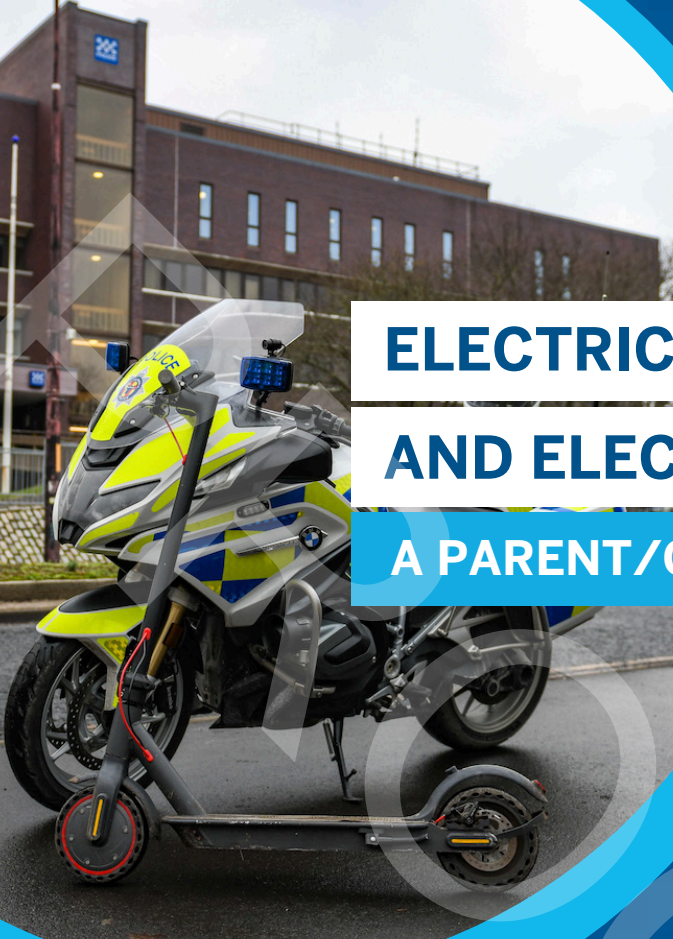




# **ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND ELECTRIC BIKES**

## **A PARENT/CARERS GUIDE**

**THIS LEAFLET EXPLAINS  
THE LAW IN RELATION  
TO E-SCOOTERS AND  
ELECTRIC BIKES**

Northumbria Police are offering information to help you make informed choices when it comes to e-scooters and electric bikes



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE**

# WHAT IS AN E-SCOOTER

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of “powered transporters”. This covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor. Examples include:

- Segways
- Powered unicycles
- Hoverboards
- U Wheels
- Go-Peds
- E-Scooters / E-Motorcycles

E-scooters are **classed as a motor vehicles** under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters. These include the need to have:

- A licence
- Insurance
- MOT
- Tax

As most e-scooters don't meet the technical requirements for insurance and MOT, **they are illegal to ride on roads/ pavements or in public spaces** (including publicly accessed areas, such as car parks and play parks).

If you're riding your e-scooter in one of these places, you will risk it being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 and you **won't get it back**.

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

# WHAT IS AN E-BIKE

Road legal e-bikes in the UK are officially called 'electrically assisted pedal cycles' or EAPCs.

EAPCs don't need to be registered, taxed or insured, and anyone aged 14+ can ride one under the same rules as riding a normal bicycle.

But to qualify as a road legal EAPC, the e-bike must comply with strict official rules, as set out below.

|                                                          | EAPC                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Does it have pedals which you need to turn to propel it? | An EAPC must have working pedals and be pedal assisted                    |
| Is the power of the motor 250 watts or less?             | EAPC motors must have a maximum output of 250 watts                       |
| Does the electrical assist cut out at 15.5mph?           | An e-bike motor must not assist the rider when travelling at over 15.5mph |

If you can answer **'YES'** to ALL three questions, it's a road legal e-bike.

If the answer to ANY question is **'NO'**, the bike is classed as a motor vehicle.

This means it can only be used legally on a road when you have a licence, insurance, MOT and tax. You must also wear an approved motorcycle helmet.