



Ms Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator
Belfast City Council

Via email: mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk

4 October 2024

Dear Ms McGoldrick,

Regulation of Short-Term Holiday Lets

Thank you for your email of 19 September 2024 requesting that Belfast City Council be involved in the external review of the certification scheme for visitor accommodation operated by Tourism NI.

Council will have now received a response from Minister Murphy. To confirm, consultation with the Development Plan Working Group, with representation from the planning departments of all 11 Councils across NI, has been undertaken as part of the review. It is expected that the review will conclude by the end of 2024 with any policy recommendations considered by DfE officials and advice provided to the Minister. In the meantime, Tourism NI continues to exercise the powers set out in the Tourism (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

I also wanted to highlight that Tourism NI has a data sharing agreement in place with Council which assists both organisations to fulfil their statutory obligations, including enforcement. In order to deepen collaborative working, Tourism NI's Quality and Standards Team recently met with BCC Planning colleagues. This engagement enabled understanding to be enhanced of the Local Development Plan and the processes involved in securing planning permission for property use as a short-term let.

Tourism Northern Ireland,
Floors 10-12, Linum Chambers,
Bedford Square, Bedford Street,
Belfast BT2 7ES

T: +44 (0) 28 9023 1221

Corporate website:
tourismni.com

Consumer website:
discovernorthernireland.com

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Tourism Northern Ireland
(Tourism NI) is the trading name of
The Northern Ireland Tourist Board

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Chief Executive: John McGrillen

Tourism NI has the power to revoke a proprietor's certificate to provide visitor accommodation where the criteria and standards set out in the 1992 Order are not being met. Other aspects of regulatory compliance which are outside of the scope of Tourism NI's powers such as planning and building control permissions, fire safety certification, and food safety and hygiene, may be discussed by Tourism NI during the certification process and the proprietor advised of their responsibilities.

I recognise that this is an evolving area of policy in other destinations. The Department for the Economy will be in a position to advise further on their position in due course, following the completion of the review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McGrillen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John McGrillen
Chief Executive