



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:10/02/2026

2026/151 - PLEV (escooter / ebike / euc) Seizures

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant which removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024:

The number of privately owned electric scooters, electric unicycles, or other Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) seized by your force. 168

Of those seized vehicles:

how many were returned to their owner;

how many were retained but not destroyed; how many were destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Where the information is held, the statutory power(s) relied upon: The information is recorded on a stand-alone independent recovery system

to seize such vehicles; and – as above

to authorise their destruction or disposal.as above

Whether your force operates any written policy or guidance governing: Yes, there is guidance

retention of such vehicles following seizure; and disposal or destruction of such vehicles. Yes, there is guidance

Whether any case-by-case proportionality or discretion assessment is carried out prior to disposal or destruction. Checks are conducted regarding the seizure protocols, time scales adhered to and disposal authorisations.

Please provide copies of any relevant policy or guidance documents if held. The legislation / guidance is readily available on the internet. However, please find attached documents used in Force.

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

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THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 05/02/2026



Tim's Top Traffic Tips Turkey and Tinsel Edition!

E-Scooters and Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs)

Public confusion exists as to the legislation and driver's obligations relating to E-scooters and Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles. The following information should help both to educate, and enforce legislative requirements:

E-scooters

- E-scooters are classed as power transporters, and are defined as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988, requiring the rider to have a driving licence, insurance, and tax. It's not currently possible to get insurance, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or other public place.
- A private e-scooter used on a road, or other public place may be seized under section 165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.
- Where trial rental schemes are operating in the UK, it's legal to use a rental e-scooter on a public road or cycle lane, provided you have the correct licence and follow road traffic regulations.
- More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs)

Electric cycles are sustainable, economical, accessible, and promote a health-conscious means of transportation. While manufacturers and retailers promote electric cycles as road legal, there are certain laws and requirements that people need to know:

- Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs) may only be ridden by persons 14 years of age or older. If conforming to the EAPC Regulations 1983, they are road-legal and don't require a licence, insurance, or registration. EAPCs may be ridden on cycle paths, and anywhere else pedal cycles are allowed.



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Tim's Top Traffic Tips Turkey and Tinsel Edition!

- To classify as an EAPC, it must be fitted with pedals which can propel the bike, a maximum power output of 250 watts which cannot propel the bike at more than 15.5mph. If the rider isn't pedalling, 'twist and go' throttles are only permissible up to a speed of 6 kph (or 3.7 mph). The bike must display the motor's power output, or manufacturer's name and show either the battery voltage or maximum speed.
- It is a matter for a court to decide; however, the Department for Transport (DfT) view an EAPC as a Mechanically Propelled Vehicle (MPV).
- Road Traffic Act offences will be committed where death or serious injury is caused to another person by dangerous or careless/inconsiderate driving, and driving, or being in charge of an MPV, when under influence of drink or drugs.
- The police may seize MPVs when being driven/ridden carelessly or inconsiderately and is causing, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public.
- A driver of a MPV has a duty to stop and provide their details following a collision where personal injury is caused to a person other than the driver, damage is caused to another vehicle or property, or to an animal, other than being transported by that MPV. The drivers name and address (and owner if different) and the identification marks of the vehicle should be provided to a person requiring them. If for any reason the driver does not give their name and address, they must report the collision to the police.
- Any electric cycle that doesn't conform to the EAPC regulations falls under the category of a motorcycle or moped. Such bikes require a licence, registration, and taxation. You must possess a driving licence and wear a crash helmet for safety to ride these.
- More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electrically-assisted-pedal-cycles-eapcs/electrically-assisted-pedal-cycles-eapcs-in-great-britain-information-sheet>



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From: [REDACTED] [Operational Support Services](#)
To: [NWP Employees](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] Top Traffic Tips
Date: 02 December 2024 17:17:40
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Tims Top Traffic Tips - Christmas Edition 2024.pdf](#)

Colleagues

After several years hiatus, please find the return of Tim's Top Traffic Tips..!
The Christmas edition provides information as to the classification and use of **E-Scooters** and **Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs)**.

If you've not much time, the short read / key points are:

- E-scooters are not legal to be ridden on a road or other public place. Section 165 RTA powers of seizure for no insurance apply.
 - EAPCs that conform to the regulations are road legal, can be ridden on a road or other public place, and anywhere where pedal cycles can be ridden. Riders do not require a licence, insurance, or vehicle excise.
 - Although for a court to decide, EAPCs should be treated as Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (MPVs). Riders have a duty to stop and report a road traffic collision (section 170 Road Traffic Act). Offences such as causing death or serious injury by dangerous or careless/inconsiderate driving, and driving / in charge when under influence of drink or drugs also apply (Sections 1-4).
 - Other E-bikes not conforming to EAPC regulations will be motor vehicles for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act.
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