



THE ROAD TO LEGAL E-SCOOTERS

E-scooters have become more and more popular across Europe in recent years and have already overtaken traditional bicycles in popularity! They are commonly used for short distance trips and are popping up more frequently in urban spaces. You may be surprised to know however, that despite how popular zipping around on electric scooters is, it is currently against the law to ride an e scooter on a road, footpath, or cycle lane in Ireland. But fear not, Ireland is making strides to legalize e scooters.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

At the moment, electric scooters are legal to own but illegal to use in Ireland. The only way an electric scooter can be used in Ireland is on private land. This is because e-scooters are classed as a mechanically propelled vehicle (MPV). Just like a car, MPV's need to be taxed, insured, registered, and driven by someone with a licence. The problem is that an e-scooter is not able to be taxed insured or registered and so they do not meet the legal criteria to be on Irish roads.

To get around this problem and legalise the use of e-scooters, The Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 are creating a new category of vehicles for e-scooters and other micro-mobility devices. E- scooters will now be considered Powered Personal Transporters under the law! Still, there will be certain regulations you must follow if you want to ride an e- scooter in Ireland and e-scooters will remain illegal until they have been finalised.

DID YOU KNOW?

RIDING AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER IN IRELAND BEFORE THEY ARE LEGALISED COULD COST YOU A FINE IF STOPPED BY GARDAI



WHEN THEY ARE LEGALISED, WHAT RULES WILL I HAVE TO FOLLOW?

It is expected that there will be several rules in place that will have to be followed including that:

- You must be at least 16 years old to use an e-scooter on public roads or in public places.
- Carrying goods on an e-scooters will not be allowed.
- Only one person will be allowed to ride an e-scooter at a time.
- The maximum speed allowed for e-scooters will be 20kmh.
- Riding on footpaths and motorways will not be allowed.