



Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Brighton & Hove Fire Safety Office
English Close, Hove
East Sussex, BN3 7EE

Telephone: (01323) 462130
Switchboard: (0845) 130 8855
Fax: (01273) 746952

In the case of emergency please dial 999
Email: brightonandhove.firesafety@esfrs.org

Mr Daniel Gray
Oxford Street Housing Office
20-22 Oxford Street
Brighton
BN1 4LA

8 December 2009

please ask for
Yannick Dubois

our ref
YD/JMG 18689

your ref

Dear Sir,

**REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005
PREMISES: COMMON WAYS, JUBILEE COURT, THE CRESCENT, BRIGHTON**

Following our telephone conversation, I am writing to you to state the Fire Authority's position regarding mobility scooters.

The means of escape in sleeping accommodation must remain sterile. Mobility scooters present a significant fire hazard and they have already been responsible for a number of fires across the UK and should not be stored in the means of escape.

The storage of mobility scooters should be assessed in your fire safety risk assessment. The following points should be taken into consideration when doing your assessment:

Largely the type of battery that the scooter has and the style of the scooter govern the storage of mobility scooters.

- If the scooter is a "fold-up" type, it can be stored in the individual's property;
- Many scooters have sealed-cell batteries and potentially these can be stored in communal areas (but not means of escape). There are no fire regulations that relate directly to such batteries;
- Occasionally scooters have a chemical battery, in which case it cannot be stored in communal areas;
- An outdoor storage area would be ideal. If there is an area that may be suitable, then this should be considered for use in the future;
- A trained member of staff on the individual schemes should carry out a risk assessment. The assessment should consider the manufacturer's information, including the age, model and condition of the scooter;

Con'd

For home Fire Safety advice visit
www.firekills.gov.uk



- 2 -

- The scooter must be serviced regularly and this is the responsibility of the owner;
- If the scooters cannot be charged in an outdoor area, all charging must be carried out inside the flat by removing the battery and taking it inside the individual flat. In addition batteries must be removed from scooters when the residents are at home to prevent them catching fire. This essentially removes the ignition source;
- Charging of the batteries should be carried out in the day if possible on schemes. Scooters should not be left on charge overnight.

These are some of the conditions you should take into consideration. Could you please forward to this office the fire safety risk assessment regarding this issue for Jubilee Court and I trust you will also be looking at all your sheltered housing schemes where mobility scooters are stored.

Should you require further advice or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully



**FIRE SAFETY OFFICER
FOR CHIEF FIRE OFFICER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE**