



Subject:	Response to Motion – Policy re: Lock Boxes associated with short-term holiday lets
Date:	6th October, 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Report			
Is this report restricted?	Yes	☐	No ☒

Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	☒	No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention a response received to the above-mentioned motion.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response and to agree to close the motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 23rd June, adopted the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McKay and seconded by Councillor Carson. The motion is set out hereunder: “This Council agrees to introduce a policy prohibiting lockboxes from being installed on any property, wall, railing, fence, or street furniture other than the dwelling to which they relate. This measure is needed because the proliferation of lockboxes in areas in Belfast particularly the inner city with high concentrations of short-term holiday lets is causing visual clutter and environmental harm, while also diminishing the amenity of residential streets and shared spaces, the Council should also ensure that any breach is subject to enforcement action and removal. This approach is consistent with action already taken by other councils and city authorities to restrict or remove external lockboxes associated with short-term holiday lets.”
3.2	Accordingly, the Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded to the relevant government department seeking clarification on whether it intended to introduce and expedite measures to address the matter.
3.3	A response (Appendix 1) has been received on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure which indicates that responsibility for the management of lockboxes lies across several agencies; and, as such, would be problematic to address collectively. The correspondence indicates that the department has no plans at present to introduce legislation in this regard, whilst welcoming any “continued engagement” with the Council on concerns regarding lock boxes placed on infrastructure owned by the department.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> N/A.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> N/A
	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1