CJ/S7/26/12/1

Criminal Justice Committee
Wednesday 18 November 2026
12th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Crime and antisocial behaviour associated with e-bikes and e-scooters

Introduction

1. At its meeting on Wednesday 28 October, the Criminal Justice Committee agreed to take forward an inquiry into crime and antisocial behaviour associated with e-bikes and e-scooters.

2. The Committee's inquiry will consider the causes and impact of antisocial and criminal use of e-bikes and e-scooters, and identify the enforcement measures required to make communities safer, while looking ahead to identify how prevention and enforcement measures could be strengthened.

3. On Monday 16 November, the Committee met with Recharge Youth Forum to gather evidence from young people on the causes, impact and solutions to crime and antisocial behaviour involving e-bikes and e-scooters. A summary of the evidence gathered will be published on the inquiry webpage in due course.

Written evidence received

4. To inform its scrutiny, the Committee published a call for views. The published responses are available on the Committee's Citizen Space webpage.

5. At its meeting on 28 October, the Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice seeking an update on the Scottish Government's work to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour associated with e-bikes and e-scooters. The Cabinet Secretary's response is expected in due course.

6. In advance of today's meeting, Police Scotland has provided written evidence to the Committee. The written submission has been published on the inquiry webpage.

Today's meeting

7. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from the following witnesses:

    - Andrew Barclay, Superintendent, Deputy Head of Road Policing, Police Scotland

    - Scott McCarren, Chief Superintendent, Head of Road Policing, Police Scotland

    - Will Linden, Deputy Head, Scottish Violence Reduction Unit

8. The Committee is taking evidence from Police Scotland and the Violence Reduction Unit at the outset of the inquiry to establish the current operational and enforcement frameworks before gathering evidence from other stakeholders. The evidence session is intended to establish a baseline of evidence to inform the Committee's work by exploring the current legal and policy landscape, identifying what powers police currently have and considering what is required to tackle the issue. The session will likely explore:

    - the scale and nature of criminal and antisocial behaviour involving e-bikes and e-scooters
    - the current legal and policy landscape
    - effectiveness and limitations of enforcement measures
    - what preventative and enforcement action is required to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour involving e-bikes and e-scooters

Next steps

9. In November, the Committee will gather evidence through engagement with youth workers, community police officers, a community group and people with lived experience.

10. In December, the Committee will take evidence from the Scottish Government. The Committee will use the evidence gathered to scrutinise the Scottish Government's plans to tackle antisocial and criminal e-bike and e-scooter use, put suggested methods for prevention and enforcement to the Scottish Government and explore whether adequate resources will be made available to address this issue.

11. The Committee's work will conclude with a short report, including recommendations to the Scottish Government.

Clerks to the Committee
November 2026