



South Yorkshire
POLICE

Escooters & Off Road Bike

Date: 10th December 2025

Dear Parent/ Guardian

I am your local Neighbourhood Policing sergeant who covers' your child's school. As we move closer to Christmas you might be considering what to purchase your child for Christmas. One thing they might ask for could be an electric scooter, electric motorbike or off road bike. I see that high street retailers are selling the electric scooters so you might think they are legal to use on the road however most responsible retailers should also highlight this is not the case and that the use of any unlicensed vehicles used on a public road is illegal as they can only be ridden on private land with permission.

All unlicensed vehicles used on a public road can be seized for having no insurance. I am conscious that everyone is feeling the impact of rising living costs and I see the cost of these scooters and bikes either new or second hand and can see the impact financially this would have on families if they were seized.

As such this is a request that unless these vehicles are to be used on private land with landowners permission please do not purchase them. If you already have these vehicles please do not allow your children to use them anywhere except with private land with permission. If a person without a licence is prosecuted they could be given points that would then affect them when they apply for a licence and can affect the cost of insurance in the future.

Daily as a force we receive complaints about the illegal use of these vehicles and attend collisions involving them which results in injuries to the rider and members of the public, we do not want anyone to hurt from the illegal use of a vehicle.

Work is also underway with Bernslai homes for tenancy enforcement action against anyone for ASB use of illegal vehicles so please bear in mind the wider impact their use could have

No officer wants to seize a child's Christmas present so please consider any purchases and use very carefully.

Below is some information about the relevant legislation:

Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 states an officer in uniform can seize any vehicle if they have reasonable grounds to **believe** a vehicle has been used without a licence or insurance on any road 'or other public place'.

Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002, makes it an offence for a motor vehicle to be used on a road or public place in a manner which causes harassment, alarm or distress. Typically where the right of the community's ability to peacefully use of land is hindered.

May we take this opportunity to remind you that any vehicle believed to have been in contravention of section 59 may be seized. A constable in uniform may enter, **by force, if necessary**, any property other than the main body of a dwelling in the belief that such a vehicle may be seized from within.

Landowners permission must be in writing should you be using land with relevant authority.

In order to drive/ride vehicles on a road or any place to which the public have access, as a minimum, the following requirements must be met:

- The vehicle must be insured against third party liability
- The vehicle must be registered with the DVLA
- The vehicle must display a valid registration plate (on the rear for motorcycles, and the front and rear for any other vehicle)
- The vehicle must have a valid MOT certificate
- The vehicle must be taxed
- The driver of the vehicle must have a valid driving licence

If the above requirements are not met, the vehicle can be seized by the Police and the owner made responsible for the costs of seizure and storage, or the vehicle may be destroyed.

The driver may also be prosecuted for the following offences:

- **Driving without Insurance (s143 Road Traffic Act 1988)**
- **Driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence (s87 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988)**
- **Driving without a valid MOT (s47 Road Traffic Act 1988)**
- **Driving without displaying a valid registration plate (s42 Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994)**

The above offences are punishable by the imposition of penalty points and fines which may lead to disqualification from driving for repeated offences.

[Riding an electric bike: the rules - GOV.UK](#)

Regards

PS 1312 Wilks

South Yorkshire Police