



Subject:	Correspondence received – Department of Justice – Tackling Anti-Social Scrambler and E-Scooter Use in Belfast Response
Date:	21st August, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Co-ordinator

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the Department of Justice expressing concern at the growing impact of antisocial scrambler and e-scooter use across the City.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 5th May 2026, Belfast City Council passed the following motion which had been proposed by Alderman McCullough and seconded by Councillor Ruth Brooks: <i>“Belfast City Council expresses serious concern at the growing impact of antisocial scrambler and e-scooter use across the city, which has caused significant distress to residents, poses a clear risk to public safety and, in some cases, has resulted in serious injury and loss of life.</i> <i>The Council recognises that, when used responsibly and in appropriate settings, such vehicles can have legitimate recreational value; however, their misuse in residential areas, parks and public spaces is causing serious and growing concern across Belfast.</i> <i>The Council notes ongoing enforcement challenges and the need for stronger, more effective interventions to tackle dangerous use and repeat offending.</i> <i>Accordingly, the Council agrees to:</i> • <i>write to the Minister of Justice calling for strengthened powers for the PSNI to seize and, where appropriate, retain or dispose of vehicles being used in a dangerous or antisocial manner;</i> • <i>call for the introduction of mandatory registration of scramblers and e-scooters at the point of sale;</i> • <i>support the provision of additional enforcement tools, including the use of drone technology and dedicated resources to assist in identifying and tackling offenders;</i> • <i>request a detailed briefing from the PSNI — open to all Members — on enforcement activity, hotspot areas, and barriers to effective action within Belfast; and</i>

	• <i>support the development of community-led intervention schemes, aligned with the justice system and delivered in partnership with local schools, youth centres, community organisations and statutory agencies, alongside the exploration of dedicated, safe and properly managed sites for scrambler use, recognising that similar targeted programmes have shown significant reductions of dangerous and antisocial use by engaging young people directly and providing safer, structured alternatives.”</i>
3.2	Subsequently, Democratic Services wrote to the Department of Justice on the issues which had been raised, and a response has been received for consideration at Appendix 1.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from the Department of Justice