

October 2023

Dear Community,

We write to draw your attention to the matter of **electric scooters (e-scooters)**. We understand many parents/carers may wish to purchase an e-scooter or perhaps already have.

Year-round we work closely with our community safety partners to raise awareness of key road safety messages throughout Kent and Medway. There has been an increasing number of individuals riding e-scooters on the public highway, pavements and in public open spaces.

Kent Police are advising the public to ensure they understand the laws around E-Scooters use before purchasing. E-Scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It is not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as pavements.

### **Enforcement**

The police are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances, the police have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the E-Scooter being seized. If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected.

If you purchase an E-Scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's consent.

Please find the Kent Police poster attached.

### **Fire Safety**

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have issued a safety warning on the use of lithium-ion batteries following several battery related fires across the county.

Lithium-ion batteries, or li-ion batteries (sometimes called LIBs) are commonly found in many items including mobile phones, laptops, e-bikes, hover boards and e-scooters.

Firefighters are urging the public to take care when storing and using these types of batteries, and to think twice before purchasing items from non-reputable suppliers. You can find out more about this via KFRS website here: [KFRS issues battery safety warning | Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](https://www.kentfireandrescue.org.uk/news/kent-fire-and-rescue-issues-battery-safety-warning)

### **Additional information**



**Kent  
Police**



**Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service**



For further detailed information regarding e-scooters please visit GOV.UK:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK (find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>). **There are no e-scooter trials within Kent or Medway.**

Only approved rental e-scooters may be used in the Government-led trial areas, in line with specific terms of use. For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land.

Yours Sincerely,

**The Road Safety Team  
Medway Council**

**Safer Road Users Team  
Kent County Council**



**Kent  
Police**



**Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service**



# E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



**Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?**

**No, it's Illegal...**

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

**Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?**

**No, it's Illegal...**

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

**What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?**

**The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.**

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent  
Police**

## **Think before you buy:**

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit [www.kent.police.uk/road-safety](http://www.kent.police.uk/road-safety)