

One-way system on Douglas Promenade
Temporary diversionary changes made in Douglas/Onchan
Walk, Cycle, Bus, Car
Frequently Asked Questions

Background:

With the introduction of the one-way system northbound for traffic on Douglas Promenade a number of measures have been put in place to aid traffic flow in the surrounding areas. Thousands of vehicles a day would normally travel from Onchan and the settlements along the A2 into Douglas along the Promenade. If drivers cannot make other arrangements these vehicles will be displaced onto Glencrutchery Road. At peak times of the day this will cause traffic congestion. These highway amendments are to facilitate southbound travel specifically through Onchan and along Glencrutchery Road to mitigate the additional traffic.

Ideally, some of those who might previously have driven into town from outer Douglas and Onchan will continue to walk or cycle instead. Public Health describe the effects of 30 minutes of exercise a day as a wonder drug that significantly increase the length and quality of your life.

The **temporary measures** are being monitored and will be adjusted, if appropriate. These will help with increased traffic movement following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. If the alterations to traffic flow weren't put into place, the high volume of traffic congestion in upper Douglas would be substantial.

The Department looked at various options including where traffic queues would build up, where motorists would use as a cut-through and where buses would encounter long tailbacks. The changes made were implemented as the best temporary solution with ongoing monitoring to ascertain how traffic flow was maintained.

It was important to make these additional changes in order to keep the traffic moving while the Promenade is one-way.

Bus Vannin has increased its bus services in a bid to encourage travellers to use public transport. To provide a direct bus from Central and Queens Promenades to Lower Douglas an additional Service 30 operates daily and the timetables can be viewed at <https://www.iombusandrail.im/latest-news/one-way-system-on-douglas-promenade/>

Investigations regarding morning and evening peak time reversals along Douglas Promenade were considered but it was felt it would be onerous to safely operate.

Below is a summary of questions and answers about the diversionary measures.

Area 1: Main Road Onchan Village

The two northbound lanes near the Coop have been reduced to one lane and the two Douglas bound lanes made wider and repositioned, improving southbound traffic flow. The timing of the lights has also been changed to favour traffic heading towards Douglas.

Q. Why has this section of road been reduced from four to three lanes?

The four lanes were very narrow and when large vehicles were waiting to turn or a vehicle was not positioned properly on the road, two lanes would be blocked and traffic flow stopped. Widening the two Douglas bound lanes stops this blockage happening and improves southbound flow. The morning peak traffic into Douglas tends to be very high between 8am and 9am. The afternoon traffic leaving Douglas tends to be spread over a longer period of time, so it makes sense to prioritise Douglas bound traffic by giving it two lanes.

Area 2: Governor's Dip

A number of changes have been implemented in this area to ensure that traffic flow is running safely and efficiently. All measures and feedback confirm that it is working well and allowing traffic to flow better towards Douglas.

It is worth noting that there isn't a weight restriction on Governor's Dip.

Q. Why is north bound traffic directed through Governor's Dip?

The need to improve southbound flow relies on two lanes of traffic between the two roundabouts hence the need for northbound traffic to use the dip.

Q. Why is the right turn into Victoria Road from Glencrutchery Road no longer allowed?

Due to the presence of the new straight on lane from Onchan and the straight through route from Victoria Road into Governor's Dip, this manoeuvre was considered unsafe.

Area 3: Bus Lane at St Ninian's:

To allow buses to make quicker progress through traffic queues and maintain their timetables, the two lanes on the road were narrowed and an additional 180 metres of bus lane added ahead of the original left hand turn lane. This is additional lane capacity that was not there before.

Q. Where can a bike stop if travelling straight down Bray Hill?

An advanced stop line will be established in front of the straight through traffic asap.

Q. Are there more buses into Douglas along this route?

Yes, we have worked with our colleagues at Bus Vannin as it has been agreed that with the return of schools and less home working it was important to increase bus travel

opportunities. Please visit <https://www.iombusandrail.im/latest-news/one-way-system-on-douglas-promenade/>

It is important that people can rely on the buses arriving when the timetables say they will, so this bus lane will support punctuality.

Q. Will emergency vehicles be able to use this lane?

Yes when responding to an emergency. We work closely with the emergency services to ensure the smooth operation of all the routes. The new lane on Glencrutchery Road will also aid speed of responding to an incident.

Q. Can I still park near the recycling bins?

Yes, if it is safe to do so, you are allowed to drive across the bus lane to access premises or to use the recycling bins as long as you do not proceed along the bus lane or block it.

Q. Does it take any longer to get through the traffic if travelling straight through at Bray Hill or turning left at St Andrew's Church?

Because of the large increase in traffic coming in from Onchan and the A2 settlements there will be delays at some times of the day. These delays are a result of the additional traffic not the creation of an additional bus lane ahead of the left turn lane.

Alterations have been made to the timings of the traffic lights to prioritise traffic from Onchan. Trip times are monitored and site inspections periodically undertaken and further alterations will be made should it be appropriate. At busy times it may be sensible to allow for a few extra minutes to be factored into your journey time.

Q. Can taxis use this lane?

No. The lane follows the principles set out by Government to support walking, cycling, public transport and the cars in that order. The lane is a shared bus and cycle lane in which overtaking is not allowed.

Q. Are these changes legal?

Yes, traffic orders are in place to confirm the legality of the changes to the road layout. The Highways Act 1986 permits the Department to amend the road layout.

Q. Could all vehicles use the left hand lane?

Yes, they could and it would increase traffic flow further into Douglas; however, it would result in severe queuing at Rosemount, grid locking Douglas in that area and encouraging people to *rat-run* through residential streets. The queues at Rosemount would also mean that buses would not be able to run on time. The large volume of traffic would cause queues and it is better for these queues to form on the Glencrutchery Road than further into town where they would cause greater problems.