

Trudy Harrison MP,  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

29th November 2021

Dear Minister

As Christmas approaches, some people will be considering buying an e-scooter for themselves or their loved ones.

They may not be aware that use of private e-scooters is almost entirely illegal in the UK, or they may have the impression that the law will not be enforced. In light of the deaths and serious head injuries that have arisen, the hazards to pedestrians, the enforcement problem for the police and the risks to scooter riders, I am writing to you to take swift action.

- Issue a clear warning to retailers that they could be held liable if they fail to clearly warn customers of the risks and illegality involved in the use of private e-scooters;
- Issue clear information to the public that it is illegal to use a private e-scooter on public roads and in almost all public places in the UK, and that they could incur substantial fines and penalties if caught. (The Department's THINK! campaign team would be well placed to do this.)
- Issue a statement of encouragement and support to the police to take enforcement action.

Information from the Bicycle Association suggests that over 350,000 e-scooters had been sold by the end of October 2021, almost as many as were sold in the whole of 2020. We are aware of at least nine deaths on e-scooters to date this year, all on privately owned vehicles.

We have had useful discussions with your officials and we will endeavour to work constructively with them if the government seeks to legalise use of private e-scooters. However, for now they remain illegal to use and are creating substantial problems.

I therefore urge you to take this action.

Yours sincerely



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