



Department for  
**Regional  
Development**

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AN ROINN

Forbartha Réigiúnaí

MAINTSIRIF FÍR

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*Dear Chris,*

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2011 enquiring about departmental policy on motorcycle provision and if consideration has been given to the development of motorcycle parking facilities and motorcycle lanes in Belfast.

Firstly with regard to off-street parking provision for motorcycles, my Department's Roads Service has advised that motorcycles can be parked in its kiosk operated car parks at a reduced rate of 50 pence for up to 4 hours parking and £1 over 4 hours. They can also be parked free of charge in any Roads Service operated pay and display car parks, as long as they are parked wholly inside a marked bay.

In terms of on-street provision, Roads Service has not yet provided any dedicated motorcycle parking facilities; however, it has recently produced internal guidance which is intended to facilitate on-street parking provision for motorcycles. Initially, given the growing demand and competition for kerbside parking in towns and cities, the provision will be made on a two year trial basis. These trials will see the conversion of existing standard paid/ticketed parking bays into bays intended solely for motorcycles / scooters.

In order to encourage both the use of this type of parking facility and motorcycling as a form of travel, these bays will be provided free of charge. Roads Service is currently making arrangements to survey potential users to inform the decision making process, in terms of

the numbers and positioning of such bays. It is intended to start this stage of the exercise early in the next financial year.

With regard to motorcycle / scooter lanes, most of Belfast's arterial routes have bus lanes which, apart from the motorway bus lanes, are generally accessible to motorcycles and provide significant benefit in terms of increased safety and reduced travelling times. Given these circumstances, I currently have no plans to explore the concept of motorcycle lanes.

I trust that you will find this information helpful.

*Yr mise le meas,*

*Conor*

**CONOR MURPHY MP**  
**Minister for Regional Development**