

Sue Brown

Title: **Chair**

Association: **Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS)**

Transparency with E-Scooter Regulations

E-scooter regulations are still months, or even years, away. Appearing before the Transport Select Committee recently, Transport Minister Jesse Norman admitted that proposals are still a long way off, adding that this will also be preceded by a consultation process. This news will be hugely disappointing for anyone concerned about the impact of e-scooters on health and the general public.

With over 2,000 people injured by e-scooters, including some deaths, there's an ever-growing need to just get on with it. As one Committee member noted, the UK is the last major country in Europe to bring forward a regulatory framework.

The Motor Insurers' Bureau also believe that accidents with cars and uninsured e-scooters add 3% or 4% to the cost of motor insurance premiums. With the details having not been published, any scrutiny can only be a rough estimate. However, with gross written motor premiums exceeding £20bn, this would translate to costs of around £600-800 million per year to UK motorists, adding around £20-25 per premium. If this became common knowledge among British motorists, it's very likely that calls to regulate e-scooters would intensify considerably.

The MIB is, of course, legally obliged to compensate the non-fault victims of accidents involving uninsured e-scooters. These victims fully deserve to be protected. However, with 1,349 collisions involving e-scooters in the year ending June 2022 - not to mention apparent costs of around £600-800m - this would roughly translate to around £450,000-£600,000 per collision.

Clearly, such figures would be absurd, which is why there's an urgent need for this estimate to be published - opening the door to full scrutiny and workings. Motorists are already facing hefty premiums at a difficult time through rising repair costs. Meanwhile, a reduced bill remains for personal injury claims. We deserve full transparency and disclosure of these figures so motorists can see what they're paying for.

