



**Loddon Valley Police
Station**
Rushey Way
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www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Educational letter on E-scooters & E-bikes

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are reaching out to you to provide you with some information in respect of the law surrounding E-scooters and E-bikes as we appreciate children may be asking you for an E-scooters or E-bikes as a gift for Birthday or Christmas.

Electric scooters – E-Scooters

These are considered to be a powered transporter which means they then fall into the legal definition of a motor vehicle in the UK.

Privately owned E-scooters cannot be legally used on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes. They can be used on privately owned land with the land owners consent.

It is legal to buy, sell and own an electric scooter.

Any person who uses a privately owned E-scooter on a public road, pavement or cycle lane could be committing an offence under S 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002

Penalty for committing such an offence is potentially a fine up to £300, points on driving licences and the e-scooter may be seized.

Riders of E-scooters may also be prosecuted for driving without insurance under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

For younger riders where a provisional driving license is not held, it is more likely that they will be dealt with for driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This can have a knock on effect when the young person tries to apply for their provisional license and gain insurance at a later date.

The UK Government is currently running trials of rental E-scooters. **This is currently only happening in Slough** for the area of Berkshire. Maintenance and insurance of these vehicles rest with the suppliers. Users of these must:

- Follow all applicable traffic laws
- Have the category Q on their driving licence (which may be included in categories AM, A or B)
- Not drive on the pavement
- Carry only one person at a time

- Not tow anything
- Not use a mobile phone whilst on the E-scooter

Electric Bikes – E-Bikes

Electric vehicles, including E-bikes are a mode of transport becoming more and more popular, and there are many different types.

If the vehicle has a throttle which you twist in order to propel the vehicle, then it falls into the category of a motorbike and is subject to all the usual laws, requiring an appropriate licence, insurance and tax.

The only type of E-bikes which can legally be used on public highways are EAPC's (Electric Assist Pedal Cycles).

You can ride an EAPC if you 14 years or over, as long as it meets certain requirements.

You do **not** need a licence to ride one and it does **not** need to be:

- Registered
- Taxed, or
- Insured

An EAPC **must** have **pedals** that can be used to propel it.

It **must** also show *either* the **power output**, or the **manufacturer of the motor** AND either the **batteries voltage**, or the **maximum speed** of the bike.

The electric motor must have a maximum power output of **250W**, and should not be able to propel the bike when it is travelling more than **15.5mph**.

An EAPC can have more than **2-wheels**.

If you are considering buying yourself or your child an E-scooter or an E-bike and would like some assistance please contact your local neighbourhood team.

Thank you for taking the time to read this notice.

Yours sincerely

Wokingham NHPT