

Bob Blackman CBE, MP Chair, APPG for Fire Safety and Rescue House of Commons London SW1A 0AA **Kevin Hollinrake MP**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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Dear Bob,

I was pleased to meet with colleagues on the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Fire Safety and Rescue, and representatives from the London Fire Brigade (LFB), on 19 September to discuss the safety of e-bikes and e-scooters powered by lithium-ion batteries.

One of the actions I took was to consider writing to the major online food ordering and delivery platforms, asking them to share safety advice regarding e-bikes, including safe charging practices. I am pleased to let you know that yesterday, I wrote to senior UK leaders for Deliveroo, Just Eat, Uber Eats and Getir, drawing their attention to government guidance published by Fire England, and asking them to disseminate it to the riders and couriers that use their platform.

The Fire England guidance provides advice on safe charging practices, product safety and maintenance, and fire safety and is the culmination of work across government departments.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is sharing the advice widely with their network of stakeholders to raise awareness of the issues. OPSS is also continuing to prioritise activity to identify and test e-bikes, modification kits and chargers so that products found to be unsafe or non-compliant can be removed from the market.

I am pleased that the research OPSS has commissioned from Warwick Manufacturing Group – part of Warwick University – into the safety of lithium-ion batteries, that was raised when we met, is now well underway. Insights and evidence from the work will be shared with other government departments, and key stakeholders including LFB to help inform future actions.

I am grateful for the interest the APPG is taking in these serious safety matters and want to assure you that I share your determination to tackle the causes of lithium-ion battery fires and reduce the risk to consumers.

Yours ever,

**KEVIN HOLLINRAKE MP** 

Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business