



Policy regarding the use of personally owned E-scooters on University of Nottingham premises (applicable in UK)

E-scooters are formally defined as “powered transporters,” a term used to cover a variety of novel and emerging personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

This policy aims to define the University’s policy regarding the use of e-scooters on campus, whether personally owned or the devices that are currently available to hire as part of a UK Government trial. It also informs the University community of the law relating to use of personally owned e-scooters in the public domain, i.e. off campus.

Legal Framework

Given how powered transporters are motorised and designed, they fall within the legal definition of a “motor vehicle”. Therefore, the laws that apply to motor vehicles apply to powered transporters.

It is illegal to use a powered transporter:

- on a public road without complying with a number of legal requirements, which potential users may find difficult to address
- in spaces that are set aside for use by pedestrians, cyclists, and horse-riders; this includes on the pavement and in cycle lanes

Any person who uses a powered transporter on a public road or other prohibited space in breach of the law, is committing a criminal offence and can be prosecuted.

It is legal to use a powered transporter on private land but only with the permission of the landowner.

Using a personally owned e-scooter on public roads, pavements and cycle lanes

For motor vehicles to use public roads lawfully, the UK Government states that they must meet a number of different requirements, including insurance; conformity with technical standards and standards of use; payment of vehicle tax and registration; driver testing and licensing; and the use of relevant safety equipment.

However, as it is likely that a user would find it difficult to comply with all of these requirements, it means that it would be a criminal offence to use such equipment on the road. It is also illegal to use them in cycle lanes and on pavements.

For more information regarding powered transporters (including e-scooters), please see the UK Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

Using a personally owned E-scooter on University premises

As stated above, it is legal to use a powered transporter on private land with the permission of the landowner.

The university does not give permission for the use of privately owned e-scooters by any person on any of its UK campuses. This is enforceable by University of Nottingham Security.

The University as landowner owes a duty of care to all those who come onto its premises, whether they be staff, students, visitors, contractors or members of the public. Therefore, because of issues relating to user competence, concerns about standards of use and use of relevant safety equipment, the above policy decision has been made.

The bringing of e-scooters into university buildings is considered to be a breach of the University's health and safety rules and is therefore prohibited. The reason for this is that this practice inevitably leads to the creation of obstructions, either within work areas or along routes comprising a means of escape from the building.

E-scooter trials in Nottingham City

Nottingham City is currently one of 27 locations where there are e-scooter trials running and members of the university community taking advantage of this trial are strongly advised to comply with the rules set up and notified to them by the third-party hirer of the e-scooter.

For information regarding the UK Government trials:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

Insurance

In terms of insurance, the University insurance would only respond in cases directly related to the University's responsibilities as landowner, for example, harm caused by defective premises such as a pothole. It would not respond where there was an incident between an e-scooter user and another person or property that did not relate to the University's activities.

