



PRIMA
GROUP

Mobility Scooter Policy

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Mobility Scooter Policy

1 Aim of the Policy

Prima Group have introduced this Policy to ensure a fair, consistent, transparent and equitable approach to all tenants in the management of mobility scooters across all of Prima Group properties.

Prima Group are committed in meeting its statutory obligations and to provide tenants with clear guidance and procedures for the safe use and storage of mobility scooters wherever permitted in Prima Group properties.

2 Policy Statement

The use of mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs is becoming more popular in the community. Our properties have not been built to take into account the use, charging and storage of powered mobility scooters and the design of homes and communal areas does not easily allow alterations to meet the increased requests for such facilities.

Prima Group recognises and fully supports its tenants wishes to maintain independent living; Prima Group also recognises that mobility scooters can enhance the quality of life of those tenants who are limited in their ability to access the wider community because of disability and/or health related issues. Wherever possible and practical, Prima Group aim to accommodate tenants' requests to keep a mobility scooter.

3 Definitions

Mobility scooters are defined as 'invalid carriages' under the Use of Invalid Highways Regulations 1988 and are divided into three categories.

- Class 1 applies to manual wheelchairs, which are not covered in this Policy. No permission is required.
- Class 2 applies to any mobility scooter or powered wheelchair that is designed for use on the footpath or pavement and is not allowed on the public highway or roads. They are limited to a maximum speed of 4mph and are not required to be registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). Class 2 also includes battery operated wheelchairs. These require permission and a risk assessment.
- Class 3 applies to any mobility scooter or powered wheelchair that can be used on both the footpath/pavement and is limited to 8mph on the highway/roads. Class 3 must be licensed with the DVLA for road use and cannot be operated by anyone under the age of 14. These require permission and a risk assessment.
- This Policy refers to Class 2 or 3 vehicles as defined above or any powered wheelchair.
- For the purpose of this Policy, mobility scooters that are not specifically designed for mobility use will not be permitted, neither will any equipment that may use alternative power, including but not limited to, a combustion engine or flammable fluids.

4 Policy

Customers must ask prior permission from Prima to have mobility scooters stored or charged at their address, in order that the Group can carry out a risk assessment.

We will not withhold permission unreasonably and will aim to accommodate requests where possible.

The risk assessment will review collision points, trip hazards, potential fire risk, risk from charging and batteries and obstruction or restriction of escape routes. Due to the fire risk posed we would normally expect the scooter to be stored externally and at a prescribed distance from the property.

Before granting permission, we will need to see proof of adequate insurance, for Class 2 and Class 3 scooters. Prima will not accept any responsibility for scooters stored in a property, development, or grounds.

Where designated mobility scooter storage and charging facilities are available to customers and these spaces are full, we will not be able to allow new requests.

Where permission is granted to store a mobility scooter in a designated communal area with charging facilities, customers may be asked to make a contribution towards the electricity used by the mobility scooter.

We may revoke permission to store a mobility scooter if:

- A scooter has been unused for twelve (12) months, in order that the space can be used by another tenant;
- Insurance is no longer in place;
- The safety guidance on mobility scooter usage and storage is not being followed.

5 Monitoring, Delivery and Performance

All requests for mobility scooter storage and accommodation will be addressed to the Asset Manager or in the case of our over 55's development, the Prima Group Scheme Manager. Any applications and outcomes will be recorded on QL and these will be reviewed annually by the Asset Manager or Scheme Manager.

6 Related Prima Group Policies and Strategies

Fire Safety Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Aids and Adaptations Policy
Risk and Assurance Framework
Fire Management Procedures

This list is not exhaustive. All Policies are available on SharePoint.

7 Legislation, Regulation, Standards and Guidance

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1988
Regulatory Reform Act (Fire Safety) Order 2005
Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988
Equality Act 2010
The Care Act 2014
Local Government Association Mobility Scooter Guidance 2017
The National Fire Chiefs Council Fire Safety in Specialised Housing 2017
The National Fire Chiefs Council Mobility Scooter Guidance for Residential Buildings 2018
Department of Transport; Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs on the road Update 2018.
Housing Learning and Improvement Network; *Turning the corner: managing the use of mobility vehicles from a housing perspective* 2012.
Fire Protection Association; *RC59 Risk Control: Fire Safety When Charging Electric Vehicles*. 2012

8 Document Control Data

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