



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

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Anita Bhardwaj

Area Coroner for the coroner area of Liverpool and Wirral

Sent by email to: [REDACTED]

03 February 2025

Dear Ms Bhardwaj,

Thank you for raising the concern in relation to the death of Luke Albiston O'Donnell on 4th August 2024. It is with great sadness that I read about the circumstances of his death. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) is committed to a culture of learning and improvement and seeks to support fire and rescue services to embed a learning culture. We actively track Prevention of Future Deaths Reports and share them with our members to ensure all opportunities to improve are taken.

In your report you have identified the NFCC as being an organisation that has the power to take action to prevent future fire deaths associated with the charging of electric scooters that are powered by lithium-ion batteries.

We recognise the seriousness and devastating impact that fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in electric scooters can cause to families across the UK and note the increasing occurrences of these types of incidents. We are committed to supporting the sector in delivering impactful prevention campaigns and initiatives. This includes our [Charge Safe - NFCC](#) campaign which sets out public advice for charging e-bikes and e-scooters as well as providing warning signs that a battery could be a fire hazard.

In addition to this, we support and signpost fire and rescue services to the Office for Product Safety and Standards guidance on [Buy Safe, Be Safe: avoid e-bike and e-scooter fires - GOV.UK](#). This campaign provides resources that gives consumers advice about what to look for when purchasing an e-bike or e-scooter as well as advice about maintenance across the equipment's life cycle.

We also have campaign resources available for fire and rescue services on [Recycle your electricals - NFCC](#). This includes links to [Electrical recycling - Where to recycle & donate](#).

As with all prevention activity, we recognise the significant challenge that fire and rescue services have in identifying and delivering behaviour changing interventions to individuals at risk. The growing market for e-bikes and e-scooters means that fire and rescue services are having to focus more resources to understand the demographics and behaviours of individuals that may be prone to these types of fires. To help fire and rescue services with this, we are looking to gain further understanding of the issues through more research. This includes working with our [Academic Collaboration, Evaluation and Research \(ACER\)](#)

[Group - NFCC](#) and our international partners to see what research already exists and identify potential gaps in our knowledge. We can then use this new understanding to tailor and update our campaign materials for fire and rescue services to use.

Product development and innovation is outpacing safety standards, however NFCC is aware of the current Product Regulation and Metrology Bill that was introduced in the House of Lords on the 4 September 2024 which aims to improve the Government's ability to be responsive to new product risks. Previously NFCC gave its backing to Electrical Safety First's Private Members Bill, 'The Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries Bill' which made provisions for improved safety standards of e-bike and e-scooter batteries.

As the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill progresses through Parliament, NFCC will continue to advocate for stronger product safety rules to ensure that there are robust product standards and third-party certification testing requirements in place for e-bikes, e-scooters, chargers and batteries and e-bike conversion kits. Additionally, NFCC will advocate for the introduction of enforceable, mandatory online marketplace regulations to ensure that all e-bikes, e-scooters and related batteries, chargers and conversion kits sold in the UK, whether sold physically or via online platforms, meet UK designated standards.

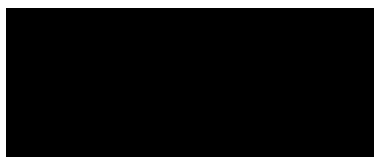
In early 2024, I attended a Ministerial meeting at the Home Office, hosted by the then Fire Minister. This meeting brought together representatives from various Government departments to ensure a shared understanding of the fire safety risks posed by Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) and to discuss current and planned mitigations to manage these risks. I provided the NFCC perspective on PLEV fires. The meeting also focused on data and intelligence, product construction standards and building design, consumer awareness and guidance, online marketplaces and enforcement, and disposal and recycling.

Following the tragic death of Luke, we have been in liaison with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that all learning captured from the incident is processed through our NFCC Organisational Learning arrangements.

In doing this, we will not only be able to share key learning points with UK fire and rescue services, but we will also be able to reflect on national Home Safety Fire Prevention guidance and develop our campaign resources. This will ensure that those who own or operate e-bikes or e-scooters are enabled to understand the risks and prevent similar incidents from occurring in their homes.

Finally, I have taken the immediate step of writing to all Chief Fire Officers specifically to inform them of this and other incidents of this type, providing details of existing resources and the intentions of NFCC to explore further learning and resources. I have also requested their support to raise awareness.

Yours sincerely



Chair National Fire Chiefs Council