



Department
for Transport

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: mark.harper@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/417141

20 February 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 24 November, enclosing correspondence from your constituents, about proposals to expand the legal use of e-scooters. I apologise for the delay in replying.

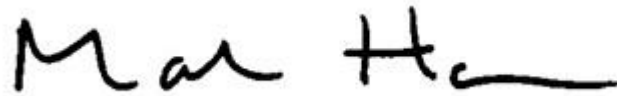
When parliamentary time allows, the Government intends to create a Low-speed Zero Emission Vehicle (LZEV) category that is independent of the cycle and motor vehicle categories. The first beneficiaries of this new system will be e-scooters, which we intend to legalise for private and rental use through secondary legislation. This will require setting robust technical requirements and clear expectations on users. No decisions have been made on the details of the regulations for e-scooters and we will consult before any new arrangements come into force. All interested parties will have a chance to shape the new regime and we are particularly keen that this includes vulnerable road users.

Safety will always be a top priority and we will continue to develop our policies on that basis. We are working with groups representing disabled people, including the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee and Guide Dogs UK, and gathering important data through trials of rental e-scooters in 25 areas.

All e-scooters used in the trials must have a bell or a horn so that they are audible. 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 passed and come into force, private e-scooters remain illegal to use on public roads and existing penalties may apply.

Ministers 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Harper". The letters are cursive and connected, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the word "Harper".

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT