## PENALTIES AND OFFENCES FOR E-SCOOTERS

If you breach the rules when using an e-scooter you could face a fixed penalty notice.

## SEEN DANGEROUS RIDING? LET US KNOW!

If you spot someone riding e-bikes or e-scooters dangerously and capture it on your dashcam, CCTV, or a passenger's mobile phone, we want to hear from you.



## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more information, visit our website or scan the QR code on this page.

West Midlands POLICE

**Working in partnership, making communities safer**
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# WE'RE PUTTING THE BRAKES ON ILLEGAL E-RIDERS

**Electric bikes and scooters are becoming increasingly popular in the city but before you ride, it's important to understand the rules.**

Using an illegal electric bike or scooter can lead to serious consequences - not just for you, but for others around you.

This leaflet contains information you need to know to stay safe and on the right side of the law.



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## WHAT MAKES AN ELECTRIC BIKE OR SCOOTER ILLEGAL?

**Electric bikes:** If the bike can go faster than 3.7mph unassisted, or over 15.5mph assisted, or if the motor produces more than 250 watts, it's classed as a motor vehicle and riders must comply with road traffic laws.

**Electric scooters:** Most privately-owned electric scooters are illegal to ride on public roads, pavements, or cycle lanes unless specifically approved for use by the Department for Transport.

## WHERE CAN YOU RIDE LEGALLY?

**Electric bikes:** Approved e-bikes can be used on roads, cycle paths, and other places bikes are allowed. You don't need a licence or insurance. You must check your e-bike meets EPAC (electrically assisted pedal cycles) regulations.

**Electric scooters:** Privately-owned scooters can only be used on private property (with permission). It's illegal to use them on public roads or pavements.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU BREAK THE LAW?

Riding an illegal electric bike or scooter could result in:

- Fines, penalty points on your licence, or even prosecution.
- Seizure of your vehicle.
- Risk to yourself and others due to lack of safety features like insurance or proper maintenance.

## STAY SAFE AND CHOOSE WISELY

If you're planning to purchase or use an electric bike or scooter, make sure it complies with UK regulations. Look for approved models and understand where you're allowed to ride. It's always better to double-check than to risk breaking the law.

We want to keep you and others safe. Illegal vehicles can pose serious risks to pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists. By following the law, you're helping make roads and public spaces safer for everyone.

## WHAT IS AN E-SCOOTER?

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters, including the need to have a licence and insurance.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately-owned e-scooters. This means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

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

## RENTAL E-SCOOTERS

E-scooters are available for rent in designated Beryl bays throughout the city centre and surrounding areas. Riders must be 18 years old and have a valid UK driving licence to participate.

Where a rental trial scheme is running, rental e-scooters can be used on public roads, some cycle lanes, and other public spaces. But you must follow the relevant road traffic laws. If you don't, you could face prosecution.

To use a rental e-scooter in an approved area you must:

- Hold the correct driving licence.
- Have insurance (the rental companies provide this when you hire from them).
- Meet the minimum age limit (this can vary depending on the rental company, so please check with them).

When riding an e-scooter, you should always keep to the speed limit. We also always recommend wearing safety protection such as a helmet.

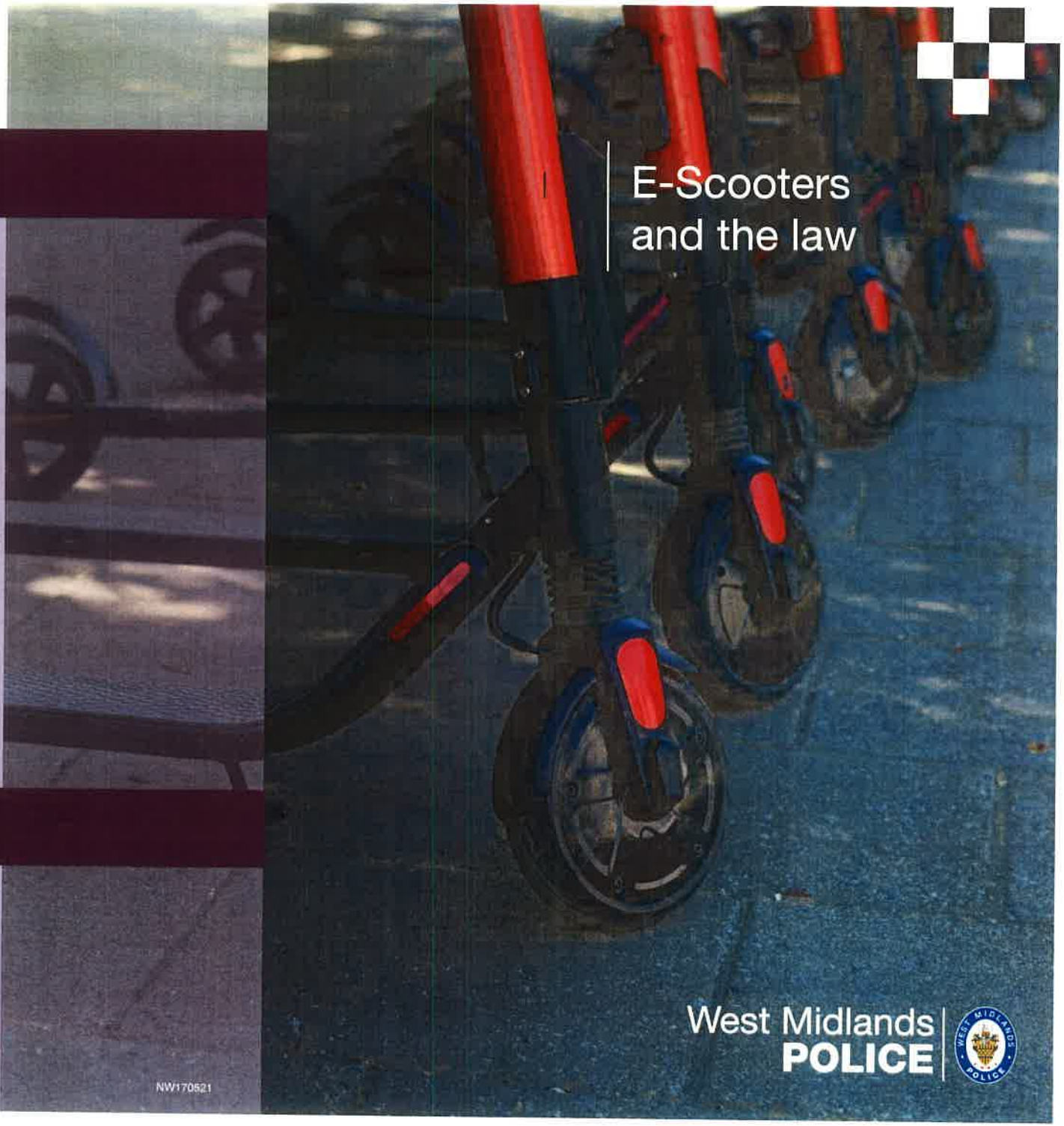
## What else do I need to know?

- E-scooters should only be used within the local area hosting the trial
- Only ever ride one person per scooter
- You must not tow anything using an e-scooter
- You must not use a mobile phone when using an e-scooter
- You may use a screen to display navigation information, but this must be set up prior to setting off
- Always ensure bags or other small items you are carrying will not cause a danger to you or others around you – for example, never hang them from the handlebars
- Never ride an e-scooter while drunk or otherwise intoxicated – you may be prosecuted under drink or drug driving laws as careless and dangerous driving offences also apply to users of e-scooters
- Follow local traffic rules and adapt your speed to your surroundings
- Always ride and park in designated areas identified by the operator's app.
- You should also refer to the terms of use of the e-scooter operator before renting a trial e-scooter

## Where can I get more information?

**https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users**

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# E-Scooters and the law

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# E-Scooters and the law

**I own an E-scooter, where can I ride it?**
A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the land owner's permission. They remain illegal to use on a road or in a public place.

**What will happen if I ride my own E-scooter on a road or public place?**
If you are stopped riding it on the road or public place, it can be seized and you could face prosecution, which may result in penalty points on your driving licence and a fine.

**If E-scooters are illegal why can I hire one?**
The government and some local authorities have embarked on trials of E-scooters. The E-scooters provided through these trials are legal to use on a road or public place as long as you abide by the conditions of hire and the law.

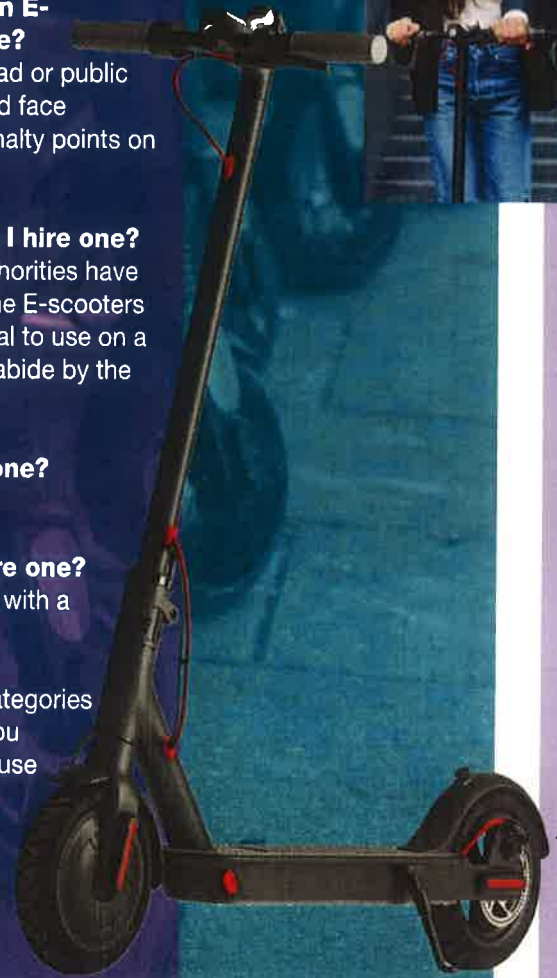
**How old do I need to be to hire one?**
18 years old

**Do I need a driving licence to hire one?**
Yes, you need a valid driving licence with a category Q entitlement.

A full or provisional UK licence for categories AM, A or B includes category Q. If you have one of these licences, you can use an e-scooter.

If you have a provisional licence you do not need to display L plates.





**I have an overseas licence, can I still hire one?**
If you have an overseas driving licence, you can use an e-scooter if you have:

A valid full licence from an EU or European Economic Area (EEA) country (so long as this does not prohibit you from driving low-speed mopeds and motorcycles)
or
A valid full licence from another country that entitles you to drive a small vehicle (for example, cars, mopeds or motorcycles) and you entered the UK within the last 12 months

**Do I need insurance?**
E-scooters must have motor insurance, but you do not need to arrange this as this will be provided by your e-scooter rental operator

**What should I wear?**
It is recommended that you wear a cycle helmet, however it is not a legal requirement. If you do wear a helmet make sure it conforms to current regulations, is the correct size and is securely fastened.

It is also recommended that you wear light-coloured or fluorescent clothing so that other road users can see you.

**Where can I use a trial E-scooter?**
E-scooters can be used on the road (except motorways) and in cycle lanes.

You must not use them in areas designated for pedestrians – including pavements.



Traffic signs with the following cycle symbol apply to e-scooters (unless a sign is displayed prohibiting e-scooters from that particular cycle way)

