



Changing the law that covers mobility vehicles

Tell us what you think



April 2010

Easy Read

This booklet asks what you think about planned changes to the law that covers mobility vehicles.

If you have any questions, you can contact

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About mobility vehicles

Mobility vehicles are sometimes called invalid carriages.

Mobility vehicles let disabled people and people who cannot walk very far or very well get around. It also lets them stay independent.



Mobility vehicles are put into 1 of 3 Classes.

- Class 1 is a wheelchair that the user has to move by hand or it has to be pushed by another person.
- Class 2 is a powered wheelchair or a powered mobility scooter that cannot go faster than 4 miles an hour.
- Class 3 is a powered wheelchair or a powered mobility scooter that cannot go faster than 8 miles an hour. These mobility vehicles must be fitted with a device that stops them going faster than 4 miles an hour when they are used on the pavement.

We look at 2 types of mobility vehicle in this booklet.

- Mobility scooter.
- Powered wheelchair.

Mobility scooter

A mobility scooter helps people who cannot stand up for very long and people who cannot walk very far or very well. Mobility scooters are often used by older people.

Many people who use mobility scooters do not think they are disabled.

Powered wheelchair

A powered wheelchair is often the only thing a disabled person can use to get around.



Keeping people safe

The number of people using mobility vehicles is growing. The government is worried about the safety of people who use mobility vehicles and the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

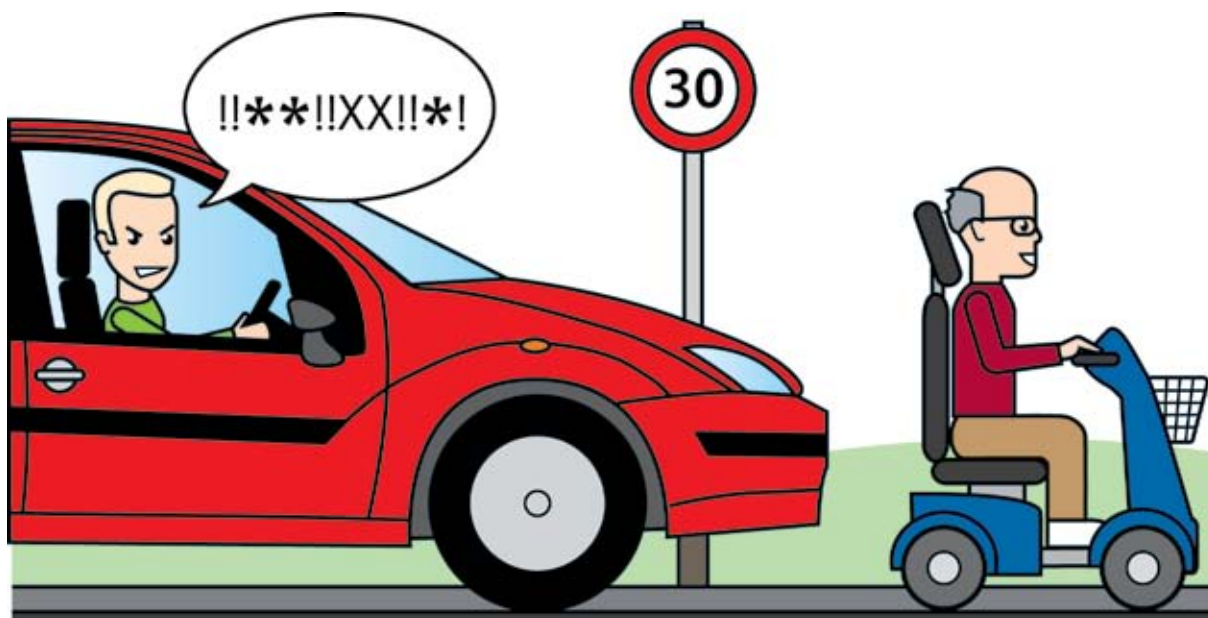
In 2005 there were thought to be between 70,000 and 100,000 powered mobility vehicles. We now think that there could be as many as 330,000 people using a mobility vehicle

But we know that the number of people who get hurt by a mobility vehicle is very low.



Changing the law that covers mobility vehicles – tell us what you think

Some people have told the government that they are worried about the way mobility vehicles are made. For example, the speed they can go. People are also worried if the checks about who can own and use a mobility vehicle are not good enough.



We have talked to people who have an interest in mobility vehicles about the things that could be changed. These talks helped us to work out what questions we should ask in this **consultation**.

Consultation

A consultation is when we ask people what they think about things, like our plans.

What the government wants to do

The government is thinking about changing the law that covers mobility vehicles and we want to know what you think.

Why do we need to change the law?

Over the last few years more people have started to use mobility vehicles to get around. As around 330,000 people now use mobility vehicles, the law may need changing.

Mobility vehicles are not just used by older people, but as more people get older, more people will use mobility vehicles.



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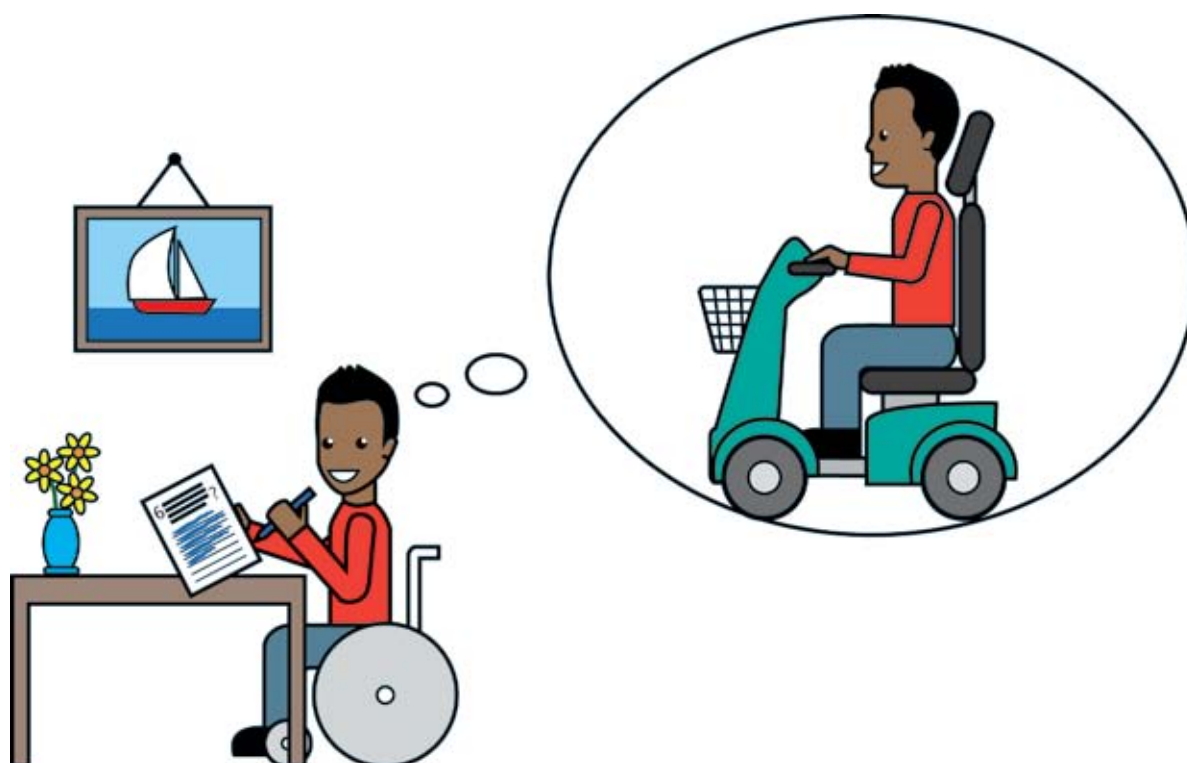
Any changes aim to keep helping disabled people get around. The changes will also make it safer for people who use mobility vehicles, pedestrians and other road users.

The main laws that cover mobility vehicles are the

- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.
- Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988. This law is also called the 1988 Regulations.

In 2005 a report was written called A review of Class 2 and Class 3 powered wheelchairs and powered scooters (Invalid carriages). In this booklet we call this the 2005 Review.

We want to know what you think about the changes that may be made. A lot of these changes were talked about in the 2005 Review.



Changing the law that covers mobility vehicles – tell us what you think

We would like you to answer the questions at the back of this booklet. We also want to hear about anything else you would like to say about the planned changes.

This **consultation** is different to the **consultation** that started on 5 January 2010 about people using small, one person, electric personal vehicles on roads and cycle tracks and issues about electric pedal cycles.

When we have looked at all the replies we get about this **consultation**, we will have more **consultations** about what you have told us.



Telling us what you think

This **consultation** started on 3 March 2010.

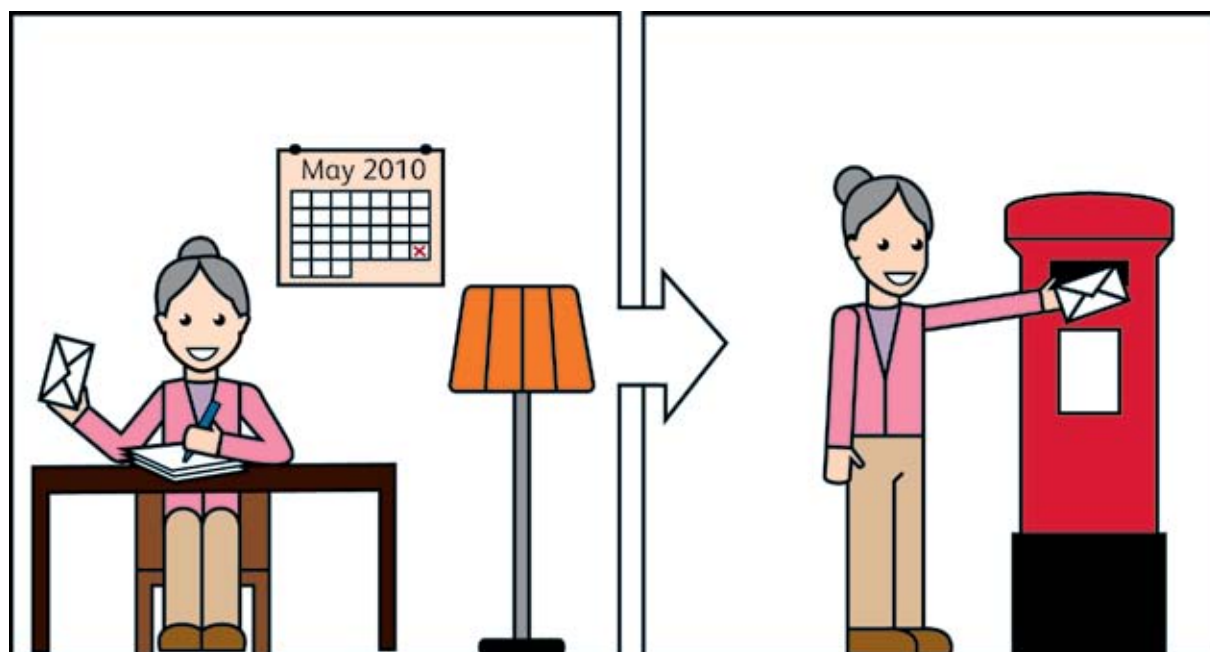
We would like anyone who is interested in the issues that this **consultation** is looking at to tell us what they think.

How to tell us what you think

Tell us what you think by sending a letter to this address.

Mobility Vehicles Consultation
Department for Transport
Zone 2/15
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

You need to tell us what you think by **28 May 2010**. This is the date the **consultation** ends.



Changing the law that covers mobility vehicles – tell us what you think

Please tell us if the views are your own or those of a group. If the views are those of a group, please tell us about the people in the group and how you brought together the views from the group.

If you know anyone who you think will want to be involved in this **consultation** please share this booklet with them. Or tell them to get in touch with us for a copy of the booklet.



Freedom of information

This **consultation** is covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This means that if you tell us what you think about the government's ideas for changing the law that covers mobility vehicles, anyone can ask us to tell them what you and everyone else told us.

This includes things like your name. And these people may use this information in things they write. This means that if you tell us things like your name, you are also telling us we can give this information to people who ask us for it.

If you do not want us to do this, you could tell us less about yourself. For example, you might give us just your first name and the town you live in.

If you do not want us to tell other people what you think about the planned changes to the law that covers mobility vehicles please tell us why. Even then, unless you have a good reason, the Freedom of Information Act may mean that we have to tell people.

If you get in touch with us by email we cannot be sure that other people will not see your email.

What will happen next

After this **consultation**, the Department for Transport will look at all the replies and write a report about the replies.

This report will be put on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk but you can get a paper copy if you want one.

The questions in the consultation

There are 34 questions. You do not have to answer them all. If you need more room to write your answers, use a separate sheet of paper.

We would also like to know if you use a mobility vehicle.

Question 1

The words invalid carriage are used in the law when it talks about mobility vehicles. Many people have said this is old fashioned and not very nice.

Do you think powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters should be called invalid carriages or should they be called something else?

Question 2

If you think powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters should not be called invalid carriages, what do you think they should be called?

Question 3

Instead of calling mobility vehicles Class 2 and Class 3, do you think we should use words that say what they are in a better way?

For example, calling a Class 2 mobility vehicle a slower speed mobility vehicle. And calling a Class 3 mobility vehicle a faster speed mobility vehicle.

Question 4

At the moment the law treats powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters in the same way. This means it is hard to change the law because it may make it harder for disabled people who use powered wheelchairs to get around.

We think it may be a good idea to treat powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters in different ways.

Do you think the law should treat mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs in the same way or do you think they should each have their own group?

Question 5

Most people think that mobility vehicles that are used on the pavement should not go faster than 4 miles an hour.

But some people think that Class 3 mobility vehicles that are used on the road should be able to go faster than 8 miles an hour.

Do you think that a Class 3 vehicle should be able to go faster than 8 miles an hour when it is being used on the road?

Question 6

If you think a Class 3 vehicle should be able to go faster than 8 miles an hour when it is used on the road

- How fast do you think it should be able to go?
- Why do you think this?

Question 7

At the moment a Class 2 mobility vehicle should not weigh more than 113.4 kilograms before someone sits on it. And a Class 3 mobility vehicle should not weigh more than 150 kilograms before someone sits on it.

These weight limits aim to protect other road users if there is an accident.

Do you think this is right or should the vehicles be allowed to weigh more?

Question 8

If you think Class 2 mobility vehicles should be allowed to weigh more than 113.4 kilograms and Class 3 mobility vehicles should be allowed to weigh more than 150 kilograms

- What do you think they should weigh?
- Why do you think this?

Question 9

Mobility vehicles are made to carry just 1 person.

Do you think some mobility vehicles should be made so that if the parent of a baby or a young child uses a mobility vehicle, they can take the baby or the young child with them as a passenger?

Question 10

If you think mobility vehicles should be allowed to weigh more, or that they should be allowed to carry a baby or a young child as a passenger

- Do you have any information or details to explain your reasons?
- Do you think the government should do more checks and test if these changes could be made?

Question 11

Do you think we have the **technology** that could cut down the chance of a mobility vehicle running into someone and hurting them? For example a device that stops a vehicle automatically.

Technology

This is when groups and organisations use inventions or the latest science to make things work better or make new things.

If yes, what **technology** are you thinking about?

Question 12

Do you think that we should only let Class 2 mobility vehicles and Class 3 mobility vehicles weigh more if new **technology** is used?

Question 13

Do you think that more should be done to make mobility vehicles easier to see? This would make it safer for the mobility vehicle user and other road users and pedestrians.

Question 14

If you think more should be done to make mobility vehicles easier to see, what do you think should be done?

Question 15

At the moment people have to be aged 14 before they can use a Class 3 vehicle on the road.

Do you think this age limit should be changed? If you do think the age limit should be changed should it be made higher or lower?

Question 16

If you think the age limit of 14 to use a Class 3 vehicle should be made lower, what do you think the age limit should be?

Question 17

How can we make the information and advice about using mobility vehicles better for people who want to use a mobility vehicle?

Question 18

Do you think that people who want to use a mobility vehicle should be trained and then have to take a test to see if they are fit to drive a mobility vehicle?

Question 19

If you think people should be trained and then have to take a test to see if they are fit to drive a mobility vehicle

- How do you think the training and the test should be set up?
- How do you think the training and the test should be paid for? For example, should each mobility vehicle user pay for their own training and test?

Question 20

Do you think that everyone who uses a mobility vehicle should have to take a test to see if they are able to drive a mobility vehicle?

Question 21

If you think all mobility vehicle users should have to take a test to see if they are able to drive a mobility vehicle

- How do you think the test should be set up?
 - How do you think the test should be paid for? For example, should each mobility vehicle user pay for their own test?
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Question 22

At the moment, people who use Class 3 mobility vehicles have to be part of a registration scheme. The mobility vehicle must be registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and have a tax disc. But the tax disc does not cost any money.

Do you think that mobility vehicles need to be part of a registration scheme? For example, do they need to be registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and have a tax disc?

If you think mobility vehicles should be part of a registration scheme why do you think this?

Question 23

Do you think that the registration scheme with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency could be made better? For example, should people be made to follow the laws and the rules?

If you think the registration scheme could be made better how do you think it could be done?

Question 24

Do you think a locally run registration scheme should be set up to take over from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency registration scheme?

For example, could the registration scheme be linked to another scheme like the Blue Badge scheme that runs in each local council?

Question 25

Do you think it would be better to register the people who use mobility vehicles instead of the mobility vehicles?

If you think it would be better to register the people who use mobility vehicles, how do you think this would work?

Question 26

Do you have any other ideas about how a mobility vehicle registration scheme would work?

Question 27

Do you think Class 2 mobility vehicles should be registered as part of a mobility vehicle registration scheme well as Class 3 mobility vehicles?

If you think Class 2 mobility vehicles should be registered as part of a mobility vehicle registration scheme why do you think this?

Question 28

At the moment, people who use mobility vehicles do not need to have insurance cover.

Do you think people who use mobility vehicles should be made to have at least third party insurance?

Third party insurance means that money can be paid if the driver of a mobility vehicle hurts a person or damages a person's property.

Question 29

There is a law that is called wanton and furious driving. It is section 35 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. This law is used when a person drives dangerously and hurts another person. It does not cover things like careless driving.

Do you think this law is enough to deal with people who use mobility vehicles?

What things, to do with the way a person uses a mobility vehicle, do you think are not covered by the law and should be looked at again?

Question 30

When a mobility vehicle is used on a pavement it must not go faster than 4 miles an hour. But it can go up to 8 miles an hour when it is used on the road.

Do you think that Class 3 mobility vehicles should be able to go faster than 8 miles an hour?

Question 31

What do you think are the good things and the bad things about being able to drive a mobility vehicle faster?

Question 32

What do you think the speed limit should be for Class 3 mobility vehicles?

Question 33

If the device that stops a Class 3 mobility vehicle going faster than 4 miles an hour is switched off, the mobility vehicle can go faster than 4 miles an hour, but it must be used on the road.

Do you think that if a mobility vehicle can go faster than 4 miles an hour a sign should come on saying that it must not be used on the pavement?

Question 34

At the moment if a mobility vehicle is involved in an accident, no one collects information about the accident.

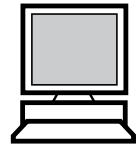
This means it is very hard to find out how many people who use mobility vehicles have an accident or to find out about any accidents.

To help us to collect information about the safety of mobility vehicles

- What information do you think we should collect?
- Why do you think we should collect this information?

How to contact us

Email mobilityvehiclesconsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk



Letters
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