



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: SO17016

28 April 2021

Dear Transport for London,

Re: E-scooter trial in Richmond Park

I am writing to you about the Department for Transport's authorisation of an e-scooter trial in the constituency of Richmond Park. I understand that this will be one of several trials across London to assess the safety and impacts of e-scooters on the road.

I welcome this trial as an opportunity to find out whether e-scooters have a role to play in non-carbon-emitting transport, or whether the risks to e-scooter users and pedestrians are too great to overcome. Sales of privately-owned e-scooters continue to boom, even though they are illegal to use on public roads. As such, this trial is critical to helping the Government to decide whether e-scooters should be allowed on the road and, if so, what rules should apply to them.

While e-scooters offer a greener way to travel than taking the car, which helps to reduce emissions and improve air quality, many of my constituents have raised significant concerns about their safety. I am conscious of the fact that e-scooters are particularly difficult for blind and partially sighted people to identify and avoid because they operate quietly, and that the risk of a collision or near miss could force people with sight loss to avoid independent travel altogether. Rental e-scooters parked on pavements also create a trip hazard, risking injury for pedestrians. To this effect, any decision to legalise e-scooters should consider the scale of unsafe pavement use and the resources police forces would need to ensure pavements are safe for pedestrians.

I would be grateful if you could provide further information about the upcoming e-scooter trial. In particular, I am keen to know how you intend to mitigate potential non-compliance and manage e-scooter parking in the constituency of Richmond Park.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Olney".

Sarah Olney MP