

WHY HAVE I BEEN GIVEN THIS LEAFLET?



THIS LEAFLET EXPLAINS THE LAW IN RELATION TO E-SCOOTERS AND ELECTRIC BIKES

Northumbria Police are offering information to help you make informed choices when it comes to e-scooters and electric bikes

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

WHAT IS AN E-SCOOTER

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of "powered transporters". This covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor. Examples include:

- Segways
- Powered unicycles
- Hoverboards
- U Wheels
- Go-Peds
- E-Scooters / E-Motorcycles

E-scooters are **classed as a motor vehicles** under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters. These include the need to have:

- A licence
- Insurance
- MOT
- Tax

As most e-scooters don't meet the technical requirements for insurance and MOT, **they are illegal to ride on roads/ pavements or in public spaces** (including publicly accessed areas, such as car parks and play parks).

If you're riding your e-scooter in one of these places, you will risk it being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 and you **won't get it back.**

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, it will be investigated in the same way as if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

WHAT IS AN E-BIKE

Road legal e-bikes in the UK are officially called 'electrically assisted pedal cycles' or EAPCs.

EAPCs don't need to be registered, taxed or insured, and anyone aged 14+ can ride one under the same rules as riding a normal bicycle.

But to qualify as a road legal EAPC, the e-bike must comply with strict official rules, as set out below.

	EAPC
Does it have pedals which you need to turn to propel it?	An EAPC must have working pedals and be pedal assisted
Is the power of the motor 250 watts or less?	EAPC motors must have a maximum output of 250 watts
Does the electrical assist cut out at 15.5mph?	An e-bike motor must not assist the rider when travelling at over 15.5mph

If you can answer '**YES**' to ALL three questions, it's a road legal e-bike.

If the answer to ANY question is '**NO**', the bike is classed as a motor vehicle.

This means it can only be used legally on a road when you have a licence, insurance, MOT and tax. You must also wear an approved motorcycle helmet.

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