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The Baroness Boycott

House of Lords

London

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27 February 2025

Dear Rosie,

I am writing further to your question to Lord Hanson as part of the debate on e-scooters on Thursday 13 February, regarding pavement robots, what legislation covers them, and whether they have permission to be on the road.

Although it is for the courts to decide on the specific application of legislation, pavement robots are likely to fall within the legal definition of a mechanically propelled vehicle and, if intended or adapted to be used on the road, also a “motor vehicle”. If classed as a motor vehicle, the laws that apply to motor vehicles would apply to pavement robots when used on a public road (which includes a public footway or pavement). The legality of pavement robot deployments has not been tested in a court of law.

With the right regulatory framework, new transport technologies can offer benefits for individuals and society. However, as with any new technology, there are potential risks to consider as well. Safety remains our priority, and we are keeping under review the role of delivery robots in the transport system.

I have copied this letter to all the Noble Lords who spoke in this discussion and will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,



**Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL**