

Police warn people to be cautious when buying electric bikes or e-scooters this festive season

Police Scotland is urging people to be cautious when buying electric bikes or e-scooters this festive season, as some models may not be permitted for use on public roads.

E-bikes and e-scooters are becoming increasingly common in towns and cities across Scotland, with most being used appropriately and in line with current legal guidelines. However, some vehicles are being modified to exceed speed and power limits, which can reclassify them under motorcycle legislation.

From the beginning of January 2024 and the end of September 2024, officers have made 281 seizures.

Inspector Hugh Niccolls said: "This year officers have seized a growing number of e-bikes and e-scooters being used illegally on roads across Scotland.

"E-bikes can legally be used on public roads if they meet specific requirements, including that the motor should not be able to propel the bike when it is travelling more than 15.5mph and must have a maximum power output of 250 watts. Vehicles that exceed these limits are motor vehicles and are subject to the Road Traffic Act, meaning the rider must hold a

full UK driving license, have insurance, and wear an approved helmet. Failure to comply with these legal requirements could face enforcement action under the Road Traffic Act.

“E-scooters, however, are not permitted on public roads, pavements or other public spaces, as they do not meet the necessary legal standards. Their use is only legal on private land with the landowner’s consent.

“Anyone found riding a non-compliant e-bike or e-scooter on a public road will likely have it seized by officers and removed to a contractor’s yard, with a significant cost to the owner. Additionally, using vehicles that do not meet legal requirements poses a serious safety risk, increasing the likelihood of injuries to both riders and other road users, particularly pedestrians.

“If you are buying an e-bike or e-scooter this Christmas, please check its specifications to ensure it complies with legal requirements. If you already own one that does not meet these standards, I urge you to keep it off public roads to avoid penalties and avoid risking the safety of others.”

For further information on the use of electric bikes visit:
<https://orlo.uk/86uCq>