

This week saw the start of an OPERATION run by ourselves focusing on a crackdown on the illegal use of e-scooters across our county.

This operation will see local officers across the city visiting schools, shops and community hubs to engage with people about the dangers of e-scooters and the law around using them in public.

Due to the laws privately owned e-scooters fall under the class of “Powered Transporters”, which means they are treated in the same way as motor vehicles, at this time it’s not possible to obtain insurance for any privately owned e-scooter and as such without insurance it means that it is illegal to use them on roads or in any public places such as parks, pavements and shopping centres. As such if an e-scooter is used in any public place they can be seized under S.165 of Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

There will be two further phases to the operation, first which will start on 16<sup>th</sup> December will involve officers working proactively as part of their usual patrols to seize any e-scooters that are being used illegally across the city. We’ll then look to educate those involved further, not prosecute, to make sure more young people and their guardians know about the law and what can happen if these laws are not abided. The last phase will then begin in the new year and will see where appropriate, criminal prosecutions being issued to anyone using e-scooters on a road or public place.

This final phase will also look at prosecuting any adult whom facilitates an e-scooter being used by a child under 18 years of age, which could mean a parent, guardian or potentially a school if the e-scooter is being stored on the premises to use following attending school.

If any young person were to receive an e-scooter over Christmas as a present only to have it seized by illegal use, I’m sure would be an extremely upsetting moment and with your help i want to try and prevent this from happening. In addition to the above all local independent and national retailers selling these items will be visited over the following week to ensure that all the correct warning notices are shown and any person purchasing an e-scooter are aware of the legislation.

I appreciate your help in this matter. If you have any questions in relation to the above then please do not hesitate to contact us.

**City Command**  
Stoke North



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