



Department for Transport

M.E. Voisin
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From the Parliamentary
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Your Ref: [REDACTED]

30 July 2024

Dear Mrs Voisin,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 25 June 2024, regarding the death of Mr Abdul Jabar Oryakhel. I was very sorry to hear about his death, and I send my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

I have considered your report carefully and the matters of concern you raised to help prevent similar deaths in the future. I set out my thoughts below.

In your report you state that:

“There appears to be a lack of understanding of the dangers with lithium-ion batteries used for e-bikes and e-scooters. I understand that there is currently no British or European (e.g. BSI or PAS) standard to control what lithium-ion e-bike batteries and chargers can be sold in the UK. From what I am told there is an increase in the number of people buying and using e-bikes and e-scooters. I am aware that other coroner’s have written similar reports but this only goes to emphasise that preventable deaths continue.”

The Department for Transport, the Home Office and the Office for Product Safety and Standards have worked together to understand the issues with lithium-ion batteries and have all published guidance for users of e-cycles and e-scooters on battery safety. The DfT guidance, published in February this year and concerning the safe purchasing, use, charging and storage of batteries can be viewed on the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-to-enhance-e-bike-and-e-scooter-safety

The Home Office-maintained “Fire England” website, containing advice on safe charging of e-cycle and e-scooter batteries, can be viewed on the following link: www.fireengland.uk/news/how-keep-your-home-safe-when-charging-your-e-bike-or-e-scooter

Consumer safety information on e-cycle and e-scooter batteries, published by the Office for Product Safety and Standards, can be viewed on the following link: www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-publishes-consumer-information-on-e-bike-and-e-scooter-battery-safety

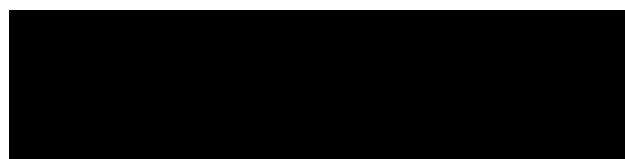
In addition to these published materials, Fire and Rescue Services have sought to actively promote fire safety messaging on e-cycle and e-scooter batteries. The London Fire Brigade’s “Charge Safe” campaign is an example of this, and can be viewed on the following link: www.london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe. Avon Fire and Rescue have also published safety information, and this can be viewed on the following link: www.avonfire.gov.uk/safety/home/electrical-items/e-scooters-bikes

The Office for Product Safety and Standards has commissioned research from Warwick Manufacturing Group to better understand the safety issues associated with the lithium-ion batteries. The outcome of this research, coupled with research from the Department for Transport on how future regulations on e-scooters could be developed (and which contains a section on battery safety) will inform any further action from government. Both pieces of research are scheduled to be published later this year.

I am aware you have also written to the Office for Product Safety and Standards. The safety and enforcement of consumer products, and the role of standards, is part of their remit, and I anticipate they will be best placed to respond to you on this point.

Pending the outcome and publication of the research referred to above, we have concluded that there is no additional action that would be appropriate for the Department for Transport to take at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Minister for Local Transport.
MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT