

# MOBILITY SCOOTERS & MOTORISED WHEELCHAIRS GUIDANCE

## What you need to know before you purchase a scooter?



### Introduction

Due to increasing use of scooters and motorised wheelchairs and the limited provision for storage, all existing and future residents must obtain permission in writing to Teign Housing before bringing their scooter to the scheme.

Current residents who are thinking of purchasing a scooter, must before making a purchase, discuss and agree with Teign Housing how they can store it.

If residents bring scooters on their scheme without prior authorisation they will be asked to remove them.

## What is the difference between a mobility scooter and a motorised wheelchair?

**Mobility scooters**-are vehicles with three or four wheels and steered using a bicycle style handlebar. They are primarily intended for use outside.

**Motorised wheelchairs**-usually look more like a traditional wheelchair, but with batteries and a motor. They are intended for use inside a building or the immediate vicinity. They are normally stored and recharged within the Resident's flat.

## Which scooters / wheelchairs are covered by this guidance?

The DVLA split scooters and wheelchairs into three categories:

Class 1 - Manual wheelchairs, i.e. self-propelled or attendant propelled, not electrically propelled. These are not required to be registered with DVLA. These are not covered in this policy.

Class 2 - Powered wheelchairs and scooters – intended for footway use only with a maximum speed of 4mph and an unladen weight not exceeding 113.4kgs. These are not required to be registered with DVLA.

Class 3 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters with a maximum speed of 8mph generally intended for use on roads/highways. They must be fitted with a device capable of limiting the maximum speed to 4mph for use when travelling on footways. The unladen weight must not exceed 150kgs. These are required to be registered with DVLA.

This policy covers class 2 and 3 scooters and wheelchairs.

## Where can I store my scooter/ wheelchair?

**Communal store** Ideally you should keep your mobility scooter in a communal scooter store on the scheme. However, it must be appreciated that such facilities are limited and many schemes do not have them.

**Own flat** Where a communal store is not available, you should keep it in your flat, if it is safe and practicable to do so.

**Other communal areas** If neither of these options is available, Teign Housing will seek other safe, suitable indoor areas within the scheme's communal facilities.

Residents should not store a scooter or motorised wheelchair etc against the outside of the property without first having discussed the issues with Teign Housing and obtained permission. This is to allow Teign Housing to assess the risk of arson, and complete a Health & Safety Risk Assessment to allow a fully informed judgement to be made.

### **What if none of these options is available to me?**

Where the demand for spaces exceeds the available options, Teign Housing will set up a waiting list. This will ensure that residents are given permission to bring their scooter on the Scheme following a needs based assessment. However, on some Schemes, it may also be possible to consider alternatives including:

- Storage in a garage. You will be responsible for any local arrangements if you choose this option
- Locally agreed outdoor parking. However, remembering that you are responsible for the safety and security of your scooter.

### **Will my scooter/wheelchair cause a potential hazard in the communal areas?**

Storage and charging of mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs may create hazard, especially in communal areas. They offer an increased fire loading and potential source of ignition. As such, Teign Housing is required under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to reduce the risk of fire within the communal areas.

To help us maintain a safe environment, the following safeguards must be in place:

- Mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs **must not** be stored in any part of a corridor or stairwell that might reduce the escape width, cause an obstruction, trip or fire

hazard. However, a corridor recess may be suitable for storage, subject to a risk assessment undertaken by Teign Housing.

- The mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair must be electrically safe. Any charging equipment used in communal parts should be subject to a portable appliance test, as part of the annual Scheme electrical testing programme. This may be chargeable to the mobility scooter owner.

### **Do I need insurance cover?**

Currently there is no legal requirement for you to have insurance for your Mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair. However, you should be aware that you will be liable to pay compensation or third party claims if you have an accident or personal injury to third party or, cause damage to Teign Housing property (walls, doors, lift car etc).

- If you use or own a mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair you should consider taking out appropriate Liability Insurance.
- If you store your mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair inside your flat, you should tell your insurance company, as the premium payable on contents may change.

### **Does Teign Housing have the right to refuse my request?**

Yes, we reserve the right to refuse a request made by residents to bring their scooters onto the scheme. All refusals will be based on the outcome of a risk assessment and/or space limitation and if adaptations are necessary the availability of funding.