

Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters

Dear Local Council

NALC & SLCC SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

You may recall I emailed you a few weeks ago (see email below) regarding our campaign on the safety of lithium-ion batteries and their disposal. Many Local Councils responded to support – but very many more felt they had to wait until after the election.

I totally understand those feelings, so now I am writing again to seek your support. We will be introducing the Bill in the new Parliament as soon as possible.

I attach the latest list of logos in support and you will see that it includes the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks, as well as most county fire and rescue services (+ the National Fire Chiefs Council).

Many Councils asked me what support entailed and I am sorry for not explaining properly. It is as much or as little as you like. The only 'definite' is that you write telling me you support the campaign. So its not at all onerous. `

After that it is up to you: you may wish to put up a poster; or an article in your magazine or on your website. We may ask you to write to your MP. But, as I said, its all up to you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best

Ron

PS a number of Councils pointed out that I had the wrong email address, or that the clerk had changed. I have been through my list of 10,000 addresses making alterations – but if I have missed any please accept my apologies.

Original email

Dear Local Council

I am writing to ask your Council to support our campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal.

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster (hence my email address), who has been campaigning on this issue in the House of Lords. I am also the parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, a UK Charity dedicated to reducing the deaths and injuries caused by electricity.

As you will probably know lithium battery fires are on the increase – there have been over 1000 in the past few years, nearly 200 injuries and a dozen fatalities. Homes have been destroyed. The cost to the UK runs into £billions. You will doubtless know of

examples in your area. I attach a spreadsheet of some recent fires – as you will see there have been some in your area.

Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting the attached Bill (a summary of which is included at the end of this email) to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. It has its First Reading on 5th June.

We have the support of many national organisations, as the attached logos show – including the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition 2 coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety.

We are now contacting more locally based organisations, and it would be great if your Council was able to support this campaign. It would be a great boost.

Please do get in touch if you require any further information.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Ron Bailey

Summary of Bill

Clause 1 would require third party *independent* approval-testing for e-bikes, e-scooters and their batteries before entering the UK market.

Clause 2: incidents of fires and harmful fumes resulting from lithium-ion batteries in waste vehicles and landfills are increasing. There are reportedly more than 200 landfill fires annually, making up 48 percent of all fires, costing £158 million and contributing significantly to pollution. This clause requires the government to establish regulations for the safe disposal of used lithium-ion batteries.

Clause 3 addresses specific fire concerns, ensuring safer access, charging, and storage of lithium-ion batteries. While an outright ban is suggested by some, conversion kits remain a financially practical solution, especially for gig economy workers reliant on sustainable transportation. Implementing a standardised approach to kits could establish design and installation controls, mitigating foreseeable risks.