultations in relation to the proposed road development.

(6) The holding of the consultations shall not prejudice the performance by An Bord Pleanála of any other of its functions under this Act or regulations under this Act and shall not be relied upon in an application for approval under *section 51(2)* or in legal proceedings.

(7) An Bord Pleanála shall keep a record in writing of any consultations, including the names of those who participated in the consultations, and a copy of any such record shall be placed and kept with the documents to which any application for approval under *section 51(2)* in respect of the proposed road development relates.

(8) An Bord Pleanála shall provide a copy of any record kept in accordance with *subsection (7)* to the road authority concerned or the Authority.

(9) Following the completion of any consultations between An Bord Pleanála and the road authority concerned or the Authority, as the case may be, the road authority or the Authority may apply to An Bord Pleanála for the approval referred to in *section 51(2)* in relation to a proposed road development.

(10) In this section, "consultations" means the consultations referred to in *subsection (1)*.]

F79[Power of An Bord Pleanála to approve scheme or proposed road development that contravenes materially any plan

51AA.— An Bord Pleanála shall approve a scheme, or a proposed road development, that contravenes materially any F80[development plan, urban area plan, priority area plan or coordinated area plan (within the meaning, in each case, of the Act of 2024), or any local area plan in force pursuant to section 81 of the Act of 2024,] only if it considers that one of the following is the case:

- (a) the scheme or proposed road development is of strategic, regional or national importance;
- (b) there are conflicting objectives in the development plan or the objectives are not clearly stated, insofar as the scheme or proposed road development is concerned;
- (c) the scheme or proposed road development should be approved having regard to the transport strategy made under section 12 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008, the regional spatial and economic strategy for the area, F81[guidelines under section 28 of the Act of 2000 that continue in force under section 27 of the Act of 2024, a national planning statement under the Act of 2024], the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policy of the Government, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage or any Minister of the Government;
- (d) the scheme or proposed road development should be approved having regard to the pattern of development, and planning permissions granted, in the area since the making of the development plan.]

F82[Alteration of proposed road development

51AB.— ...]

F83[Interpretation
- sections 51C to
51G

51B.— In sections 51C to 51G —

"developer", in relation to a road development, means—

- (a) the road authority that proposed the road development, or
- (b) where the Authority proposed the development, the Authority;

"order" means an order, under section 51(6), approving a road development either with modifications or subject to conditions relating to—

- (a) features of the road development or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the environment, or
- (b) the monitoring of significant adverse effects on the environment (including conditions regarding monitoring measures, parameters to be monitored and the duration of monitoring).]

F84[Duty to notify,
and to comply with
modifications and
conditions of
approval

51C.— (1) Where An Bord Pleanála makes an order in respect of a national road proposed by a road authority, the road authority shall—

- (a) comply with, and
- (b) notify the Authority of,

the modifications and conditions specified in the order.

(2) Where An Bord Pleanála makes an order in respect of a regional road or a local road proposed by a road authority, the road authority shall—

- (a) comply with, and
- (b) notify the Minister of,

the modifications and conditions specified in the order.

(3) Where An Bord Pleanála makes an order in respect of a national road proposed by the Authority, the Authority shall—

- (a) comply with, and
- (b) notify the Minister of,

the modifications and conditions specified in the order.

(4) A person that fails to comply with this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding 6 months or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment, or

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment.]

F85[Minister or Authority to ensure compliance with modifications and conditions

51D.— Without prejudice to section 68 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, where the Minister or the Authority receives a notification under section 51C in relation to an order the Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the developer complies with the modifications and conditions specified in the notification.]

F86[Power to request information regarding compliance with modification or condition

51E.— (1) The Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority notified of a modification or condition under section 51C may request the developer to furnish, within a specified period, specified information in relation to the developer's compliance with the modification or condition, and that developer shall comply with such a request.

(2) A request under subsection (1) by the Minister to the Authority may include a request for information relating to —

- (a) the number and location of places within an area at which monitoring is being carried out and the frequency of such monitoring,
- (b) the manner in which samples and measurements are taken and analyses are carried out,
- (c) the equipment being used for the purposes of taking such samples and measurements, or of carrying out such analyses, and
- (d) the results of any monitoring carried out.

(3) A developer that fails to comply with a request under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding 6 months or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment.]

F87[Power to carry out assessment of developer's compliance with modification or condition

51F. — (1) The Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority notified of a modification or condition under section 51C may, having notified the developer of its intention to do so, carry out an assessment of the developer's compliance with the modification or condition.

(2) During the course of an assessment under subsection (1) the developer shall comply with any request, made by the Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority for the purposes of that assessment, to—

- (a) furnish information, records or reports or the results of any monitoring by the developer in relation to the developer's compliance with the modification or condition, or
- (b) afford to the Minister or the Authority access to any land, premises or structure occupied by the developer, for the purposes of assessing the developer's compliance with the modification or condition.

(3) A developer that fails to comply with a request under subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding 6 months or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment.]

F88[Power to direct action to ensure compliance with modification or condition

51G.— (1) The Minister, or as the case may be, the Authority having made a request under *section 51E*, or carried out an assessment under *section 51F*, and considered any information furnished to it or that has otherwise come into its possession as a result, may issue to the developer to whom the request was made, or whose compliance was assessed, the terms of a direction (in this section referred to as "the proposed direction") that the Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority proposes to issue to the developer, requiring the developer to carry out, cause to be carried out, or arrange for, within a specified period, such action as the Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority considers necessary for the purposes of *section 51D* to ensure that that the developer complies with modifications and conditions specified in the order.

(2) The proposed direction shall specify a period within which the developer may make observations to the Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority in relation to the proposal to make the direction (and the developer may make such observations within that period accordingly).

(3) After the expiration of the period referred to in *subsection (2)* and having considered any observations made by the developer under that subsection, the Minister or, as the case may be, the Authority may confirm, with or without modification, or decide not to confirm the proposed direction and, in a case where the proposal is confirmed, the Minister or, as the case may be the Authority, shall accordingly issue to the developer the direction concerned and the developer shall comply with the direction within the period specified in the direction.

(4) A developer that fails to comply with a direction under *subsection (3)* shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable —

- (a) on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding 6 months or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or, at the discretion of the court, to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(5) In imposing any penalty under *subsection (4)* the court shall, in particular, have regard to the risk or extent of damage to the environment and any remediation required arising from the act or omission constituting the offence.]

Acquisition of land and implementation of scheme.

52.—(1) Whenever the Minister approves a scheme (with or without modifications) under *section 49*, the road authority shall thereupon be authorised to compulsorily acquire any land F89[or any substratum of land] or any rights in relation to land specified in the approved scheme and, for that purpose, the scheme shall have the same effect as if it were a compulsory purchase order in respect of that land F89[or substratum of land] or any rights in relation to land which, consequent on a decision made by the road authority, pursuant to *section 10 (1)* of the *Local*

Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 (as inserted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966), had been duly made and confirmed.

(2) Whenever the Minister approves a scheme (with or without modifications) the road authority shall thereupon be authorised to close, stop up, remove, alter, divert or restrict an existing means of direct access (including access from a public road) to a motorway or a busway or a protected road from any land as specified in the approved scheme or from any land to a motorway or a busway or a protected road.

(3) In any case where the closing, stopping up, removing, altering, diverting or restricting of an existing means of direct access under subsection (2) results in the owner of any land being deprived of the only means of access from that land to any public road or to that land from a public road, the road authority shall not close, stop up, remove, alter, divert or restrict such means of access until an alternative means of access to or from a public road has been provided.

(4) Whenever, by reason of the approval of a scheme (with or without modifications) by the Minister, direct access from any land to a public road or to any land from a public road is prohibited, closed, stopped up, removed, altered, diverted or restricted, any person who has suffered damage in consequence thereof by the depreciation of any interest in the land to which he is entitled or by being disturbed in his enjoyment of that land, shall be entitled to recover from the road authority compensation in respect of that damage:

Provided that in assessing compensation regard shall be had to any new means of access provided by the road authority and where appropriate to any existing means of access (whether restricted or otherwise) which remains.

(5) A claim for compensation under subsection (4) shall be made not later than six months after the date on which the scheme to which it relates was approved by the Minister and shall, in default of agreement, be determined by arbitration under the Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, 1919, in the like manner in all respects as if such claim arose in relation to the compulsory acquisition of land, but subject to the proviso that the arbitrator shall have jurisdiction to make a nil award.

(6) A claim for compensation may be made in relation to a planning permission which is revoked or modified under a scheme approved by the Minister under section 49 as if the revocation or modification had been made by notice under F90[section 44 of the Act of 2000, and for the purposes of section 195 of that Act] the road authority which made the scheme shall be deemed to be the planning authority.

F89[(7) For the purposes of subsection (1), any reference in section 10(1) (inserted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960, or in the Housing Act, 1966, to land shall include a reference to a substratum of land.

(8) For the purposes of subsection (1), the reference in section 10(4)(a) (inserted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960, to section 78 of the Housing Act, 1966, shall be construed, as respects a scheme approved under section 49, as a reference to subsections (1) and (5) of the said section 78.

(9) A scheme approved under section 49 shall come into operation—

(a) in case an application for leave to apply for judicial review relating thereto has not been made, upon the expiration of—

(i) the period of two months from the date on which notice of the decision under section 49(3) was first published, or

- (ii) such period as extended by the High Court or Supreme Court under *section 55A*,
- (b) in case such an application has been made, and has not been withdrawn, in so far as it has not been declared invalid or quashed pursuant to that review, upon the final determination of the proceedings concerned or such other date as may be determined in those proceedings, and
- (c) in case such an application has been made and is withdrawn, upon the date of the withdrawal.]

Control of works by a State authority, statutory undertaker or local authority.

- 53.—**(1) (a) The powers conferred on any State authority, statutory undertaker or local authority by or under any enactment to carry out works along, adjoining, in, on, under or over any land shall not be exercised by that authority or undertaker in relation to any land comprised in a motorway, busway or protected road otherwise than with the consent of the Authority (in the case of a national road) or the Minister (in the case of a regional road or a local road).
- (b) *Paragraph (a)* shall not apply to the carrying out by a road authority of any functions assigned to it by or under any enactment (including this Act) relating to the construction or maintenance of public roads.
- (c) (i) The carrying out by a State authority, statutory undertaker or local authority of emergency works necessary to eliminate or reduce danger or risk to persons or property or of maintenance works shall not require consent under *paragraph (a)*.
- (ii) In *subparagraph (i)* “maintenance works” includes the inspection, repair, renewal or removal of the works referred to in *paragraph (a)*, but does not include the relocation of those works.
- (iii) A road authority may issue a direction to a State authority, statutory undertaker or local authority in relation to the works referred to in *subparagraph (i)* and the authority or undertaker shall comply with this direction.
- (2) The Minister may make regulations providing that before submitting an application for consent under *subsection (1)* in respect of prescribed works—
- (a) a State authority, statutory undertaker or local authority shall publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the proposed works would be located a notice in the prescribed form—
- (i) stating that it is proposed to apply for consent in respect of specified works,
 - (ii) indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a copy of the application may be inspected,
 - (iii) stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the Authority or the Minister in relation to the granting of consent before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection);
- (b) the Authority or the Minister may, having considered any objections or representations made to it or him under *paragraph (a) (iii)* and not withdrawn, grant or refuse consent or grant consent subject to such conditions or restrictions as it or he considers necessary;
- (c) the Authority or the Minister may at its or his discretion cause an oral hearing to be held into any objections or representations made under *paragraph (a) (iii)* and not with-

drawn and shall consider the report and any recommendation of a person conducting such oral hearing before deciding whether to grant or refuse consent.

F92[Service areas (motorway schemes).

- 54.—** (1) A motorway scheme may include provision for a service area.
- (2) Where a motorway scheme approved under *section 49* includes provision for a service area or a service area provided under a motorway scheme is located on a motorway—
- (a) the Authority — in the case of a national road, or
- (b) the road authority in whose functional area the service area is to be provided or is located—
- (i) in the case of a national road, with the consent of the Authority, or
- (ii) in the case of a regional or local road,
- may—
- (I) provide or operate in the service area facilities or services for persons and vehicles using the motorway to which the scheme relates,
- (II) make an agreement with any person whereby that person, either by himself or herself or jointly with the Authority or the road authority, as the case may be, provides or operates in the service area such facilities or services.
- (3) Subject to *section 54A*, a service area on a motorway shall not be provided or operated save in accordance with this section.
- (4) The Minister may make regulations providing for the application of moneys accruing to a road authority or the Authority in respect of the exercise of its functions under this section or *section 54A*.
- (5) (a) Only classes of vehicles prescribed under *section 43(3)* shall have access from a service area to a motorway.
- (b) The driver of a vehicle which is not a vehicle of a class prescribed under *section 43(3)* who accesses with the vehicle from a service area to a motorway is guilty of an offence.]

F93[Service areas (public roads).

- 54A.—** (1) In a service area—
- (a) the Authority — in the case of a national road, or
- (b) the road authority in whose functional area the service area is to be provided for or is located—
- (i) in the case of a national road, with the consent of the Authority, or
- (ii) in the case of a regional road or local road,
- may—
- (I) provide or operate facilities or services for persons and vehicles using the road to which the service area scheme relates, or

(II) make an agreement with another person whereby that person, either by himself or herself or jointly with the Authority or the road authority, as the case may be, provides or operates such facilities or services.

(2) Subject to *section 54*, a service area on a road referred to in *subsection (1)* shall not be provided or operated other than in accordance with that subsection.

(3) In this section "service area" means a service area proposed or provided under a service area scheme in respect of a national, regional or local road.]

F94[Offence (service areas).

54B.— A person who, without lawful authority or the consent of the Authority or the road authority concerned, as the case may be—

(a) defaces (by writing or other means), damages or excavates a service area provided under a motorway scheme or service area scheme,

(b) places or deposits any material or thing on a service area which is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using the service area, or

(c) obstructs or interferes with access from the public road to the service area,

is guilty of an offence.]

Special and emergency access to a motorway, busway or protected road.

55.— (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Part, a road authority may, other than for the development of land and subject to such conditions and restrictions as it thinks fit, permit direct access to or from any land adjoining a motorway or a busway or (where access has been prohibited or restricted in a protected road scheme) a protected road—

(a) by a State authority, statutory undertaker or a local authority to carry out works to which *section 53* applies,

(b) by ambulances or fire brigade vehicles,

(c) by vehicles used by members of the Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces or persons employed by local authorities in the performance of their duties as such members or employees,

(d) by any other person or vehicle where by reason of an emergency there is a serious risk to persons or property.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent a road authority from having direct access to or from a motorway, a busway or a protected road for the purpose of maintaining such motorway, busway or protected road.

(3) F95[...]

(4) F95[...]

F96[Judicial Review.

55A.— F97[...]

PART V

TOLL ROADS

Definitions for *Part V*.

F98[56.— In this Part—

"consumer-hire agreement" and "hire-purchase agreement" have the meanings assigned to them, respectively, in the [Consumer Credit Act 1995](#);

"default toll" means a toll charged and payable in accordance with bye-laws under [section 61](#) in respect of a mechanically propelled vehicle where the toll initially charged and payable in respect of that vehicle for the use of a toll road has not been paid;

"licensing records" means records maintained under [section 60\(2\)](#) (inserted by [section 86](#) of the [Finance Act 1994](#) as amended by [section 7](#) of the [Motor Vehicle \(Duties and Licences\) Act 2003](#)) of the [Finance Act 1993](#);

"mechanically propelled vehicle" has the meaning assigned to it by the Act of 1961;

"owner" means—

(a) in relation to a vehicle (other than a vehicle specified in [paragraph \(b\)](#)), the person by whom the vehicle is kept, or

(b) in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hire-purchase or consumer-hire agreement, the person in possession of the vehicle under the agreement;

"registered in the State" in relation to a vehicle, means the vehicle is entered in the register established and maintained by the Revenue Commissioners under [section 131](#) of the [Finance Act 1992](#) or in respect of which a licence has been taken out under [section 1](#) of the [Finance \(Excise Duties\) \(Vehicles\) Act 1952](#);

"registered owner" in relation to a vehicle, means where the vehicle—

(a) is registered in the State, the owner of the vehicle whose name is most recently entered in licensing records, or

(b) is used under a trade licence issued under [section 21](#) of the [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 1992](#), the holder of the licence;

"road authority" means—

(a) in the case of a national road — the Authority, and

(b) in the case of a regional road or local road — the local authority in whose functional area the road is situated;

"road undertaking" means, in relation to a toll road—

(a) a road authority, or

(b) where the road authority has entered into—

(i) an agreement with another person under [section 63](#) in relation to any of the matters referred to in [paragraph \(e\)](#) of that section, or

(ii) an arrangement with a partner under [section 3\(1\)](#) of the [State Authorities \(Public Private Partnership Arrangements\) Act 2002](#) in relation to any of the matters referred to in [paragraph \(a\)](#) of that subsection,

that other person or partner;

"toll" means a toll (including a default toll) chargeable under this Part;

"toll road" means a public road or proposed public road in respect of which a toll scheme is in force;

"toll scheme" means a scheme under *section 57*.]

Toll schemes.

57.—F99[(1) A road authority may prepare a scheme for the establishment of a system of tolls in respect of the use of a public road.]

(2) F99[In preparing a scheme under *subsection (1)*], a road authority shall give special consideration to the question of exempting from tolls under the scheme pedestrians, F100[powered personal transporters,] pedal cycles, invalid carriages, vehicles specially adapted for use by physically handicapped persons and vehicles providing public passenger transport services.

(3) A F99[scheme prepared under *subsection (1)*] shall—

- (a) specify the public road or proposed public road in respect of the use of which it is proposed to establish a system of tolls,
- (b) indicate the classes of vehicles and road users for whose use the toll road is intended,
- (c) indicate the classes of vehicles which and road users who will be charged tolls in respect of such use,
- (d) include an estimate of the amounts of the tolls that it is proposed to charge in respect of the use of the toll road by such vehicles and road users,
- F101[(e) specify the manner and method of the charging of and collection of tolls,
- (f) specify such other information as the road authority making the scheme considers appropriate or the Minister prescribes by regulations.]

(4) A F99[scheme under *subsection (1)*] shall be accompanied by an explanatory statement outlining the provisions of the scheme and its purpose and effect and shall include (as appropriate)—

- (a) information in relation to the general arrangements for the construction, maintenance and operation of the toll road to which the scheme relates and for the payment of the cost of such construction, maintenance and operation,
- (b) estimates of the capital cost of the road (where appropriate) and of the capital and operating costs of tolling the road, and
- (c) estimates of the volume and kind of traffic that will use the road and the amounts of the tolls in respect of such traffic.

F99[(5) A road authority may prepare a scheme amending a toll scheme adopted by it under *section 58*.]

(6) The making of a F99[scheme prepared under *subsection (1)*] in relation to a regional road or a local road shall be a reserved function.

F102[(7) (a) The Authority shall, before adopting, under *section 58*, a scheme prepared under *subsection (1)* in relation to a national road, send a copy of the scheme to the appropriate road authority under *section 13* and serve a notice on the road authority stating—

- (i) that a scheme under *subsection (1)* has been prepared, and
 - (ii) that representations may be made in writing to the Authority in relation to the scheme before such date as is specified in the notice (being not less than 6 weeks from the date of service of the notice).
- (b) The Authority shall consider any representations made to it pursuant to a notice under *paragraph (a)*.
- (c) The making of representations by a road authority under this subsection shall be a reserved function and shall be without prejudice to the right of that authority to make objections to the Authority under *section 58*.]

F103 [Scheme prepared under section 57 of Roads Act, 1993, to be adopted by road authority.

58.—(1) A road authority shall publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the proposed toll road is located or is to be located a notice—

- (a) stating that a draft toll scheme has been prepared,
 - (b) indicating the times at which, the period (being a period of not less than one month from the first publication of the notice) during which, and the place at which a copy of the scheme prepared under *section 57*, any map referred to therein and the explanatory statement relating to the scheme may be inspected, and
 - (c) stating that objections to the draft toll scheme may be made in writing to the road authority before such date as is specified in the notice (being not less than 2 weeks from the end of the period for inspection referred to in *paragraph (b)*).
- (2) (a) Subject to *paragraph (b)*, a road authority may adopt a scheme prepared by it under *subsection (1)*, with or without modifications and, subject to *subsection (3)*, a scheme so adopted is hereafter in this Act referred to as a “toll scheme”.
- (b) If an objection to a draft toll scheme is made to the road authority and the objection is not withdrawn, the road authority shall, before deciding whether to adopt the draft toll scheme or not, cause an oral hearing to be held into the matters to which the objection relates, by a person appointed by the road authority, and shall consider the report of and any recommendation made by the person so appointed.
- (3) (a) A toll scheme adopted by the road authority under this section shall come into force with the modifications, if any, therein made by the road authority on such day as may be determined by the road authority.
- (b) Notice of the day on which a toll scheme is to come into force shall be published by the road authority at least one month before such day in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the toll road to which the scheme relates is located or will be located.]

Power to charge tolls.

59.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, a road authority may charge and collect tolls of such amounts as may be specified for the time being in bye-laws made by it under *section 61* in respect of the use of a toll road.

(2) A road authority may provide and maintain such buildings, structures, works and apparatus as it considers necessary or expedient for or in connection with the charging and collection of tolls and the operation of toll roads.

(3) Where an agreement under *section 63* provides for the collection of tolls by a person specified in the agreement, that person and his servants and agents may collect the tolls to which the agreement relates.

Revocation of toll scheme.

F104[60.—(1) A road authority may by order revoke a toll scheme adopted by it under *section 58*.

(2) Where a road authority proposes to make an order under *subsection (1)* it shall, before so making the order, publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the toll road is located a notice—

- (a) stating that it proposes to revoke the scheme,
- (b) indicating the times at which, the period (being not less than one month from the first publication of the notice) during which, and the place at which, a copy of the proposal may be inspected,
- (c) stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to the proposal before such date as is specified in the notice (being a date that falls not less than 2 weeks from the end of the period for inspection of the proposal).

(3) Before making an order under *subsection (1)*, the road authority shall consider any objections or representations made to it in accordance with a notice under *subsection (2)*.

(4) A road authority may at its discretion cause an oral hearing to be held into any matter to which objections or representations, made in accordance with a notice under *subsection (2)* and not withdrawn, relate, by a person appointed by the road authority, and where a road authority causes an oral hearing to be so held it shall, before revoking the toll scheme under *subsection (3)*, consider the report of and any recommendation made by that person.

(5) The road authority shall publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the toll road is located notice of the making of any order under *subsection (1)*.

(6) The making of an order under this section in relation to a regional road or a local road shall be a reserved function.]

Toll bye-laws.

61.—(1) A road authority may, after consultation with the Commissioner, make such bye-laws as it considers expedient for the purposes of the operation and management of a toll road.

(2) The Authority shall consult with the appropriate road authority under *section 13* before making bye-laws in relation to a national road.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (1)*, bye-laws under this section may—

- (a) specify the amounts of the tolls that shall be charged, or the scales and other provisions by reference to which they shall be charged, in respect of the use of a toll road by vehicles and road users of each class specified in the bye-laws and may specify different such amounts by reference to such circumstances or combinations of circumstances (whether relating to classes of vehicles or road users, seasons of the year, days of the week, times of the day or otherwise) as the road authority may consider appropriate,
- (b) provide for the issue, inspection and collection of tickets, tokens, vouchers, permits, receipts and other forms of authorisation or payment for the use of a toll road,

(c) F105[subject to *section 64(3)*, specify] the persons who shall be liable to pay a toll,

(d) provide that a person liable under the bye-laws to pay a toll shall not use, or cause or permit, any vehicle of which he is in charge to use the toll road concerned unless the toll has been paid or arrangements, to the satisfaction of the road authority concerned or of a person authorised by it to operate and manage the toll road, for its payment have been made, and

(e) specify the powers of the road authority and of any person authorised by it to operate and manage the toll road concerned in relation to users of a toll road and vehicles and the persons in charge of them.

(4) The making of toll bye-laws in relation to a regional road or a local road shall be a reserved function.

(5) F106[...]

F107[(6) Before making bye-laws, a road authority shall publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the toll road to which the bye-laws relate is located or is to be located a notice—

(a) indicating that it is proposed to make such bye-laws and stating the purpose of the bye-laws,

(b) indicating the times at which, the period (being a period of not less than one month from the date of the first publication of the notice) during which, and the place at which, a copy of the draft bye-laws may be inspected,

(c) stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to the draft bye-laws before such date as is specified in the notice (being a date that falls not less than 2 weeks from the end of the period for inspection of the draft bye-laws), and

(d) stating that a copy of the draft bye-laws may be purchased on payment of such fee as is specified in the notice not exceeding the reasonable cost incurred in the making of such copy.]

F107[(7) Before making bye-laws the road authority shall consider any objections or representations which have been made to it in accordance with a notice under *subsection (6)* and not withdrawn.]

F107[(8) Bye-laws made by a road authority under this section shall come into effect on such date as is specified in those bye-laws.]

(9) The bye-laws shall, as soon as may be after they have been F107[made], be published in *Iris Oifigiúil* and notice of their making, of the toll road to which they apply and of the place where copies of them may be purchased or inspected shall be published in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the toll road to which the bye-laws relate is located or is to be located.

F108[(10) A person who contravenes a bye-law made under this section commits an offence.]

Exemption from tolls.

62.—The following shall be exempt from the payment of tolls—

(a) ambulances and fire brigade vehicles,

- (b) vehicles used by members of the Garda Síochána or the Defence Forces in the performance of their duties as such members,
- (c) such other classes of vehicles or road users as the Minister may prescribe in relation to toll roads generally, specified classes of toll roads or specified toll roads.

Agreements for financing, maintenance, construction and operation of toll roads.

63.—(1) F109[Where a toll scheme is adopted by a road authority, the road authority may] enter into an agreement with another person under which, upon such terms and conditions as may be specified in the agreement (including the payment to, or retention by, the person of all or part of the proceeds of tolls in respect of the toll road the subject of the scheme), the person agrees to do all or one or more of the following:

- (a) to pay some or all of the cost of the construction of the road,
- (b) to pay some or all of the cost of the maintenance of the road,
- (c) to construct or join or assist in the construction of the road for or with the authority,
- (d) to maintain or join or assist in the maintenance of the road for or with the authority,
- (e) to operate and manage (including provide, supervise and operate a system of tolls F110[and their collection] in respect of the use of the road) the road for or with the authority,
- (f) such other things connected with or incidental or ancillary to or consequential upon the foregoing as may be specified in the agreement.

F111[(1A) A road authority may enter into different agreements with different persons in respect of anything referred to in subsection (1).]

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an agreement under this section may—

- (a) provide for the application of the proceeds of tolls, systems of accounting for tolls collected and the methods and times of payment of proceeds of tolls to the persons to whom they are to be paid under the terms of the agreement,
- (b) specify the period for which the agreement shall have effect and provide for its termination or suspension and for matters connected with or incidental or ancillary to or consequent upon the expiration of the agreement or such termination or suspension, and

(c) provide for the giving of such security as may be specified therein—

- (i) to the road authority by any other party to the agreement, or
- (ii) by the road authority to any other party to the agreement,

in relation to the carrying out and observance by that party or authority of the terms and conditions of the agreement.

(3) A road authority may F112[...] enter into an agreement with a party with whom it has entered into a previous agreement under this section amending the terms or conditions thereof, adding thereto, or deleting therefrom, terms or conditions or revoking the previous agreement.

(4) Entry into an agreement under this section in relation to a regional road or a local road shall be a reserved function.

(5) The parties to an agreement under this section shall carry out the agreement in accordance with its terms and conditions and a road authority shall have all such powers as may be necessary for that purpose.

Offences under *Part V*.

F113[64.— (1) Where a toll charged and payable in respect of a mechanically propelled vehicle using a toll road is unpaid for such period specified in bye-laws under *section 61*, a default toll, in accordance with the bye-laws, of not more than such amount specified in the bye-laws being greater than the amount of the toll initially charged, may be charged and be payable in respect of the vehicle.

(2) Bye-laws made under *section 61* may—

- (a) provide that the amount of a default toll be increased by such amount where it is not paid within such period as specified in the bye-laws,
- (b) take into account administrative costs in charging and collecting a default toll, or
- (c) specify different amounts in respect of different classes of toll roads and different classes of vehicles.

(3) Where a toll is payable in respect of a mechanically propelled vehicle where—

F114[(a) the vehicle is registered in the State (other than in the circumstances referred to in *paragraph (c)*)—

- (i) the registered owner of the vehicle, and
- (ii) the person, whom the road undertaking concerned can reasonably ascertain, keeps or has possession or charge (including arising from a leasing arrangement) of the vehicle in the State,]
- (b) the vehicle is not registered in the State — the person, whom the road undertaking concerned can reasonably ascertain, owns or keeps or has possession or charge of the vehicle in the State,
- (c) the registered owner or a person referred to in *paragraph (b)* or *(d)*, as the case may be, on the occasion in question, was not driving or in the vehicle and had not given permission for or required another to use the vehicle and the Garda Síochána were aware or were informed of this — the person who was driving the vehicle on the occasion, or
- (d) a person has entered into an agreement with the road undertaking concerned in respect of the payment of tolls in respect of the vehicle — that person,

and the driver of the vehicle, if he or she is not a person mentioned above, are jointly and severally liable to pay the toll.

F115[(4) The amount of any toll due and payable by a person under this Part may be recovered from that person as a simple contract debt by the road undertaking concerned in any court of competent jurisdiction and, for the purposes of this subsection, may be recovered as if the toll due and payable was founded on a contract made where—

- (a) the toll is being charged and collected, or
- (b) the liability to pay the toll is incurred.]

(5) (a) Notwithstanding *section 79*, notice of the charge of a toll may be served on a person by the road undertaking concerned by post—

(i) at the place where the person ordinarily resides or carries on business, or

(ii) if an address for the service of such a notice has been provided by the person, that address,

or where arrangements have been made between the person and the road undertaking by such means specified (such as electronic mail) to the place or address specified, in the arrangements.

(b) In any proceedings for the recovery of a toll it shall be presumed, until the contrary is shown, that the defendant received the notice under this paragraph to which the proceedings relate and that payment of the toll has not been made.

(6) A document signed by an officer of the road undertaking concerned (authorised in that behalf by the road undertaking) stating that a mechanically propelled vehicle in respect of which the proceedings are taken for the non-payment of a toll incurred the liability to pay the toll together with any photographic or other evidence taken from a camera or other apparatus referred to in *subsection (7)* of the identification mark of the vehicle taken at the material time may, without proof of the signature of the officer or that the photographic or other evidence is from a camera or other apparatus referred to in that subsection, be produced in any court and in all legal proceedings and is, until the contrary is shown, evidence that a toll was incurred in respect of the vehicle. It shall not be necessary to show that the camera or other apparatus was accurate or in good working order.

(7) A road authority may approve cameras or other apparatus and the location of them, to be set up and operated by the road undertaking having charge of the collection of tolls on a toll road, for the purposes of—

(a) recording the date and time of a vehicle passing through the toll road and whether payment in respect of the vehicle for the use of the road has been discharged or incurred, and

(b) taking photographic images of the vehicle and its identification mark.

(8) A person who is liable to pay a toll and who fails, neglects or refuses to pay the toll is guilty of an offence.

(9) A person who on a toll road, fails, neglects or refuses to obey a lawful instruction or direction of a person authorised by a road undertaking to provide, operate or manage a toll road or collect or charge tolls on the road is guilty of an offence.

(10) A person who by his or her actions does any thing to avoid being charged or paying a toll while on a toll road is guilty of an offence.

(11) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both.

(12) In this section "identification mark" in respect of a mechanically propelled vehicle, means the identification mark assigned to the vehicle—

(a) in the case of a vehicle registered in the State — under section 6 of the Roads Act 1920 or section 131(5) (inserted by *section 102* of the *Finance Act 2003*) of the *Finance Act 1992*, or

(b) in the case of a vehicle registered in a jurisdiction outside the State — under the laws of that jurisdiction.]

F116[Access to records.

64A.— (1) A road undertaking for the purposes of charging and collecting payment of tolls shall have access to and may inspect and examine licensing records and may take or be supplied with information or extracts from those records relating to the charging or payment of tolls on payment of such fee (if any) to cover the administrative costs in accessing such records.

(2) Where a road undertaking for the purposes of charging or collecting payment of a toll in respect of a vehicle using a toll road suspects that the vehicle on the occasion in question is the subject of an agreement and it is unable to ascertain from licensing records information regarding the person in possession of the vehicle under the agreement, it may require and be supplied with information from the registered owner of the vehicle regarding the person in possession of the vehicle under the agreement.

(3) Where a request is made under subsection (2), the registered owner of the vehicle the subject of the request shall, within 21 days, supply to the road undertaking making the request, where the vehicle is the subject of an agreement, the name and address of the person in possession of the vehicle under the agreement, on the occasion in question, to which the request relates.

(4) A person who in supplying information under subsection (3) gives false or misleading information is guilty of an offence.

(5) Where a registered owner fails or refuses to give information to a road undertaking for the purposes of this section the registered owner is presumed, until the contrary is shown, to have had possession of the vehicle on the occasion in question and is liable to pay the toll concerned.

(6) In this section "agreement" means a hire-purchase agreement or a consumer-hire agreement, as the case may be.]

Toll regulations.

65.—The Minister may make regulations—

(a) for the purposes of this Part and for enabling this Part and any toll scheme under F117[section 58], or agreement under section 63, to have full effect, and

(b) providing for the application of any moneys accruing to a road authority from the exercise of its functions under this Part.

Continuance of existing schemes, bye-laws and agreements.

66.—(1) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Act of 1979 by this Act—

(a) every agreement entered into under section 9 of that Act and every toll scheme or bye-law made by a road authority under that Act and in force immediately before such repeal shall continue in force as if made or entered into under this Part,

(b) every agreement entered into by a road authority under section 10 of that Act and in force immediately before such repeal shall continue in force as if entered into under section 59 of the Act of 1955 and the provisions of section 14 of this Act (other than subsection (7) thereof) shall apply to such agreement.

(2) On the commencement of this section, any agreement entered into or any scheme or bye-law made under the Act of 1979 shall, where such agreement, scheme or bye-law relates to a

national road, be deemed to have been entered into or made by the Authority and with effect from such commencement all functions, rights and liabilities of the road authority concerned in relation to such agreement, scheme or bye-law shall transfer to the Authority.

F118[Ministerial policy directives on road tolling.

66A.—(1) The Minister may, from time to time, issue policy directives to road authorities regarding the exercise of any of their functions under *Part V* or any matter connected therewith and road authorities shall comply with any such directives.

(2) The Minister may revoke or amend a policy directive issued under this section.

(3) The Minister shall cause a copy of any policy directive issued under this section to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.

(4) A road authority shall make available for inspection by members of the public any policy directive issued to it under this section.

(5) The Minister shall not issue a directive relating to a particular tolling scheme.]

F119[Continuance of existing schemes, bye-laws and agreements.

66B.—Notwithstanding this Part, every agreement entered into and every toll scheme or bye-law made by a road authority and in force immediately before the commencement of this section shall continue in force as if made or entered into under this Part as amended by the Planning and Development Act, 2000.]

F120[Transitional provisions regarding toll schemes.

66C.—Where, before the commencement of Part XX of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, any toll scheme, proposal to revoke a toll scheme or bye-law has been submitted to the Minister under *Part V* and the matter has not been determined by the Minister, the determination of the matter shall continue to rest with the Minister and *Part V* as amended by Part XX of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, shall not apply with respect to the matter.]

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Road users' duty of care.

67.—(1) It shall be the duty of a person using a public road to take reasonable care for his own safety and for that of any other person using the public road.

(2) It shall be the duty of a person using a public road to take all reasonable measures to avoid—

(a) injury to himself or to any other person using the public road,

(b) damage to property owned or used by him or by any other person using the public road.

Cycleways.

68.—F121[(1) In this section "cycleway" means a public road or proposed public road reserved for the exclusive use of—

(a) pedal cyclists, or

(b) a combination of pedal cyclists and either or both people driving powered personal transporters and pedestrians.]

(2) (a) A road authority may construct (or otherwise provide) and maintain a cycleway.

F121[(b) Where a road authority constructs or otherwise provides a cycleway it shall by order declare that the cycleway is for the exclusive use of—

(i) pedal cyclists, or

(ii) a combination of pedal cyclists and either or both people driving powered personal transporters and pedestrians.]

(c) Any person who uses a cycleway in contravention of an order under *paragraph (b)* shall be guilty of an offence.

Temporary dwellings on national roads, etc.

69.—(1) (a) Any person who without lawful authority erects, places or retains a temporary dwelling on a national road, motorway, busway or protected road shall be guilty of an offence.

(b) Any person who without lawful authority or the consent of a road authority erects, places or retains a temporary dwelling on any other prescribed road or prescribed class, subclass or type of road shall be guilty of an offence.

(c) A consent under *paragraph (b)* may be given by the road authority subject to such conditions, restrictions or requirements as it thinks fit and any person who fails to comply with such conditions, restrictions or requirements shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) An authorised person may remove a temporary dwelling from a national road, motorway, busway, protected road or any other prescribed road or prescribed class, subclass or type of road.

(3) An authorised person may store, or procure the storage of, a temporary dwelling removed by him under *subsection (2)*.

(4) Where the name and address of the owner of a temporary dwelling removed and stored under this section can be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, the road authority concerned or the Commissioner shall serve a notice upon the owner informing him of the removal and storage and of the address of the place where the temporary dwelling may be claimed and recovered, requiring him to claim and recover it within one month of the date of the service of the notice and informing him of the statutory consequences of his failure to do so.

(5) A temporary dwelling removed and stored under this section shall be given to a person claiming the temporary dwelling if, but only if, he makes a declaration in writing that he is the owner of the temporary dwelling or is authorised by its owner to claim it and, at the discretion of the road authority concerned or the Commissioner, pays the amount of the expenditure reasonably incurred in removing and storing the temporary dwelling.

(6) The road authority concerned or the Commissioner may dispose, or procure the disposal, of a temporary dwelling removed and stored under this section if—

(a) the owner of the temporary dwelling fails to claim it and remove it from the place where it is stored within one month of the date on which a notice under *subsection (4)* was served on him, or

(b) the name and address of the owner of the temporary dwelling cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry.

(7) A temporary dwelling shall not be disposed of under this section within six weeks of the date of its removal under this section.

(8) The provisions of this section are without prejudice to the functions of a public authority under any other enactment.

(9) In this section—

“authorised person” means—

- (a) a person authorised in writing by a road authority for the purposes of this section;
- (b) a member of the Garda Síochána;

“temporary dwelling” means any tent, caravan, mobile home, vehicle or other structure or thing (whether on wheels or not) which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by towing, transport on a vehicle or trailer, or otherwise), and—

- (a) is used for human habitation, either permanently or from time to time, or
- (b) was designed, constructed or adapted for such use,

but does not include any such temporary dwelling—

- (i) used by a State authority, road authority, local authority or a statutory undertaker during the course of works on, in or under a national road, motorway, busway, protected road, or any other prescribed road or prescribed class, subclass or type of road, or
- (ii) used in connection with a fire or other emergency.

Dangerous structures, trees, etc.

70.—(1) (a) The owner or occupier of any structure and the owner or occupier of any land on which a structure is situated shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the structure or the use of the structure is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.

(b) Where a structure or the use of a structure is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or where it obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or with the maintenance of a public road, a road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of the structure or on the owner or occupier of any land on which the structure is situated to remove, modify or carry out specified works in relation to the structure within the period stated in the notice.

(2) (a) The owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.

(b) Where a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or where it obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or with the maintenance of a public road, a road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of the land on which such tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is situated requiring the preservation, felling, cutting, lopping, trimming or removal of such tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation within the period stated in the notice.

(3) (a) A person on whom a notice under *subsection (1) or (2)* has been served may, within fourteen days from the date of service, appeal against the notice to the District Court on any one or more of the following grounds:

- (i) that he is not the owner or occupier of the structure,
 - (ii) that he is not the owner or occupier of the land on which the structure, tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is situated,
 - (iii) that the structure (or the use of such structure), tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation, as the case may be, is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road,
 - (iv) that compliance with the requirements of the notice would involve unreasonable expense,
 - (v) that the notice specified an unreasonably short time for complying with its requirements or any of them.
- (b) Notice of the appeal shall be given to the road authority and that authority shall be entitled to appear, be heard and adduce evidence on the hearing of the appeal.
- (4) (a) On the hearing of the appeal the Court may, as it thinks proper, either—
- (i) confirm the notice unconditionally, or
 - (ii) confirm the notice subject to such modifications, alterations or additions as the Court thinks reasonable, or
 - (iii) annul the notice.
- (b) Where the Court confirms the notice, subject to modifications, alterations or additions, the notice shall have effect subject to such modifications, alterations or additions.
- (5) (a) The jurisdiction conferred on the District Court by this section shall be exercised by the Judge of that Court having jurisdiction in the district in which the structure referred to in *subsection (1)* or the land referred to in *subsection (1) or (2)* is situated.
- (b) No appeal shall lie to the Circuit Court from a decision of the District Court under this section.
- (6) A notice under *subsection (1) or (2)* shall not have effect until—
- (a) the expiration of fourteen days from the date of service of the notice, or
 - (b) if an appeal is taken and the notice is confirmed, with or without modifications, the date upon which the decision of the Court is pronounced or the date upon which the order of the Court is expressed to take effect, whichever is the later.
- (7) An owner or occupier who fails to comply with a notice under this section shall be guilty of an offence.
- (8) Where an owner or occupier fails to comply with a notice under this section, the road authority may take the action specified in the notice or such other action as it thinks fit.
- (9) Where a road authority considers that a structure (or the use of such structure), tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation presents an immediate and serious hazard to persons using a public road it may, notwithstanding the provisions of *subsections (1) to (8)*, take immediate action to reduce or remove the hazard.

(10) Where a road authority takes action under *subsection (8) or (9)* it may recover any reasonable costs incurred by it from the owner or occupier as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(11) Where a road authority has entered or proposes to enter on any land under *subsection (8) or (9)*, it shall as soon as may be serve on the owner or the occupier of the land, a notice stating that it has entered or proposes to enter on the land and specifying the action that it has taken or proposes to take thereon.

(12) (a) Where a person takes action—

(i) to remove, modify or carry out specified works in relation to a structure, or

(ii) to preserve, fell, cut, lop, trim or remove any tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation to which this section relates,

he shall take all reasonable measures to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the safety of persons using a public road.

(b) A person who contravenes this subsection shall be guilty of an offence.

F122[(13) In this section "structure" means a structure (whether fixed or moveable) and includes any apparatus, object or thing which is attached or fixed to or connected with the structure.]

Unauthorised signs,
caravans, vehicles,
etc. on public roads.

71.—(1) (a) Any person who, without lawful authority or the consent of a road authority—

(i) erects, places or retains a sign on a public road, or

(ii) erects, places or retains on a public road any caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing (whether on wheels or not) used for the purposes of advertising, the sale of goods, the provision of services or other similar purpose,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(b) A consent under *paragraph (a)* may be given by the road authority subject to such conditions, restrictions or requirements as it thinks fit and any person who fails to comply with such conditions, restrictions or requirements shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Without prejudice to the liability of any person under *subsection (1)*, where there is a contravention of that subsection in the case of any sign or advertisement, the person on whose behalf the sign or advertisement is exhibited shall be deemed also to have contravened that subsection.

(3) Notwithstanding any other enactment, an authorised person may remove a sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing to which *subsection (1)* applies.

(4) An authorised person may store, or procure the storage of, a sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing removed by him under *subsection (3)*.

(5) Where the name and address of the owner of a sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing removed and stored under this section can be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, the road authority or the Commissioner shall serve a notice upon the owner informing him of its removal and storage and of the address of the place where it may be claimed and recovered, requiring him to claim and recover it within one month of the date of the service of the notice and informing him of the statutory consequences of his failure to do so.

(6) A sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing removed and stored under this section shall be given to a person claiming it if, but only if, he makes a declaration in writing that he is the owner of the sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing or is authorised by its owner to claim it and, at the discretion of the road authority concerned or the Commissioner, pays the amount of the expenditure reasonably incurred in removing and storing it.

(7) The road authority concerned or the Commissioner may dispose, or procure the disposal, of a sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing removed and stored under this section if—

(a) the owner of the sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing fails to claim it and remove it from the place where it is stored within one month of the date on which a notice under *subsection (5)* was served on him, or

(b) the name and address of the owner of the sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry.

(8) A sign, caravan, vehicle or other structure or thing shall not be disposed of under this section within six weeks of the date of its removal under this section.

(9) In this section—

“authorised person” means—

(a) a person authorised in writing by a road authority for the purposes of this section,

(b) a member of the Garda Síochána;

“sign” includes any sign, hoarding or other structure used for the purposes of advertising.

(10) This section shall not apply to a sign which relates to a presidential election within the meaning of the [Presidential Elections Act, 1937](#), a general election or a bye-election, within the meaning, in each case, of the [Electoral Act, 1923](#), a local election, a referendum, within the meaning of the [Referendum Act, 1942](#), or an election of members of the European Parliament, unless the sign has been in position for seven days or longer after the latest day upon which the poll was taken for the election, bye-election or referendum concerned.

Skips.

72.—(1) A road authority may, after consultation with the Commissioner, make bye-laws to regulate and control skips on public roads.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (1)*, bye-laws under this section may—

(a) specify the area or areas to which the bye-laws relate;

(b) specify requirements in relation to—

(i) the siting and removal of skips,

(ii) the dimensions and other characteristics of skips,

(iii) the lighting and marking of skips for the purpose of making them readily visible to road users,

(iv) the care and disposal of the contents of skips,

(v) the period of deposit of skips on public roads,

- (vi) the earliest practicable removal of skips once full,
 - (vii) the clear and indelible marking of skips with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or provider,
 - (viii) the giving of security or the provision of an indemnity;
- (c) provide for the issue by the road authority of licences in respect of the deposit of skips on public roads and for the payment of specified fees in respect of such licences;
- (d) provide for the attachment of conditions to licences, including conditions relating to any or all of the matters referred to in *paragraph (b)*.
- (3) Before making bye-laws under *subsection (1)*, a road authority shall—
- (a) publish a notice in one or more newspapers circulating in the area to which the bye-laws relate—
 - (i) indicating that it is proposed to make bye-laws,
 - (ii) indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a copy of the draft bye-laws may be inspected,
 - (iii) stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to the draft bye-laws before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection) and stating that persons making such objections or representations may make a request in writing to state their case at an oral hearing conducted by a person appointed by the road authority for that purpose,
 - (iv) stating that a copy of the draft bye-laws may be purchased on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making such copy;
 - (b) consider any objections or representations made to it under *paragraph (a)* and not withdrawn;
 - (c) if it considers it appropriate, afford an opportunity to persons making objections or representations and who so request in writing to state their case at an oral hearing conducted by a person appointed by the road authority and consider the report and any recommendation of the person so appointed.
- (4) The making of bye-laws under *subsection (1)* and the consideration of objections or representations under *subsection (3)* shall be reserved functions.
- (5) The bye-laws shall, as soon as may be after they have been made, be published in *Iris Oifigiúil* and notice of their making and of the place where copies of them may be purchased or inspected shall be published in one or more newspapers circulating in the area to which the bye-laws relate.
- (6) Any person who contravenes a bye-law under this section which is deemed to be a penal bye-law shall be guilty of an offence.
- (7) An authorised person may—
- (a) remove or reposition a skip which contravenes bye-laws made under *subsection (1)*,

(b) notwithstanding the provisions of such bye-laws or of a licence issued under them, remove or reposition a skip which he considers presents an immediate and serious hazard to persons using a public road.

(8) An authorised person may store, or procure the storage of, a skip removed by him under subsection (7).

(9) Where the name and address of the owner of a skip removed and stored under this section can be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, the road authority concerned or the Commissioner shall serve a notice upon the owner informing him of the removal and storage and of the address of the place where the skip may be claimed and recovered, requiring him to claim and recover it within one month of the date of the service of the notice and informing him of the statutory consequences of his failure to do so.

(10) A skip removed and stored under this section shall be given to a person claiming the skip if, but only if, he makes a declaration in writing that he is the owner of the skip or is authorised by its owner to claim it and, at the discretion of the road authority concerned or the Commissioner, pays the amount of the expenditure reasonably incurred in removing and storing the skip.

(11) The road authority concerned or the Commissioner may dispose, or procure the disposal, of a skip removed and stored under this section if—

(a) the owner of the skip fails to claim it and remove it from the place where it is stored within one month of the date on which a notice under subsection (9) was served on him, or

(b) the name and address of the owner of the skip cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry.

(12) A skip shall not be disposed of under this section within six weeks of the date of its removal under this section.

(13) In this section—

“authorised person” means—

(a) a person authorised in writing by a road authority for the purposes of this section;

(b) a member of the Garda Síochána;

“skip” means a container used for the storage or removal of builder's materials, rubble, waste, rubbish or other materials and which is designed to be transported by means of a mechanically propelled vehicle (as defined in the Act of 1961).

Extinguishment of public rights of way.

73.—(1) Where a local authority proposes to extinguish a public right of way it shall—

(a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the public right of way proposed to be extinguished is located a notice indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a map showing such public right of way may be inspected and stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the local authority in relation to such proposal before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection) and stating that persons making such objections or representations may make a request in writing to state their case at an oral hearing conducted by a person appointed by the local authority for that purpose,

- (b) affix a copy of such notice in a prominent position at each end of the public right of way proposed to be extinguished and leave it in place for a period or periods which shall in aggregate be not less than fourteen days,
- (c) consider any objections or representations made to it under *paragraph (a)* and not withdrawn,
- (d) if it considers it appropriate, afford an opportunity to persons making objections or representations and who so request in writing to state their case at an oral hearing conducted by a person appointed by the local authority and consider the report and any recommendation of the person so appointed.
- (2) (a) A local authority may make an order extinguishing the right of way specified in the notice published under *subsection (1) (a)*, or part thereof.
- (b) A local authority shall not make an order under *paragraph (a)* until it has complied with *subsection (1)*.
- (3) (a) An order under *subsection (2)* relating to a national road or a regional road shall have no effect unless and until the Minister approves the order.
- (b) The Minister may, by order, approve the order with or without modifications (or conditions) or he may refuse to approve the order.
- (c) The Minister shall consult with the Authority before making an order under this subsection relating to a national road.
- (4) (a) An order made under *subsection (2)* may—
- (i) specify a date on which the extinguishment shall come into effect,
- (ii) specify conditions (including conditions relating to the recovery of the costs referred to in *subsection (12)*) which shall be complied with before the extinguishment comes into effect.
- (b) Where an order extinguishing a public right of way made by a local authority or an order approved by the Minister with or without modifications or conditions does not specify when the extinguishment shall come into effect, the extinguishment shall come into effect—
- (i) in the case of a local road, from the date on which the order is made by the local authority,
- (ii) in the case of a national road or a regional road, from the date on which the order approving the extinguishment, with or without modifications or conditions, is made by the Minister.
- (5) Notwithstanding any other enactment, where a public right of way over a public road or a part thereof is extinguished under this section, the road authority shall no longer be responsible for the maintenance of such road or part thereof with effect from the date on which the extinguishment of the public right of way comes into effect in accordance with *subsection (4)*.
- (6) A local authority shall, without prejudice to any existing private right of way, ensure the carrying out of any works necessary—
- (a) to effect the extinguishment of a public right of way under this section,

(b) for the safety of road users arising from the extinguishment of a public right of way,

(c) to ensure as far as reasonably practicable that the land over which a public right of way has been extinguished does not become an eyesore.

(7) A local authority shall, as soon as may be after the date on which a public right of way has been extinguished, publish notice of the extinguishment in the newspaper or newspapers in which notice of the proposed extinguishment was published under *subsection (1) (a)* and shall notify in writing any person who made written objections or representations to it in relation to such extinguishment.

(8) The consideration of objections or representations and the report and any recommendation of a person appointed under *subsection (1)* and the making of an order under *subsection (2)* shall be reserved functions.

(9) A person who, without lawful authority, removes, or damages or defaces a notice erected in accordance with *subsection (1) (b)* shall be guilty of an offence.

(10) A person who obstructs, impedes or otherwise interferes with a public right of way or who destroys or damages a public right of way save as is provided for in law shall be guilty of an offence.

(11) It shall be a function of a local authority to protect the right of the public to use public rights of way in its administrative area.

(12) Where a local authority extinguishes a public right of way solely or partly to facilitate the development of land, the authority—

(a) shall be entitled to recover from the person developing, or proposing to develop, the land all or a reasonable portion of the costs incurred by it in extinguishing such right of way,

(b) may, by notice in writing, require the person developing, or proposing to develop, the land to carry out such works as it considers necessary to give effect to *subsection (6)*,

(c) may, where a person fails to comply with a notice under *paragraph (b)*, carry out the works specified in the notice or such other works as it considers necessary to give effect to *subsection (6)* and shall be entitled to recover any reasonable costs incurred by it in carrying out such works from the person on whom the notice was served as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(13) In this section a “local authority” means—

(a) where the public right of way to be extinguished is over a public road, a road authority,

(b) in any other case, a planning authority.

(14) This section shall not apply where the extinguishment of a public right of way is authorised by a scheme under *Part IV* or under any enactment for which the Minister for the Environment is not the appropriate Minister or under any enactment relating to the compulsory acquisition of land.

(15) Where, before the repeal under *section 4* of the enactments referred to hereunder, an application has been made to the Minister—

(a) under section 84 (4) (a) (i) of the Act of 1946, for his consent to the extinguishment of a public right of way over a road, or

(b) under section 76 of the Act of 1963, as amended by section 43 of the Act of 1976, for his approval to an order extinguishing a public right of way,

and such application has not been determined by the Minister or withdrawn, the enactment which applied before such repeal shall continue to so apply.

Road races.

74.—(1) In this section “road race” means a prescribed class of race, time trial or speed trial on a public road involving persons, vehicles or animals.

(2) A person who intends to hold, organise or promote a road race shall give at least one month's notice (or such other period of notice as may be prescribed by the Minister) in writing to the road authority and to the Superintendent of the Garda Síochána within whose district the road race is to be held.

(3) (a) A road authority may by notice in writing served on a person who intends to hold, organise or promote a road race or, where the name of that person cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, by notice published in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the road race is to be held—

(i) prohibit the holding of the road race,

(ii) prohibit the holding of the road race unless specified conditions, restrictions or requirements are complied with,

(iii) impose specified conditions, restrictions or requirements in relation to the holding of the road race which must be complied with.

(b) The conditions under *paragraph (a)* may include the giving of security or the provision of an indemnity.

(4) Any person who contravenes *subsection (2)* or a notice under *subsection (3)* shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) A road authority may recover from a person who holds, organises or promotes a road race, as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction, any costs reasonably incurred by it—

(a) to facilitate the holding of the road race,

(b) to repair damage to or remove defacement from the public road arising from the holding of the road race.

(6) The Minister may make regulations for the purposes of this section and such regulations may in particular make provision for—

(a) requirements in relation to the making and consideration of objections,

(b) requirements in relation to the giving of security or the provision of an indemnity.

Temporary closing of roads.

75.—(1) A road authority may by order—

(a) for the purpose of facilitating a road race, within the meaning of *section 74*, or any other event,

(b) for the purpose of facilitating the carrying out of works, or

(c) for any other purpose,

close a public road to traffic for such specified period and subject to such specified conditions (including the giving of security or the provision of an indemnity) as it thinks fit.

(2) (a) A person who uses a public road in contravention of an order made under *subsection (1)* shall, unless he is authorised in writing by the road authority to do so, be guilty of an offence.

(b) A person who obstructs or interferes with the holding of a road race or any other event or with the carrying out of works or any activity in respect of which an order under *subsection (1)* is in force shall be guilty of an offence.

(c) A person who holds, organises or promotes a road race or other event or who carries out works or any other activity in respect of which an order under *subsection (1)* is in force and who contravenes any condition specified in that order shall be guilty of an offence.

(d) A person who without lawful authority closes a public road shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) A road authority may recover from a person who holds, organises or promotes a road race or other event or who carries out works or any other activity in respect of which an order under *subsection (1)* is in force, as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction, any costs reasonably incurred by it—

(a) to facilitate the holding of the road race or other event or the carrying out of works or any other activity,

(b) to repair damage to or remove defacement from the public road arising from the holding of the road race or other event or the carrying out of works or any other activity.

(4) The Minister may make regulations for the purposes of this section and such regulations may in particular make provision for all or any of the following matters—

(a) requirements as to notice,

(b) requirements in relation to the making and consideration of objections,

(c) requirements in relation to the giving of security or the provision of an indemnity.

Drainage, etc.

76.—(1) A road authority may—

(a) construct and maintain drains in, on, under, through or to any land for the purpose of draining water from, or preventing water flowing onto, a public road,

(b) use any land for the temporary storage or the preparation of any gravel, stone, sand, earth or other material required for the construction or maintenance of a public road.

(2) Before entering on any land to perform a function under *subsection (1)*, a road authority shall—

(a) at least one month before the date upon which it proposes to enter on the land, serve a notice on the owner or occupier of the land—

(i) stating that it proposes to enter on the land,

(ii) specifying the function that it proposes to perform thereon,

- (iii) stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to the proposed performance of the function before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks from the date of service of the notice), and
- (iv) informing him of his right to apply for compensation under *subsection (4)*,
- (b) consider any objections or representations made to it under *paragraph (a)* and not withdrawn.
- (3) (a) Where as a result of flooding, landslide, subsidence or other emergency there is an immediate and serious hazard to persons using a public road or serious damage has been, is being or will be caused to a public road, a road authority may take immediate action to remove or reduce the hazard or prevent or reduce the damage or any further damage.
- (b) In the exercise of its functions under *paragraph (a)*, a road authority may enter on any land and carry out any works or do anything which it considers necessary for the purposes of *paragraph (a)*.
- (4) (a) The owner or occupier of any land who suffers damage in consequence of the exercise by a road authority of its functions under *subsection (2)* or *(3)* shall be entitled to recover from the road authority compensation in respect of that damage:
- Provided that in assessing compensation regard shall not be had to any existing damage caused by water draining into, onto, under, through or to the land from an existing public road but only to any additional damage resulting from the exercise by the road authority of its functions under *subsection (1)* or *(3)*.
- (b) A claim for compensation under *paragraph (a)* shall be made not later than six months after the date on which the activity, in respect of which the claim is made, was completed and shall, in default of agreement, be determined by arbitration under the Lands Clauses Acts but subject to the proviso that the arbitrator shall have jurisdiction to make a nil award.
- (5) The owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that—
- (a) water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road,
- (b) water, soil or other material is prevented from flowing or falling onto a public road from his land.
- (6) A road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road requiring him to carry out specified works or take specified measures—
- (a) to ensure that water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road,
- (b) to prevent water, soil or other material from flowing or falling onto a public road from his land.
- (7) (a) A person on whom a notice under *subsection (6)* has been served may, within fourteen days from the date of service, appeal against the notice to the District Court on any one or more of the following grounds—

- (i) that he is not the owner or occupier of the land,
 - (ii) that water was not and is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road,
 - (iii) that water, soil or other material was not and is not flowing or falling onto a public road from his land,
 - (iv) that compliance with the requirements of the notice would involve unreasonable expense,
 - (v) that the notice specified an unreasonably short time for complying with its requirements or any of them.
- (b) Notice of the appeal shall be given to the road authority and that authority shall be entitled to appear, be heard and adduce evidence on the hearing of the appeal.
- (8) (a) On the hearing of the appeal the Court may, as it thinks proper, either—
- (i) confirm the notice unconditionally, or
 - (ii) confirm the notice subject to such modifications, alterations or additions as the Court thinks reasonable, or
 - (iii) annul the notice.
- (b) Where the Court confirms the notice, subject to modifications, alterations or additions, the notice shall have effect subject to such modifications, alterations or additions.
- (9) (a) The jurisdiction conferred on the District Court by this section shall be exercised by the Judge of that Court having jurisdiction in the district in which the public road referred to in *subsection (6)* is situated.
- (b) No appeal shall lie to the Circuit Court from a decision of the District Court under this section.
- (10) A notice under *subsection (6)* shall not have effect until—
- (a) the expiration of fourteen days from the date of service of the notice, or
 - (b) if an appeal is taken and the notice is confirmed, with or without modifications, the date upon which the decision of the Court is pronounced or the date upon which the order of the Court is expressed to take effect, whichever is the later.
- (11) An owner or occupier who fails to comply with a notice under this section shall be guilty of an offence.
- (12) Where an owner or occupier fails to comply with a notice under this section, the road authority may take the action specified in the notice or such other action as it thinks fit.
- (13) Where a road authority considers that—
- (a) water prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to any land from a public road, or
 - (b) water, soil or other material flowing or falling onto a public road from any land,

presents an immediate and serious hazard to persons using a public road or has caused, is causing or will cause serious damage to a public road it may, notwithstanding the provisions of *subsections (6) to (12)*, take immediate action to remove or reduce the hazard or prevent or reduce the damage or any further damage.

(14) Where a road authority takes action under *subsection (12) or (13)* it may recover any reasonable costs incurred by it from the owner or occupier as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(15) (a) A person who, without the consent of a road authority—

(i) within 15 metres of a public road (measured from its nearest edge) scours, deepens, widens or fills in any existing drain or excavates any new drain,

(ii) interferes with, or carries out any works which interfere with, a bridge, culvert, retaining wall, embankment or other structure providing lateral or other support for a public road,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(b) A consent under *paragraph (a)* may be given by the road authority subject to such conditions, restrictions or requirements as it thinks fit and any person who fails to comply with such conditions, restrictions or requirements shall be guilty of an offence.

(c) (i) Where a road authority considers that the carrying out, with or without its consent, of an activity referred to in *paragraph (a)* has damaged, is damaging or will damage a public road, it may serve a notice in writing on the person carrying out such activity or on the owner or occupier of the land on which such activity is being carried out requiring that the activity cease forthwith and a person who fails to comply with a notice served on him shall be guilty of an offence.

(ii) A road authority may repair any damage and take measures to prevent or reduce any damage relating to an activity under *paragraph (a)* and may, where it has not given its consent under that paragraph, recover from the person carrying out the activity or the owner or occupier of the land, as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction, any costs reasonably incurred by it.

(16) Where a road authority—

(a) proposes to enter on any land under *subsection (12)*,

(b) has entered or proposes to enter on any land under *subsection (3), (13) or (15)*,

it shall as soon as may be serve on the owner or occupier of the land, a notice stating that it proposes to enter or has entered on the land and specifying the action that it proposes to take or has taken thereon.

(17) In this section, “drain” includes—

(a) a ditch, channel, gutter, pipe, tunnel, culvert, soakpit, percolation area or percolation trench,

(b) a barrier to divert water into a drain.

F125[Use of cameras and other devices on roads to obtain data

77A.— ...]

Powers of inspection.

78.—(1) In this section “authorised person” means a person authorised for the purposes of this section by the Minister, the Authority or a road authority.

(2) Any authorised person shall be entitled to enter at all reasonable times (subject to his producing, if so required, his authority in writing as such person) and inspect any land or any thing on, in or under any land for the purposes of any enactment (including this Act) relating to the construction or maintenance of public roads or for any purpose incidental thereto.

(3) An authorised person shall be entitled in the performance of his functions under this section to take with him on to land such persons and equipment as he considers necessary to assist him and to carry out such surveys, investigations, excavations, borings or tests, to take samples or to do any other thing which he considers necessary for the purposes referred to in *subsection (2)*.

(4) Where an authorised person is refused entry to land in the exercise of his functions under this section the Minister, the Authority or the road authority, as the case may be, may apply to the District Court for a warrant authorising such entry.

(5) (a) If, on a claim made to the Minister, the Authority or the road authority, as the case may be, it is shown that, as a result of the exercise of any function under this section, any person has suffered damage, that person shall be entitled to be paid by the Minister, the Authority or the road authority, as the case may be, compensation in respect of the damage and the amount of the damage may, in default of agreement, be determined by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) A claim under this section shall be made within (but not after)—

(i) six months after the damage is suffered, or

(ii) such longer period as the court may allow if it appears to the court that there are reasonable grounds for requiring a longer period and that it would be just and reasonable to extend the period.

Service of notices.

79.—(1) Whenever the Minister is satisfied in relation to a notice required to be served under this Act that—

(a) reasonable grounds exist for dispensing with the service of the notice, and

(b) the dispensing with the service of the notice will not cause injury or damage to any person,

he may dispense with the service of the notice and every such dispensation shall have effect according to the terms thereof.

(2) Where a notice is required or authorised by or under this Act to be served on a person, it shall be addressed to him and shall be served on or given to him in some one of the following ways:

(a) where it is addressed to him by name, by delivering it to him,

(b) by leaving it at the address at which he ordinarily resides or, in a case in which an address for service has been furnished, at that address,

(c) by sending it by post in a prepaid registered letter, or by any other form of recorded delivery service prescribed by the Minister, addressed to him at the address at which he ordinarily resides or, in a case in which an address for service has been furnished, at that address,

(d) where the address at which he ordinarily resides cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry and the notice is so required or authorised to be served in respect of any land, premises or structure, by delivering it to some person over sixteen years of age resident or employed on such land or premises or by affixing it in a conspicuous position on or near such land, premises or structure.

(3) Where a notice is required by or under this Act to be served on an owner or occupier of any land, premises or structure and the name of the owner or of the occupier, as the case may be, cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, it may be addressed to “the owner” or “the occupier”, as the case may require, without naming him.

(4) A person who, at any time during the period of three months after a notice is affixed under *subsection (2) (d)*, removes, damages or defaces the notice without lawful authority shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a company within the meaning of the F126[*Companies Acts*], shall be deemed to be ordinarily resident at its registered office, and every other body corporate and every unincorporated body shall be deemed to be ordinarily resident at its principal office or place of business.

Offence of obstruction.

80.—A person who obstructs or impedes or assists a person to obstruct or impede the Authority or a road authority or an authorised person within the meaning of *section 69, 71, 72* or *78* in the performance of any of their functions under any enactment (including this Act) relating to the construction or maintenance of public roads shall be guilty of an offence.

Prosecution and penalties.

81.—F127[(1) (a) A person guilty of an offence under *section 46(6)* is liable—

(i) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €5,000, or

(ii) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €250,000.

(b) A person guilty of an offence under this Act (other than *section 64* or the provisions mentioned in *paragraphs (a)* and *(c)*) is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €5,000.

(c) A person guilty of an offence under *section 43(5), 44(5), 45(3)*, F128[*61(10), 64A(4), 68(2)* or *79(4)*] is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €2,000.]

(2) Where an offence under this Act which is committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any person (or any person acting on his behalf) being a director, manager, or secretary of such body, that person or the person so acting, as the case may be, shall also be guilty of that offence.

(3) (a) Save as is provided for in *paragraphs (b), (c)* and *(d)* of this subsection, a summary offence under any provision of this Act may be prosecuted by F129[the road authority concerned].

(b) An offence under *section 64* may be prosecuted by F129[the road authority concerned] as defined for the purposes of *Part V*.

(c) An offence under *section 73* may be prosecuted by F129[the local authority concerned] as defined for the purposes of that section.

(d) An offence under *section 80* may be prosecuted by the Minister, the Authority or F129[the road authority concerned].

(4) Notwithstanding section 10 (4) of the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act, 1851, summary proceedings for an offence to which any provision of this Act relates may be instituted within twelve months from the date of the offence.

F130[(5) Any costs of a road authority, a local authority or the Minister under this Act incurred in or in connection with the prosecution of a person for an offence under this Act for which the person is convicted may be recovered by the road authority, local authority (within the meaning of *section 73*) or the Minister, as the case may be, as a debt due and payable to the road authority, local authority or the Minister, as the case may be, by the convicted person.]

Grants to road authorities.

F131[82.— The Minister may, subject to such conditions as he sees fit, in each financial year—

(a) make grants, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas to road authorities in respect of any or all of their functions under this Act or otherwise in relation to public roads,

(b) request the Authority to, and if requested the Authority shall—

(i) make grants to road authorities in respect of any or all of their functions under this Act or otherwise in relation to regional and local roads, or

(ii) make payments to any person in relation to regional and local roads,

and

(c) make payments, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas, to any person in relation to public roads.]

F132[Administra-
tion of grants to
road authorities

82A.— The Minister may request the Authority to, and if requested the Authority shall, administer the payment of grants to road authorities under *paragraph (b) (i) of section 82* on his or her behalf and to do all such things as arise out of, are consequential on or are necessary in the administration of such payments.]

Application of moneys.

83.—Moneys accruing to a road authority under this Act shall be applied in accordance with regulations made by the Minister.

Disposal of proceeds of sale.

84.—Where a road authority or the Commissioner become entitled to dispose or procure the disposal of anything removed from a public road under this Act, then the authority or the Commissioner shall be entitled to sell the thing for the best price reasonably obtainable and upon doing so shall pay to the person who was the owner (where the name and address of such owner can be ascertained by reasonable inquiry) of the thing at the time of its removal a sum equal to the proceeds of such sale after deducting therefrom any expenditure reasonably incurred by the authority or the Commissioner in its removal, storage and sale.

Expenses of Minister.

85.—The expenses incurred by the Minister in the administration of this Act shall, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Finance, be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

Section 4.

FIRST SCHEDULE

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

Session and Chapter or Number and Year	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
14 & 15 Vict. Chapter 92	Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act, 1851.	Section 9, Section 10(2) to 10(6), 10(8).
17 & 18 Vict. Chapter 103	Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854.	Section 51.
31 & 32 Vict. c. xxxiii	Cork Improvement Act, 1868.	Section 131.
41 & 42 Vict. Chapter 52	Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878.	Section 80.
53 & 54 Vict. c. cxlvi	Dublin Corporation Act, 1890.	Section 45.
59 & 60 Vict. c. cxxv	Waterford Corporation Act, 1896.	Section 71.
No. 5 of 1925	Local Government Act, 1925.	In section 1 the words "the expression 'main road' means any road which the Minister, by his order, declares to be a main road;" Part III.
No. 24 of 1946	Local Government Act, 1946.	Section 45 (4), Section 58, Section 84 (4) (a) (i), (b), Section 97.
No. 12 of 1953	Local Government Act, 1953.	The whole Act.
No. 9 of 1955	Local Government Act, 1955.	Sections 34 and 35.
No. 28 of 1963	Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963.	Section 76.
No. 21 of 1966	Housing Act, 1966.	Section 83 (1).
No. 6 of 1974	Local Government (Roads and Motorways) Act, 1974.	The whole Act.
No. 20 of 1976	Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1976.	Section 43 (1) (i), (j).
No. 34 of 1979	Local Government (Toll Roads) Act, 1979.	The whole Act.
No. 34 of 1987	Dublin Transport Authority (Dissolution) Act, 1987.	Section 11.

Section 6.

SECOND SCHEDULE

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Session and Chapter or Number and Year	Short Title	Nature of Amendment
No. 13 of 1946	Forestry Act, 1946.	In section 37 (4) (e) for the words “section 34 of the Local Government Act, 1925 (No. 5 of 1925)” there shall be substituted “section 70 of the Roads Act, 1993”.
No. 24 of 1946	Local Government Act, 1946.	<p>In section 2, after the definition of “the Act of 1941” there shall be inserted “the expression ‘the Authority’ has the meaning assigned to it by the Roads Act, 1993”.</p> <p>In section 45 (1) for the words “by resolution under this section passed by each of such authorities, establish a joint committee of their members” there shall be substituted “establish a joint committee under section 38 of the Local Government Act, 1991”.</p> <p>For section 45 (2) there shall be substituted:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“(2) A resolution under the said section 38 for the establishment of a joint committee for the purposes of this section shall state the general character and purpose of the work.”.</p> <p>In section 45 (3) for the words “by a resolution under this section” there shall be substituted “for the purposes of this section”.</p>

No. 9 of 1955	Local Government Act, 1955.	<p>In section 84 (1), (2) and (3), in each place where the words “road authority” occur there shall be substituted “road authority or the Authority”.</p> <p>In section 84 (1) (a) for the words “section 24 of the Local Government Act, 1925 (No. 5 of 1925)” there shall be substituted “the Roads Act, 1993”.</p> <p>In section 84 (2) (b) for the words “section 24 of the Local Government Act, 1925” there shall be substituted “the Roads Act, 1993”.</p>
No. 40 of 1960	Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960.	<p>In section 33 (2) for the words “to a road as defined in section 1 of the Act of 1925” there shall be substituted “to a public road as defined in section 2 of the Roads Act, 1993”.</p> <p>In section 10, inserted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966, to delete subsection (4) (e) and substitute: “(e) Where—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an order made by virtue of this section authorises the extinguishment of a public right of way, and (ii) there is an objection to the extinguishment and the objection is not withdrawn, <p>the Minister shall afford an opportunity to the person making the objection to state his case at a public local inquiry save where he thinks fit not to confirm the order.”.</p>

No. 28 of 1963	Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963.	In section 89 (10) for the words “main roads” there shall be substituted “national roads or regional roads” and for the words “main road” there shall be substituted “national road or regional road”.
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Section 42.

THIRD SCHEDULE

THE NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY

1.—(1) The Authority shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and power to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to acquire, hold and dispose of land or an interest in or right in relation to land.

(2) The power to acquire land in *paragraph (1)* shall not extend to the acquisition of land for a national road, save as is provided for in *sections 19 (7)* and *20 (5)*.

(3) Before acquiring or disposing of land or an interest therein under *paragraph (1)*, the Authority shall obtain an independent valuation of the land or interest therein.

2.—(1) As soon as may be after its establishment, the Authority shall provide itself with and retain in its possession a seal of the Authority.

(2) The seal of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or a member of the Authority authorised by the Authority to act in that behalf or by the signature of a person employed by the Authority authorised by the Authority to act in that behalf.

(3) Judicial notice shall be taken of the seal of the Authority and every document purporting to be an instrument made by the Authority and to be sealed with the seal (purporting to be authenticated in accordance with this Schedule) of the Authority shall be received in evidence and shall be deemed to be such instrument without proof unless the contrary is shown.

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Authority shall regulate, by standing orders or otherwise, its procedure or business.

(2) Notwithstanding *paragraph (1)*, the quorum for a meeting of the Authority shall be three sevenths of the membership of the Authority calculated to the nearest whole number.

4.—(1) The Authority shall, not later than the 30th day of June in each year submit to the Minister a report on the performance of its functions under this Act during the preceding year, and the Minister shall cause copies of the report to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.

(2) The report made to the Minister under *paragraph (1)* shall contain such information as the Minister may direct regarding the functions of the Authority under this Act.

(3) The Authority shall supply the Minister with such information regarding the performance of its functions as he may from time to time require.

5.—(1) The Authority shall, in relation to each financial year, or such other period as the Minister may specify, prepare and send to the Minister (not later than a date specified by the Minister) an estimate of its total expenditure and receipts, and every such estimate shall be in such form and accompanied by such additional information relating to that estimate as the Minister may require.

(2) The Authority shall keep, in such form as may be approved of by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance, all proper and usual accounts of all moneys received or expended by it and, in particular, shall keep in such form as aforesaid all such special accounts as the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance may from time to time direct.

(3) Accounts kept under *paragraph (2)* shall, on or before such date as the Minister shall direct, be submitted annually by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit and immediately after such audit a copy of the accounts and a copy of the auditor's report on the accounts shall be presented to the Minister who shall cause copies of such accounts and report to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.

6.—The Authority may perform any of its functions through or by any of the persons employed by it or any of the persons whose services are provided to it under *section 32* duly authorised by the Authority in that behalf.

7.—(1) The Authority may from time to time appoint such and so many committees as it thinks proper.

(2) The Authority may, with the consent of the Minister, delegate to a committee appointed under *paragraph (1)* any of its functions which, in its opinion, can be better or more conveniently performed by a committee.

(3) A committee appointed under *paragraph (1)* shall consist of such number of members as the Authority thinks proper and may, at the discretion of the Authority, consist partly of persons who are members of the Authority and partly of persons who are persons employed by the Authority or whose services are provided to it under *section 32* or who are engaged as consultants or advisers by the Authority.

(4) A member of a committee appointed under *paragraph (1)* may be removed from such membership at any time by the Authority.

(5) The Authority may at any time dissolve a committee appointed under *paragraph (1)*.

(6) (a) The Authority may regulate the procedure of committees appointed under *paragraph (1)* but, subject to any such regulation, committees established under this article may regulate their own procedure.

(b) Notwithstanding *subparagraph (a)*, the quorum for a meeting of a committee appointed under *paragraph (1)* shall be three sevenths of the membership calculated to the nearest whole number.

8.—(1) The Authority may from time to time appoint one or more than one consultative group to advise the Authority in relation to any of its functions.

(2) A consultative group appointed under *paragraph (1)* shall consist of such number of persons as the Authority thinks proper and may, at the discretion of the Authority, include persons who are members of the Authority, persons who are employed by the Authority, persons whose

services are provided to the Authority under *section 32*, persons who are engaged as consultants or advisers by the Authority and other persons.

(3) A member of a consultative group appointed under *paragraph (1)* may be removed from such membership at any time by the Authority.

(4) The Authority may at any time dissolve a consultative group appointed under *paragraph (1)*.

9.—The Authority may from time to time engage such consultants, advisers or other persons as it considers necessary for the discharge of its functions.

10.—The Authority may accept gifts of money, land or other property upon such trusts and conditions (if any) as may be specified by the donor, but shall not accept a gift if any such trust or condition is inconsistent with the functions of the Authority.

11.—The Authority may charge fees of such amounts as may from time to time be determined by it for or in connection with services rendered by it.

12.—(1) Where the Authority proposes to enter into a contract for construction or maintenance works on a national road rather than to arrange for the performance of that function by the relevant road authority, it shall, where the cost of the proposed contract exceeds an amount prescribed from time to time by the Minister, seek tenders before entering into such contract.

(2) (a) The Authority shall, as soon as may be after the commencement of this article, prepare draft rules specifying the procedure to be followed in regard to the seeking, reception and examination of all tenders which the Authority is required to seek by virtue of *paragraph (1)*.

(b) The draft rules made under *subparagraph (a)* shall be submitted to the Minister who may approve them, approve them with modifications or refuse to approve them.

(c) Rules approved by the Minister under *subparagraph (b)* shall come into effect on notification to the Authority of their approval.

(d) The Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, amend rules made under this paragraph.

(e) The Minister shall not give his approval under this paragraph save with the consent of the Minister for Finance.

(3) The Authority shall seek, receive and examine all tenders to which rules made under *paragraph (2)* relate in accordance with the procedure specified by such rules.



Number 14 of 1993

ROADS ACT 1993

REVISED

Updated to 31 December 2025

About this Revised Act

This Revised Act presents the text of the Act as it has been amended since enactment, and preserves the format in which it was passed.

Related legislation

Roads Acts 1993 to 2023: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation to be construed together as one (*Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023* (16/2023), s. 1(4)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Roads Act 1993* (14/1993)
- *Roads (Amendment) Act 1998* (23/1998), other than s. 7
- *Planning and Development Act 2000* (30/2000), s. 215 and Part XX (ss. 271-277)
- *Local Government Act 2001* (37/2001), ss. 81 and 245
- *Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006* (27/2006), s. 51
- *Roads Act 2007* (34/2007), other than ss. 12 and 13
- *Roads Act 2015* (14/2015)
- *Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023* (16/2023), ss. 37-45

Annotations

This Revised Act is not annotated and only shows textual amendments. An annotated version of this revision is also available which shows textual and non-textual amendments and their sources. It also shows editorial notes including statutory instruments made pursuant to the Act and previous affecting provisions.

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Material not updated in this revision

Where other legislation is amended by this Act, those amendments may have been superseded by other amendments in other legislation, or the amended legislation may have been repealed or revoked. This information is not represented in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the amended legislation if one is available.

A list of legislative changes to any Act, and to statutory instruments from 1972, may be found linked from the page of the Act or statutory instrument at www.irishstatutebook.ie.