

E-scooter Legislation

Provided they are part of a share scheme E-scooters are now legal on UK roads.

Electric scooters became legal on roads in England, Scotland and Wales on Saturday 4 July 2020 if obtained through a share scheme. Following the release of government guidance as part of a 12-month trial of such schemes, e-scooter companies are preparing to get the vehicles onto the streets of British cities as soon as possible.

However if you own your own electric scooter:-

It is not currently legal to ride a privately owned e-scooter on UK roads.

Privately owned electric scooters can only be used legally on private land, i.e. a garden or a field with the landowner's permission.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter on any public road, cycle lane or pavement, you could get a £300 fixed-penalty notice and, if you have one, six points on your driving licence.

If you do not have a licence then the points will be added retrospectively, thus you could have points on your licence as soon as you get it.

The consequences are even more severe for newly qualified drivers who are only allowed six points on their licence in the first two years of driving, so could end up losing their licence.

In addition to a fine and six points on their licence, drivers will face higher car insurance premiums as a result of a conviction and the police also have the power to confiscate the scooter.

Electric scooters are currently classified as 'powered transporters' so they are subject to the same laws that apply to motor vehicles and must meet the same legal requirements as motor vehicles.

Given the nature of electric scooters, it is very difficult for them to meet these requirements (insurance, payment of vehicle tax, licensing and registration amongst others) and therefore they are illegal to use on UK roads currently.

The advice would be:-

Do not ride your own e-scooter on public roads as they can and will be confiscated, either under section 59 or 165 either way you will not be able to claim it back and it will be crushed.
