

1. **Proposed claim for judicial review**

To:

The first named respondent

The Department of Infrastructure

Castle Buildings

Stormont

Belfast

Northern Ireland

BT4 3SQ

Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

2. **The applicant**

Unionist Voice Policy Studies ('UVPS')

PO Box 40, Donaghadee, BT21OXY

As UVPS is an unincorporated association this application brought via a natural person representative of the group namely Director of Policy:

Mr Jamie Bryson

████████████████████

████████

██████████

3. **██████████ details**

Ref: DFI/JR/2025

4. **The details of the matter being challenged**

(1) The first named respondent's decision of 24 March 2025 to impose Irish Language signage in Belfast Central Station without Executive approval

5. **The issue**

The respondent's decision is significant and controversial within the meaning of section 20 (4) of the NI Act 1998, read in conjunction with the Ministerial Code made pursuant to section 28A (5) of the 1998 Act.

It is beyond any rational dispute given the ongoing controversy around the imposition of the divisive Irish language, particularly in Belfast, that this decision is objectively significant and controversial.

However, as set out in paragraph [13] in *Re Bryson's application* [2022] NIQB 4 and paragraphs [76] and [82] in *Re Safe Electricity A&T Ltd and Woods Application* [2021] NIQB 93 a matter of significant weight in the assessment is whether other Executive Ministers subjectively are of the opinion the matter falls within the category of 'significant and controversial'. In this case, attention is drawn to the statement issued by the DUP in the name of Ms Deborah Erskine on 25 March 2025 which, inter alia, made clear that the DUP and their Ministers viewed the matter as controversial and significant.

It is clear therefore that both objectively, and subjectively considering the views of Ministers (as per Scofield J in *Re Bryson* and *Re SEAT and Woods*), the decision is significant and controversial. It is further cross cutting.

The effect of this is to trigger section 28A (10) of the 1998 Act which deprives the Minister of lawful authority to take the decision.

6. **The details of the action that the respondent/s is expected to take**

Provide written confirmation that the Minister will refer the decision to the Executive Committee and seek cross-community support before proceeding.

7. **The details of the legal advisers, if any, dealing with this claim**

Applicant acting as a LIP

8. **The details of any interested parties**

The Executive Committee

9. **The details of information sought**

N/a

10. **The details of any documents that are considered relevant and necessary**

N/a

11. **The address for reply and service of court documents**

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Service of documents can be received via email:

[REDACTED]

12. **Proposed reply date**

9 April 2025 by 5pm (time has been abridged due to the Minister's public pronouncements that there is an intention to proceed)

Yours faithfully

Jamie Bryson