



Hello,

I am writing to you in relation to the use of e-scooters which are becoming ever more prevalent in our communities.

Currently there are upwards of 1.3 million private e-scooters in use in the United Kingdom, and unfortunately some of those will be used by children/young adults to travel to and from their education facility. Avon & Somerset Constabulary would like to clarify the law around the use of these vehicles in the hope you will offer some guidance to your pupils.

It is currently illegal to use e-scooters on the public highway or any public place. They are classed as powered transporters and fall within the legal definition of a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means that the same rules that apply to motor vehicles, apply to e-scooters. This includes but isn't limited to: Driving with a licence, Driving/riding with insurance.

The police can seize and will destroy privately owned e-scooters if they are being used on the public highway. The rider will also be subject to prosecution as they would if they were driving a motor vehicle. If the rider is a child, then their parent/guardian can also be prosecuted for no insurance - for use, cause, permit and this carries 6 points and a fine of £300. The young person can incur points which will be added to their licence once they are old enough to apply for one, this will impact their future driving record and their ability to get vehicle insurance.

The only legal way to ride an e-scooter on the public highway is through one of the official government trials. To use these, the user will need to have a minimum of a provisional licence to be able to hire one. This means a minimum age of 16, however in Bristol, Bath and South Gloucester the minimum age for rental e-scooters is currently 18.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary is committed to road safety and protecting those who use our public highways and public spaces. The current e-scooter trials are in place to enable vital research to be carried out into the safety of these vehicles.

I hope this information will go some way to protecting our young people from unwittingly breaking the law or becoming involved in a collision involving one of these vehicles.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Cheese'.

Chief Inspector Rob Cheese

Head of Road Safety