

Op Hornet started off as a City of London Police (CoLP) operation that the Met were assisting in.

The purpose of the Operation continues to take a graduated approach to the increased use of E-Scooters or powered transporters.

This is in line with the Vision Zero approach from MOPAC of which the one year anniversary began on Monday 22nd July 2019.

Op Hornet remains a viable operation for the continued public education and enforcement of E-Scooter and other “powered transporter” use.

What is an E-Scooter?



The term “powered transporters” covers a variety of novel personal transport devices which are mechanically propelled (propelled by a motor) as well as, or instead of, being manually propelled. It includes e-scooters, Segways, hoverboards, go-peds (combustion engine-powered kick-scooters), powered unicycles, and u-wheels. However it does not include E-bicycles which are governed by EAPC regulations.

The definition of “motor vehicle” as set out in the Road Traffic Act 1988 is “any mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads”. There is case law confirming that powered transporters fall within this definition –

- DPP v Saddington [2000] EWHC 409 (Admin)
- Letitia Winter v DPP [2002] EWHC 1524 (Admin)
- Coates v Crown Prosecution Service [2011] EWHC 2032 (Admin)

This topic is also covered in some depth on the Gov.uk [website](#).

As a mechanically propelled vehicle they must comply with various Road Traffic Legislation. Offences include but not limited to –

- Driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence
- Driving / Riding with No Insurance
- Driving / Riding other than on a road
- Contravening a cycle lane



Why now?

Three separate incidents within a space of a week highlighted the dangers of these vehicles continuing to be on the street.

- 12th July 2019 Battersea, London – 35 year old female dies after collision with HGV in Battersea.
- 13th July 2019 Beckenham , London – 14 year old boy sustains serious head injury and airlifted to hospital after losing control and colliding with a bus stop.
- 15th July 2019 Islington, London – RTC, electric scooter rider made off opening themselves up for possible arrest and civil prosecution.



The intent of Op Hornet is to delivery a graduated response to the use of these vehicles.

This began in 2019 with a 30 day period in which the Police gave a warning and provide the DfT information on powered transporters to users.

There has been significant public awareness regarding the illegal use of E-Scooters in the past year. This includes an article on the BBC News website facilitated by Ch.Supt Simon Ovens.

The BBC article can be found at this [link](#).

Should an individual not wish to provide details for the warning to be given officers can consider the offences committed and prosecute where appropriate.



Can I seize an E-Scooter?

Yes – an E-Scooter is defined as “motor vehicle” and therefore may be seized under Section 165A RTA 1988 where the relevant trigger offences have been committed.

Complete the vehicle seizure notice (Form 3708).
(Current version has 3708/16 in top right hand corner).

Place an MPS ratchet seal around the device and record this number on the seizure notice in place of the VIN.

Complete a vehicle condition report (Form 955) and document any damage on the device.

Ensure a CAD has been created covering the seizure.



Seized E-Scooter Recovery

- Officers can personally transport e-scooters to the car pounds. However, they will need to complete a form 955 (vehicle condition report) for each e-scooter upon attendance and ensure they have a CAD covering the seizure of the vehicle(s).
- Recovery of vehicles can also be arranged through CAD via MetCC.
- Recovery can be requested directly from the only current authorised MPS contractor - C&S.



Seized E-Scooter Recovery Administration

- All vehicles seized under 165A RTA 1988 should be transported to an MPS car pound at the conclusion of the operation and not left for any extended period of time at a local police station. A claim can be made for the vehicle within 8 hours of seizure (Where MPS car pound opening hours of 11:30 to 19:30 hours allow).
- Officers are reminded of their legal responsibility to safeguard property that they have seized from damage. We do not own the e-scooter following its seizure, it remains the property of the owner and if damaged they are entitled to seek compensation.
- Ensure that you also use the most recent version of the seizure notice (Form 3708). You can ascertain if you have the correct seizure notice as it should have 3708/16 in the top right hand corner.



Questions ?

A link to the box spreadsheet has been provided to all STT Inspectors to cascade to the relevant staff.

If you are planning an operation or need any kind of assistance
Contact Sgt Steve Wilson – Steven.wilson2@met.police.uk



A copy of the DfT guidance can be provided to anyone using a smart phone camera on this QR code

