

24th October 2024

Dear Headteacher,

Illegal Use of E-Scooters in Derbyshire

I hope this letter reaches you well.

I am writing as Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner to highlight the importance of communicating the illegality of using e-scooters on public roads and footpaths to your parent and student networks. This is especially important with an upcoming change to e-scooter enforcement by Derbyshire Constabulary that may affect some members of your school community.

From 1st November 2024, Derbyshire Constabulary will move to a 'seize and dispose' approach. Officers who engage anyone using an e-scooter in a public place will seize the e-scooter, before sending it to be disposed of after 14 days, in accordance with the Section 165A legislation. Previously offenders usually received a warning on the first occasion they were stopped.

The user may be liable for prosecution for a number of offences, including driving without insurance, tax, or licence. In some circumstances, parents may also be criminally liable for the use of e-scooters by their children.

From my discussions with residents, it has become clear to me that there is a lack of understanding on what makes using e-scooters in public places illegal. It is vital that residents are provided with the information to help them understand when using an e-scooter becomes a criminal offence and I invite you to join me in spreading the word.

Legally, e-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), this means they are treated as a motor vehicle and subject to the same legal requirements, such as the need for an MOT, a licence, tax, and insurance.

Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1998 allows the Police to seize any motor vehicle being used on a road which does not have the required documentation, which includes a driving license for that class of vehicle. This means that e-scooter use is only legal on private land, to do so on public roads and footpaths means the rider would be committing multiple road traffic offences.

As we are now less than one hundred days from the Christmas break parents are potentially in the market for such devices. It is imperative that we educate parents and

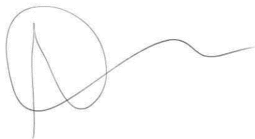
students on their illegality to prevent any unintentional law breaking. I am aware that many schools will be having parents' evenings and open days in the coming term, I would be grateful if you and your school, would share this important information with your school communities at these events and through your regular information channels to help parents make more informed decisions on whether to purchase e-scooters for their children.

My office has prepared a readymade resource to assist you in disseminating this message via your social media channels which has been attached to this letter.

Given the increased focus on enforcement by the Police, I would also encourage anyone who witnesses someone riding an e-scooter illegally to report it directly to Derbyshire Constabulary. You can do this in several ways by either phoning the non-emergency 101 number, 999 in an emergency or by visiting their website and reporting it here: [Contact us | Derbyshire Constabulary](#). This is an important step as it helps build a clearer picture of the use of e-scooters in Derbyshire and thereby helps the Constabulary to better direct their resources.

I hope, like me, you will understand the importance of engaging with parents and students on this issue and will support our efforts with this new approach and important campaign. By working together, we can improve residents and visitors' safety on our roads and footpaths with the ambition to create safer communities for all.

Kindest regards,



Commissioner Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts

Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

