



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicestershire,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

20 June 2022

[REDACTED]
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear [REDACTED]

Since taking office, I have received scores of correspondences from residents concerned about the use of e-scooters on pavements, roads and indeed in other areas of high footfall. People have also highlighted the increase in collisions in accidents involving e-scooters. There has been an upward trend in the last 18 months with dips during the second and third lockdowns for obvious reasons. National statistics that cover rental and privately-owned e-scooters show that during 2020 there were 460 collisions involving e-scooters. This more than doubled in 2021 to 931 collisions in accidents involving e-scooters.

I believe that we are lacking action on public safety. We must get ahead of the curve on e-scooters, start a conversation about road safety and give advice locally. Frontline officers simply do not have the powers to police e-scooters constantly.

I am asking you, as a Member of Parliament, to exert as much influence as you can command to encourage the government to restrict the use of e-scooters and ensure that they will not be permitted for use on our roads, pavements or in areas of public use.

As for what we can do locally, I propose a public awareness campaign to ensure that the public and retailers know the rules surrounding e-scooters, the dangers they can present and how to use them safely and legally.

I appreciate that the Government has recognised the potential of electric scooters (e-scooters). They can help make accessible transport more widespread in an environmentally friendly way. I also understand that the Department for Transport (DfT) has begun looking into the true benefits and costs of electric scooters. However, I believe that ministers have prematurely expanded and enabled the ownership and use of rental e-scooters to the detriment of public safety – and I include those riding the scooter. I am seeking to stop further expansion of the use of e-scooters in irresponsible or dangerous ways.





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You may be aware that it is illegal for e-scooters to be used on public roads other than as part of government-approved e-scooter trials. I understand that police in local areas across the country have a range of sanctions at their disposal to address illegal e-scooter use, including on-the-spot fines and placing points on any licence held by the user or confiscation of the scooter.

Naturally, there are elements of e-scooters associated with criminality, and I am sure ministers and officials are monitoring the situation closely and are in regular contact with the relevant authorities. However, important as this is, I am more concerned with the safety of users and other residents within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Current Leicestershire Police policy is that in the majority of circumstances, someone caught riding on the first occasion can have their details recorded on Niche and be given a warning.

Any privately owned e-Scooters cannot be used in a Public Place or on a Road, only on private land with the landowner's permission.

If the same person is then caught again and found to have already received a warning, the E-Scooter is seized under Sec 165 RTA. The rider will be given a Traffic Offence Report or reported for Summons, and after 14 days, the E-Scooter will be destroyed. There is no current policy in place that allows E-Scooters to be insured, hence the Force's decision to destroy them.

So far, Leicestershire Police has been relatively successful in terms of the number of collisions involving e-scooters compared with other Forces, and I know the Force will continue to ensure that our paths and walkways remain safe for pedestrians and vulnerable road users. This does not mean we can be complacent about the potentially dangerous impact e-scooters can have.

Of course, I would welcome any comments or queries you have, and I hope I can count on your support for my e-scooter safety campaign here in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



Rupert Matthews
Police and Crime Commissioner
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

