



Department
for Transport

Iain Stewart MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
Trudy Harrison MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: trudy.harrison@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/406467

18 July 2022

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your email of 14 July, enclosing correspondence on behalf of a number of your constituents, about e-scooters.

As you are aware, the Queen's Speech on Tuesday 10 May 2022 announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation on how we regulate light, zero-emission vehicles, and this is an important moment in which we decide how to make sure new transport developments are safe for all.

We recognise our obligation to keep all users of the road safe and welcome the opportunity to improve transport options for millions and decarbonise transport. Nowhere is this more visible than on e-scooters, where a large number of existing vehicles demonstrate the importance of ensuring a safe balance.

The Government intends to create a Low-Speed Zero Emission Vehicle (LZEV) category that is independent from the cycle and motor vehicle categories. The proposed new LZEV category will cover new vehicles, such as e-scooters. It will make sure that these vehicles are safe to use and are safe for pedestrians and other road users.

The legislative process will give everyone a chance to shape the new regulations for each category of vehicle. We are particularly keen that this includes vulnerable road users. We are working with groups representing disabled people, including the Inclusive Transport Stakeholder Group, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee and Guide Dogs UK, and gathering important data through trials in 30 areas. A public consultation is part of our plans and would allow individual members of the public to have their voices heard.

I note your constituents' concerns regarding the ability of people with sight loss to get out and about safely. It is a long-established principle that vehicles are not permitted on the pavement, with the exception of mobility scooters. I do not expect that to change. Until new regulations are brought in, the existing limits on e-scooters continue to apply. Private e-scooters remain illegal to use on public roads and pavement riding is illegal for all e-scooters. There are existing penalties for illegal use. Users can be fined up to £300, have 6 points put on their driving licence, and the e-scooter can be impounded, though enforcement is ultimately an operational matter for local police forces.

We have also written to micromobility retailers reminding them of the law and are aware that the Advertising Standards Agency has taken action against e-scooter adverts where these have been deemed misleading.

Your constituents may also be interested to know that e-scooters used in the trials need to have a bell or a horn so that they are audible. In addition, some operators in trial areas are testing Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems. These systems generate sound for electric vehicles to improve the safety of vulnerable road users.

Safety will always be a top priority and we will continue to develop our policies on that basis. No final decisions about e-scooter regulations will be made until such time as the Transport Bill becomes law and the further public consultation I referred to above has taken place. I would encourage your constituents to help shape the final outcome by participating in the consultation process when the opportunity arises.

Please extend my gratitude to your constituents for taking the time to write in on this important issue.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M/L' followed by a stylized flourish and a period.

TRUDY HARRISON MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT