



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
**POLICE**  
Fighting Crime. Protecting People.

Matt O'Connell  
Safer Roads Team Manager  
Operations Department  
PO Box 144  
Northampton  
NN4 0FS

Email:  
safer.roads@northants.police.uk

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## Thinking about purchasing an e-scooter for Christmas?

I am the Safer Roads Manager for Northants Police and am writing to you as a representative of the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA).

As we approach this festive season, we wanted to take the opportunity to address an emerging trend that has raised concerns in the community, that is the use of electric scooters, commonly referred to as "e-scooters."

The safety and well-being of all road users are of paramount importance and in particular our children.

We know e-scooters have become increasingly popular and whilst we understand the appeal of these devices, we believe it is crucial that we inform you of the legalities and potential dangers associated with them.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

E-scooters, like any other motorised vehicle, are subject to laws and regulations.

The use of ***private e-scooters on public roads and footpaths is currently illegal in the UK.***

Parents and guardians should be aware of the legal implications and responsibilities that come with these devices to avoid potential legal issues.

**E-scooters available under the local trial operated by VOI are age restricted to persons 18 years and older who must hold a driving licence.**

### SAFETY CONCERNS

There are substantial safety concerns associated with e-scooters which can reach significant speeds and may not always be equipped with adequate safety features. As such, accidents and injuries related to e-scooter usage have become increasingly prevalent. These injuries can range from minor scrapes and bruises to more severe incidents, including head injuries and fractures.





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E-scooters are particularly risky for young riders who may not possess the experience or judgment needed to navigate challenging traffic situations.

Given the legal complexities and safety concerns surrounding e-scooters, we strongly discourage parents and guardians from considering them as gifts for their children.

Instead, we encourage parents to explore safer and more age-appropriate alternatives that promote outdoor activity, exercise, and personal growth while prioritising safety. Traditional bicycles, skateboards, and protective gear are excellent choices to consider.

**Thinking of  
buying an  
e-scooter for  
Christmas?**

It's currently **against the law**  
to ride an e-scooter on  
pavements and roads

You can only use it  
on private land

Working together to reduce the number of people  
killed or seriously injured on Northamptonshire's roads

Northamptonshire  
**NSRA**  
Safer Roads Alliance

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

We wish you and your family a joyful and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Matt O'Connell  
Safer Roads Team Manager