

Letter on the regulation of e-bikes

Two people riding e-scooters

Key information

Publication type: General

Publication date: Monday 18 September 2023

Contents

[X](#)

X

The **London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee** has written to the Government raising serious concerns over the regulation of e-scooters and e-bikes following an increasing number of lithium-ion battery-related fires in London.

The Committee is calling on the Department for Business and Trade to outline what action it is taking to address questions over the regulation of online sales of e-bikes and e-scooters, and for it to provide an expected timeline for achieving better regulation.

Lithium-ion batteries, used in e-bikes and e-scooters, are small and lightweight but can store a large amount of energy. As a result, they are volatile under stress and, if damaged or incorrectly charged, can be a fire risk ^[1].

The London Fire Brigade (LFB) has warned that fires involving e-bikes or e-scooters is the fastest growing fire risk in London. They primarily result from faulty e-bike or e-scooter batteries or chargers or from conversion kits sold online.

Three people in London have lost their lives in fires believed to have been caused by a failure of an e-bike's lithium-ion battery, while 51 people have been injured this year ^[2].

The key area of concern is unregulated products, usually cheap in comparison with those that do meet UK standards, which can be bought online.

In a letter to the Department for Business and Trade, the Committee has raised concerns about the worrying increase in the number of lithium-ion battery-related fires in London.

The Committee is particularly concerned that unsafe e-scooter or e-bike charging is taking place in multiple occupancy or multi-storey residential buildings, meaning others can be at risk.

[Read the Letter](#)

[Read the consultation response](#)

1. <https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/product-safety/lithium-ion-batteries/>
2. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2023/august/new-record-high-of-e-bike-and-e-scooter-fires-in-london/>
3. The embargoed letter is attached.
4. [Anne Clarke AM](#), Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee, is available for interview.
5. Find out more about the work of the [Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee](#).
6. As well as investigating issues that matter to Londoners, the London Assembly acts as a check and a balance on the Mayor.

For more information, please contact Emma Bowden in the Assembly Media Office on 07849 303 897. For out of hours media enquiries please call 020 7983 4000 and ask for the Assembly duty press officer.

[Back to table of contents](#)