



This information sheet provides guidance on the current laws for e-scooters in the UK

## PARENT'S GUIDE TO

# ELECTRIC SCOOTER (E-SCOOTERS)



County Durham and Darlington



### WHAT ARE E-SCOOTERS?

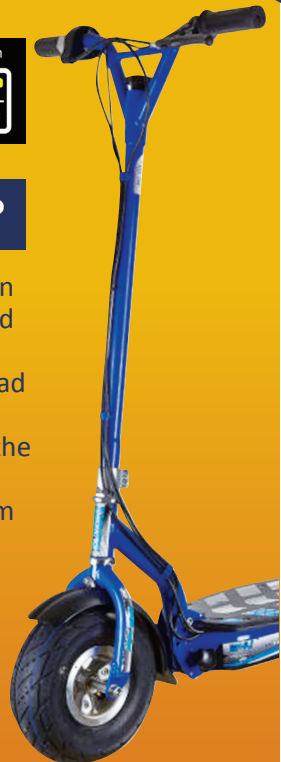
- E-Scooters are classed as "Powered transporters". This term covers a variety of personal transport devices which are powered by a **Motor**.
- You can legally buy an e-scooter but **cannot ride it** on a public road, cycle lane or pavement.

**ONLY PRIVATE LAND**

**THEY ARE NOT TOYS!**

### DID YOU KNOW?

- E-Scooters are illegal for use in any public space unless rented as part of a government trial
- 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 or other spaces dedicated to pedal cycle use.
- Privately owned e-scooter can only be ridden on private land.



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## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT POLICE TO DO IF THEY STOP ANYONE RIDING AN E-SCOOTER ON A PUBLIC ROAD?

- Section 59 of the Police Reform Act allows police to issue you with a warning if a vehicle is being used in a manner which may cause alarm, harassment, distress or annoyance.
- The police may ask you to take your scooter home or they may seize it from you because they are classed as illegal vehicles on public roads
- You could be reported to court for driving without any insurance or having an appropriate licence to ride them or other traffic offences

## CAN I BE PROSECUTED FOR USING A POWERED TRANSPORTER?

- Any person who use 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 can be seized
- Those who use powered transporters dangerously or under the influence of drink or drugs can also be convicted of offences leading to imprisonment.
- Offences relating 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 fall off the scooter
- E-scooter 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 risk of injury to pedestrians

## E-SCOOTER TRIALS

The government began trials of e-scooters in the UK from July 2020. Trials are for approved rental e-scooters only. Maximum speeds are set at 15.5mph and those taking part in the trials will have to have a driving licence and insurance to be able to legally ride rental e-scooters.