

## Women’s Pioneer Housing

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title                                 | Electric Cycles and scooters                                                                |
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### 1.0. Introduction

There is a growing use of electrically powered cycles and scooters that provides an alternative to car usage or public transport.

WPH has a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of residents visitors, contractors, or staff, visiting or working in one of our buildings. We have seen over recent months, an increasing number of fire incidents involving e-scooters particularly and this policy sets out our approach to limiting this risk within WPH properties.

### 2.0 Background

During 2021, the London Fire brigade attended over 70 fires involving e-scooters and e-bikes, caused largely by faulty batteries or chargers. In March 2022, there was a serious fire at Browning House caused by an e-scooter, and in June 2022, a similar fire in a block of flats in Shepherd’s Bush.

### 3.0 Classification

#### 3.1. Electric Cycles

Electric cycles that meet the current Electric Assisted Pedal cycles (EAPC) regulations, minus a few exceptions, are treated as normal bicycles. The basic requirements are:

- the cycle must be fitted with pedals that can propel it;
- the electric motor must not exceed a maximum continuous rated power of 250W;
- and the electric motor must not offer electrical assistance beyond a speed 15.5mph.

Any other e-bikes that do not meet the EAPC regulations are subject to type approval and any associated registration, tax and licencing.

### **3.2 Electric Scooters**

Currently, under UK law, e-scooters, alongside hoverboards and electric unicycles, are considered “**powered transporters**”. This classification means that it's illegal to use them on pavements, cycle lanes or in pedestrianised areas, so you would only be able to use a scooter on private property.

### **4.0 Storage**

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, all corridors, staircases and other escape routes must be kept clear of obstructions and combustible materials. Consequently, electric cycles or scooters cannot be stored or charged within these areas nor in any other communal areas within the building.

Recent fires have shown that there appears to be a high risk of malfunction when charging electric cycles or scooters and therefore, WPH will not permit the charging of such vehicles within flats or any other areas of WPH properties.

Use within buildings

Electric cycles or electric scooters are not to be ridden within WPH Properties.

### **5.0 Requesting permission**

Unless regulations or classification change, permission will not be granted under any circumstances for the storage or charging of such vehicles within WPH flats or internal communal areas. This applies to residents, visitors, contractors or care and support staff.

## 6.0 Contact officer

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