



**Falkland Islands Government
Law and Regulation Directorate**

**Public Consultation on the regulation of electric bicycles (e-bikes) in
the Falkland Islands**

Consultation topic: FIG is proposing to make a certain class of e-bike exempt from the definition of a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Ordinance 1948, and so remove the need for owners to fulfil the current legal requirements to have a licence to ride one, and to register, tax and insure it.

This consultation asks your views on the proposed definition of an exempt class e-bike.

Current e-bike owners, and those who intend to purchase an e-bike, are asked if their e-bike would be considered exempt under the proposed definition.

Target population: We welcome responses from everyone who lives in the Islands, whether you live in Stanley, Camp, the outer islands or MPC.

Duration: This consultation will run for 3 weeks from 30 May to 19 June 2022.
The survey should take you less than 5 minutes to complete.

How to respond: There are three ways you can respond to this consultation:

- 1) The quickest and easiest way, and to help us save paper, is to complete the online survey, available at www.fig.gov.fk/policy/consultation
- 2) You can also download and fill in a pdf of the survey, available from www.fig.gov.fk/policy/consultation and email it to us at SAlazia@sec.gov.fk
- 3) If you prefer, you can complete a paper version available from the Post Office and the Christie Community Library, or you can ask for one to be posted to you by contacting us on 27420 or by email: SAlazia@sec.gov.fk

Completed paper surveys can be placed in the dedicated response boxes in the Post Office and Community Library, or can be posted to the point of contact below.

Enquiries: If you have any queries about the consultation, please contact:

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What is an e-bike?

Although definitions vary across jurisdictions, electrically assisted bicycles, or 'e-bikes', usually refers to bicycles that have functional pedals and are assisted by an electric motor. E-bikes have three main components: a motor, a battery, and a control mode via pedal or throttle assistance.

In general:

- e-bike motors range from 200 watts to 1000 watts
- Speeds are usually less than 28mph (45km/h)
- The range of an e-bike averages around 100km
- E-bike weight ranges from 20-45kg

How are e-bikes currently regulated in the Falkland Islands?

There is no legislation that relates specifically to e-bikes in the Falkland Islands. However, under the Road Traffic Ordinance (RTO 1948), e-bikes fall under the same definition as a motor vehicle.

This means they are subject to the same legal requirements as a motor vehicle and must be registered, taxed, insured, have an identification mark (a visible licence plate), and the rider must have a Class A motor vehicle licence.

What does FIG want to do?

FIG wants to make it easier for people in the Falkland Islands to own and use e-bikes.

We are proposing to make a certain class of e-bikes exempt from the definition of a motor vehicle under the RTO 1948, and so remove the need for owners to fulfil the current legal requirements to have a licence to ride one, and to register, tax and insure it.

To do this, we must first define what qualifies as an exempt class of e-bike, and FIG is proposing to adopt the current UK definition:

'A pedal cycle with pedal assistance in the form of an auxiliary electric motor having a maximum continuous rated power of less than or equal to 250 watts, where the output of the motor is cut off when the cyclist stops pedalling and is otherwise progressively reduced and finally cut off before the vehicle speed reaches 15.5mph (25 km/h)'.

This means that to fall under the definition of an exempt class of e-bike:

- The e-bike must have functioning pedals to propel it forward
- The motor must have a maximum power outage of no more than 250w
- The motor must not provide power assistance after the bike has reached 15.5mph

If an e-bike exceeds any of these limits, it would no longer be classified as an exempt class of e-bike. It would instead come under the motor vehicle laws and would require a licence to ride one as well as being subject to registration, tax and insurance.



Question 1. Do you think that this definition is appropriate for the Falkland Islands context?

Yes

No

Unsure

If not, please explain why:

Question 2. Do you currently own an e-bike?

Yes

No, but I'm interested in/ intend on buying one

No, and I do not intend to

Question 3. If you own an e-bike, or if you intend to purchase one:

Yes

No

Unsure

Not applicable

Does it have pedals which can propel it?

Is the maximum continuous rated power of the electric motor 250 Watts or less?

Does the electrical assistance cut-off when the bike reached 15.5 mph?

Does it have a throttle?

If it does have a throttle, is it limited to providing starting assistance only?



Question 4. FIG is proposing that an exempt class of e-bike must not be ridden on the road by anyone under the age of 14 years. Do you agree with this proposed age limit?

Yes

No

Unsure

If not, please explain why:

Question 5. FIG is proposing that the wearing of safety helmets while riding an exempt class of e-bike is voluntary, as it currently is with pedal cycles. Do you agree that wearing a helmet while riding an exempt class of e-bike is up to the individual rider?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please provide a reason for your response:



Question 6. How long have you lived in the Falkland Islands?

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Less than 1 year | 11 – 20 years |
| 1 – 5 years | More than 20 years |
| 6 – 10 years | |

Question 7. Where do you spend most of your time living?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Stanley | An outer island |
| East Falkland | MPC |
| West Falkland | |
- Other, please specify:

Question 8. What age group are you?

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 16 – 18 | 36 – 45 | Over 65 |
| 19 – 25 | 46 – 55 | |
| 26 – 35 | 56 – 65 | |

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

If you are happy to be contacted in relation to your responses,
please provide your contact details below:

Name:

Email address:

Phone number: