

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



1st November 2021

Dear Minister

I am pleased to attach the PACTS report [Assessing the safety of private e-scooter use in the UK - PACTS research - PACTS](#) published yesterday. It is a short, interim report on research which will continue throughout 2021, funded by the Road Safety Trust. We thought it appropriate to publish it at this stage as one important conclusion is emerging already.

There appears to be a significant difference between rental and private e-scooters, in terms of construction, use and safety management. We therefore urge the government to ensure that any legislation to permit use of private scooters is based on information about private use and not the rental trial schemes alone.

To give two examples:

- all nine deaths in 2021 to date have involved use of private scooters, not rental scooters;
- there is substantial underreporting of casualties in the official (DfT Stats19) statistics, particularly for private use where riders will be wary as they may be fined. While the Department for Transport's e-scooter factsheet recorded 484 casualties in total in 2020, we have been informed that in the same year at Kings College Hospital alone 196 people presented at A&E with injuries involving e-scooters.

We do not express a view on whether private use should be permitted. We recognise this is for Government to decide, based on a range of factors. We simply highlight some safety considerations. We intend to provide more details in a full report early next year.

We are aware that legislation may come forward next year, with drafts prepared soon. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you at an early stage.

We would also be grateful for clarification on when the monitoring of the rental trials will conclude, now that the trials look set to continue to November 2022.

If you would like to discuss any of this, I would be delighted to do so.

Yours sincerely

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