



Based on the evidence gathered as part of a Road Safety Trust funded project, PACTS makes the following recommendations to address the safety of private e-scooters. Many of the recommendations might also be appropriate for rental e-scooters, but that should be considered in light of the trial rental scheme evaluation report to be published by the DfT later in 2022.

PACTS recommends the DfT should:

- 1. Take immediate action to address dangerous and illegal private e-scooter use and**
 - 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;
 - take action against retailers which fail to properly inform customers of the risks and illegality involved in the use of private e-scooters, and
 - support the police in taking enforcement action against illegal and unsafe use.

- 2. Undertake a thorough public consultation before making any decision on the legalisation of e-scooters. This should include**
 - publishing the data from the evaluation report as soon as possible and before reaching decisions on legalisation;
 - acknowledging that rental schemes and private e-scooter use are significantly different, and
 - holding a thorough public consultation.

- 3. Commission further research, including**
 - a review of casualty estimates based on data obtained by PACTS, the NHS and insurance companies as well as the police;
 - an in-depth study of the causes of the fatal and most serious casualty collisions involving e-scooters to date;

- engagement with the Chief Coroner to commission one or more prevention of future deaths reports, and
- requiring the police to record information on helmet wearing by e-scooter riders in casualty reports (STATS19).

4. If the Government decides to legalise use of private e-scooters, it should adopt regulations for their construction and use as set out below:

- Maximum possible speed of 12.5mph (20km/h)
- Maximum continuous rated motor power of 250 W
- Anti-tampering mechanisms should be included in construction. Tampering should be prohibited by law
- Minimum front wheel size of 12 inches (30.5cm) and minimum rear wheel size of 10 inches (25.5cm)
- Two independently controlled braking devices, one acting on the front wheel and one acting on the rear wheel
- Lighting to be mandatory at all times
- Maximum unladen weight of 20kg
- An audible warning device to be mandatory
- Helmet wearing to be mandatory
- Riding on the footway (pavement) or footpath to be prohibited
- Rider age limit of at least 16 years
- Carrying of a passenger to be prohibited
- Drink driving, dangerous or careless riding, and handheld mobile phone use to be prohibited
- In-person rider training and third party insurance are recommended.

Whatever legislation is proposed, it is important that the police retain their current road traffic policing powers, provisions, and offences in respect of e-scooters.