



Department
for Transport

David G Davies
Executive Director, PACTS
Buckingham Court
78 Buckingham Gate
Westminster
London
SW1E 6PE

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Trudy Harrison MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: trudy.harrison@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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10 November 2021

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 1 November, sharing your report into the safety of private e-scooters. I welcome PACTS contribution to the evidence base the Department is gathering.

We are currently undertaking an independent evaluation of the e-scooter trials to examine the progress and impact of the trials across England, with a focus on safety (for both users and the wider public), among other key areas. We are planning to publish our interim report, containing preliminary findings from the evaluation, in winter 2021.

As you are aware trial e-scooters must meet minimum construction standards. A number of trial areas are running long term rental schemes, the evidence collected through these rental trials will give transferrable insights into private use. As I hope you can appreciate, any future rules for e-scooters may not be exactly the same as the rules in trials, but they will be based on the evidence gathered.

To address one of the points raised on casualty reporting, as you are aware data on personal injury road accidents is collected via the STATS19 system of accidents reported by the police. Although e-scooters are not currently one of the designated vehicle types in STATS19, guidance has been issued to police forces to identify them using the free text field for other vehicles. In the future, the STATS19 data collection system will be amended so that e-scooters (and similar) can be identified as a vehicle type – details are in the report here:

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001195/stats-19-review-final-report.pdf (page 11).

It has long been known that, for all road user types, a considerable proportion of non-fatal casualties are not included in STATS19, as hospital, survey and compensation claims data all indicate a higher number of casualties than are reported to the police, as shown in our document comparing different sources of road safety statistics which can be viewed at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/other-sources-of-information-on-road-casualties.

We agree that non-fatal casualties for e-scooter users are amongst the most likely to be under-reported in road casualty data since they have no obligation to inform the police of collisions, and note that this should be borne in mind when analysing and interpreting the data in our e-scooter factsheet:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-e-scooter-factsheet-2020/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-e-scooter-factsheet-2020.

We are working to understand the completeness of the STATS19 data for e-scooters, and your report has been helpful in highlighting some of the issues we face. My officials would be interested in discussing your report in further detail and will be contact with you shortly to arrange a meeting.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Trudy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the bottom of the letter 'y'.

TRUDY HARRISON

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT