

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Our Ref: COR-0468-2026

Craig Mealey
By email: mealeyc@belfastcity.gov.uk

28 July 2026

Dear Craig,

Re: Tackling Anti-Social Scrambler and E-Scooter Use in Belfast

Thank you for your email dated 26 May 2026 regarding the Belfast City Council motion expressing concern at the growing impact of antisocial scrambler and e-scooter use across the city. I share the concerns of local residents and recognise the significant distress that can be caused by the antisocial use of these vehicles.

You may be aware of an amendment to the Justice Bill, which was passed by the Assembly on 30 June. I am grateful to Nuala McAllister MLA, Paul Frew MLA and Patsy McGlone MLA for their work on it. When implemented, the amendment will strengthen police powers to seize vehicles and retain or dispose of these vehicles being used in a dangerous or antisocial manner, removing the necessity for the PSNI to provide a warning before removing the vehicle.

However, as you also correctly highlight in your correspondence, enforcement powers alone are not sufficient to address this issue, and a cross-departmental approach is vital

to ensure an adequate response from the whole Executive. As part of this approach, I fully support the development of community-led intervention schemes and recognise the impact that targeted programmes have had in reducing these behaviours. It is also vitally important that recreational initiatives are developed to ensure that there are adequate opportunities for these vehicles to be used safely within the community.

Therefore, I have written to the Chief Constable, the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Infrastructure to propose a meeting to a cross-departmental approach to tackling the issue of antisocial use of e-scooters and scramblers. As part of these discussions, any decision to introduce mandatory registration of scramblers and e-scooters would be a matter for the Department for Infrastructure. Similarly, the provision of additional enforcement tools to identify offenders would be an operational matter for the PSNI.

I am committed to working with all of my Executive Colleagues, and the Chief Constable, to ensure that a comprehensive response is developed to adequately respond to this issue.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.