

What can we do about nuisance motorcycles?

Powers to seize

The police can seize motorcycles and arrest riders that are causing problems for residents. The cost of returning a motorcycle is over £100 and repeat offenders are likely to have their motorcycles scrapped. Parents of under 18s are liable for fines and may be charged with 'aiding and abetting' if they are the motorcycle owner and allow it to be used illegally. This is also the case if they buy or supply petrol for an illegal motorcycle. Owners can be prosecuted as well as riders.

Powers under the Environmental Protection Act

Noise caused by nuisance motorcycles can be a particular concern for residents. Doncaster Council's enforcement team has powers under the Environmental Protection Act to take action. Following service of a Legal Notice, further offences would result in the motorcycle being seized and a prosecution of the rider, even when the bike has been ridden on private land with the owner's permission. This can result in a fine of up to £5000 and the motorcycle being crushed.

To drive on the road legally riders will need:

Driving Licence and Insurance

A driving licence is required to ride a motorcycle. Learners must complete the appropriate CBT course to allow them to ride a motorcycle up to 125cc. To ride anything higher than this a motorcycle test is required.

A motorcycle must have insurance to be in any public place, whether the motorcycle is being ridden, is parked, or is only being pushed.

Test Certificate

A current MOT Certificate will be required for all motorcycles more than three years old. This is required whether the motorcycle is being ridden, parked or is being pushed on the highway.

Tax and Registration

To be on the road legally, a motorcycle must have a registration number and a current road tax disc, again, whether the motorcycle is being ridden, is parked, or is only being pushed.

To be on the road legally, a motorcycle must have essential equipment fitted which is in good working order, including lights, brakes, brake-lights, horn, speedometer, good tyres etc. These are required even if the motorcycle is only being pushed.

Without all of the above, riders are breaking the law and run the risk of fines, confiscation, prosecution or even imprisonment.

A guide to reporting motorcycle nuisance

If you are experiencing a problem in your area you can report concerns to Doncaster Council on 01302 736000.



www.doncaster.gov.uk/illegalmotorcycling

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Introduction

Illegal motorcycles and riders are a menace and a danger to other road users and pedestrians and pose a serious threat to public safety. We want to make you aware of the laws about owning and riding motorcycles so that owners/riders can behave responsibly and people who are affected by motorcycle nuisance know how to report it and what we can do about it.

The police and council are working in partnership to combat the problem and have a selection of powers at their disposal that can lead to seizing nuisance motorcycles.



Illegal Motorcycling

If it's causing you a problem – shop them and we will stop them!

How do I know what's illegal?

Motorcycles that are causing alarm, distress or annoyance to the public are usually driven 'off road' and are most typically found on public footpaths, parks, fields or privately owned land.

Public places off-road

Riding a motorcycle on council owned land such as footpaths, tracks, parks and fields is an offence and anyone who is caught can be fined in excess of £100.

Private land

Riding a motorcycle on private land, without the landowners permission is an offence of 'riding on land other than a road' and landowners are entitled to sue people who break these laws.

Even if a rider has permission to use a piece of land, this doesn't mean they are exempt from the law. All land (public or private) including parks, playing fields, grass verges, farmland and other private land is under constant threat of criminal damage by illegal motorcycles. If riders are causing criminal damage they can be arrested, ordered to pay the cost of the repairs or sued in the County Court.

Footpaths alongside roads

Footpaths alongside the road, as far as the law is concerned, actually form part of the road. Pushing a motorcycle along such a footpath means that the motorcycle and rider are on the road. Crash helmets must be worn by all motorcycle riders. Not to do so is a criminal offence so helmets must also be worn when a motorbike is being pushed along a road or footpath.

