



ELECTRIC SCOOTER (E-SCOOTERS)

This information sheet provides guidance on the current laws for e-scooters in the UK

WHAT ARE E-SCOOTERS?

- E-Scooters are classed a “Powered transporters”. This term covers a variety of personal transport devices which are powered by a Motor
- You can legally buy an e-scooter but cannot ride it on a public road, cycle lane or pavement.

ONLY PRIVATE LAND

DID YOU KNOW?

- E-Scooters are illegal for use in any public space unless rented as part of a government trial
- Riding an e-scooter on the road is against the law as per the Road Traffic Act of 1988 and the Highway Act of 1835
- E-scooters are prohibited from being used on cycle tracks, cycle lanes or other spaces dedicated to pedal cycle use.
- Privately owned e-scooter can only be ridden on private land

THEY ARE NOT TOYS!



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT POLICE TO DO IF THEY STOP ANYONE RIDING AN E-SCOOTER ON A PUBLIC ROAD?

- Section 59 of the Police Reform Act allows police to issue you with a warning if a vehicle is being used in a manner which may cause alarm, harassment, distress or annoyance
- The police may ask you to take your **e-scooter** home or they may seize it from you because they are classed as illegal vehicles on public roads
- You could be reported to court for driving without any insurance or having an appropriate licence to ride them or other traffic offences

CAN I BE PROSECUTED FOR USING A POWERED TRANSPORTER?

- Any person who use a powered transporter on a public road or other prohibited space is in breach of the law, committing a criminal offence and can be prosecuted
- If you use an **e-scooter** illegally, you could face a fine and penalty points on your licence and the e-scooter can be seized
- Those who use powered transporters dangerously or under the influence of drink or drugs can also be convicted of offences leading to imprisonment
- Offences relating to the standard of driving and speeding also apply

ARE E-SCOOTERS SAFE TO RIDE ON PUBLIC ROADS?

- **E-scooters** can be very dangerous and are not designed for use on public roads
- They have no suspension meaning even a minor defect in the road could cause the rider to fall off the scooter
- **E-scooter** consist of a thin piece of metal between two small tyres with the user being inches from the road surface. This can result in a significant risk of traumatic injury on the road
- **E-scooters** are not designed to carry more than one person
- **E-scooters** are small, quiet and quick, meaning they present safety challenges when being ridden on busy public roads
- **E-scooters** can be dangerous when used in parks or on public footpaths as they can cause significant risk of injury to pedestrians

E-SCOOTER TRIALS

The government began trials of **e-scooters** in the UK from July 2020. Trials are for approved rental e-scooters only. Maximum speeds are set at **15.5mph** and those taking part in the trials will have to have a driving licence and insurance to be able to legally ride rental **e-scooters**.

