An Garda Síochána

Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte - Keeping People Safe

Coimisinéir Cúnta
Póilíniú Bóithre agus Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail
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Creanncheathrú An Gharda Síochána
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Dáta/Date:

Dear Principal and Board of Management

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to inform you of the legislation in relation to the use of electric scooters (e-scooters) by children and young people.

Under the Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024, it is illegal for any person under 16 years of age to ride an e-scooter in a public place, including footpaths, cycle lanes, parks, and any other public space frequented by members of the public. This includes their use to and from school if under the age of 16. E-scooters pose a significant risk of injury for younger users and other members our community. We are encountering incidents locally involving children who were unaware they were operating these devices unlawfully.

There are very specific laws in place regarding the use of electric scooters and e-bikes.

E-scooter users must;

- Be 16 years or older.
- Obey a speed limit of 20 Km/h.
- Drive on the left-allowed only in cycle lanes or bus lanes and on regional or national roads.
- Have lights, a bell or audible warning device, reflectors, brakes, and it must be in a roadworthy condition.

- Follow the same rules of the road that apply to cyclists.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or School warden.

E-scooter users must not;

- Use footpaths or pedestrianised areas.
- Hold or use a mobile telephone.
- Have a seat on their e-scooter.
- Carry passengers or goods.

I wish to bring to your attention Statutory Instrument No. 199 of 2024 – Road Traffic (Electric Scooter) Regulations 2024, which outlines obligatory requirements for Electric Scooters and the liability of owners of electric scooters. Where a person uses an electric scooter in a public place which does not comply with these Regulations, then the owner of the scooter is prescribed for the purposes of Section 11(5)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (No.24 of 1961) as also committing an offence in respect of the non-compliance.

I wish to make you aware that Gardaí will and are actively enforcing the legislation pertaining to the use of e-scooters through your area. Where under 16's are found to be using said e-scooters in a public place by Gardaí appropriate action will be taken including the seizure of the device as permitted by law. Gardaí will continue to focus on education and prevention, but, enforcement will follow where necessary to protect our young people and out community.

I would be grateful if you could share this information with Parents, Guardians and Students alike as appropriate. Education and awareness will help prevent breaches of the law, reduce risk of injury and support a safe school commute for all out stakeholders.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation in promoting School and Community Safety. Should any queries arise, please feel free to contact your respective Community Policing Unit for assistance and advise.

Yours sincerely,

~~(NAME)~~
(DAVID BUTLER)

Superintendent