

# Parents' guide to electric scooters (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 as 'Powered transporters'. This is a term used to cover a variety of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

In addition to e-scooters these include: Segways, hoverboards, Go-peds (combustion engine-powered kick-scooters), powered unicycles and U-wheels.

E-scooters have been fitted with rechargeable batteries to make them electrified with speeds ranging from 9mph to 15mph; despite looking much like a standard two-wheeled scooter.

## Did you know?

- E-scooters are **illegal** for use in any public space unless rented as part of a government-approved trial (see overleaf)
- 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 on roads, or other spaces dedicated to pedal cycle use only
- Privately owned e-scooters can only be ridden on private land



## What can you expect police to do if they stop anyone riding an e-scooter on a public road?

- The police may seize the e-scooter from you because they are classed as illegal vehicles on public roads
- You will be reported to the courts for driving without any insurance or having the appropriate licence to ride them

## Can I be prosecuted for using a powered transporter?

- Any person who uses 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 could be impounded
- Those who use powered transporters dangerously or under the influence of drink or drugs can also be convicted of offences leading to **imprisonment**
- Offences related 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 be knocked off the e-scooter
- E-scooters 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 injury to pedestrians

## The future of e-scooters

The government began trials of e-scooters in the UK from 4 July 2020. Trials are for approved rental e-scooters only. Maximum speeds will be set to 15.5mph. Those taking part in the trials will have to have a driving licence and insurance to legally ride rental e-scooters. Geofencing technology will be used to ensure rental e-scooters can only be ridden within a defined area.

The rules for private e-scooters and other powered transporters will not change, and it will still be illegal to ride privately owned scooters on public roads.

**Please note: Hillingdon Council is not part of the e-scooter trials.**

For more information on e-scooter trials visit:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users)

For more information about powered transporters and the law visit:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters)