

Chief Executive's Office		
Date	9/1/15	
Seen by	CX	
Referred to		
ACX	Corp Comms	Dem Serv.
GR	SPP	Bus Supp.
Dev	F&R	H&ES
P&L	P&P	Other
Ref	SW 9/1	



Department for

**Regional
Development**

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Your Ref: SW/as
Our Ref: DRD/COR/1360/2014
Date: 8 January 2015

Suzanne

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2014, urging the Department to implement measures permitting the use of bus lanes by all vehicles at times of emergency. The Minister has read your letter and has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The primary purpose of bus lanes is to allow commuters, who are using public transport, to access Belfast city centre during congested conditions. They also permit access by emergency vehicles during congested conditions thereby assisting response times.

Under the current legislation the Department does not have the power to suspend bus lanes. The legislation does however permit vehicles to enter the bus lane upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform. It would therefore be possible for the PSNI to allow vehicles to use bus lanes if they felt the circumstances were appropriate. However, care would need to be taken to ensure the appropriate message was conveyed to the travelling public in a timely manner, whether on a city wide or localised basis, to avoid confusion which could potentially lead to safety issues.

I hope this reply clarifies the Department's position on this matter.

R Galwey

RUTH GALWEY

Private Secretary to Danny Kennedy MLA