# Balaclava-clad man charged after dangerous high-speed e-bike ride in Kirkby



## Balaclava-Clad Suspect Detained After High-Speed E-Bike Incident in Kirkby

A recent incident in Kirkby has brought renewed attention to the dangers associated with the use of electric bikes, especially when operated recklessly. At around 9.15 pm on May 7, police officers observed a man on a Sur-ron electric bike, clad in dark clothing and a balaclava, riding against the flow of traffic on East Lancs Road. The precarious ride escalated when the individual crossed the central reservation and sped along Moorgate Road. It was here that the rider fell from the bike, resulting in his detention by police before being taken to hospital for assessment.

The man, 23 years of age and from Kirkby, now faces multiple charges, including dangerous driving, theft of a motor vehicle, failing to stop, drug driving, and operating a vehicle without valid insurance or a proper licence. This multifaceted legal situation highlights not only individual recklessness but also a broader concern regarding the growing prevalence of illegal e-bike use in urban areas.

Roads Policing Inspector Ian Cowell addressed the incident, underscoring the potential consequences of anti-social and dangerous cycling behaviours. "The risk of bikes being ridden anti-socially and dangerously can be devastating," he stated. Cowell emphasised the importance of proactive policing in identifying and seizing suspected stolen or illegally used vehicles, an approach that aims to mitigate risks on the road before incidents occur. He also urged the public to relay any intelligence regarding suspected stolen bikes or illegal riding to the police.

The incident is not isolated; Kirkby has seen a series of concerning events linked to e-bikes lately. Earlier this year, a tragic accident claimed the life of 25-year-old cyclist Dylan Kearns when he was struck in a crash that involved another motor vehicle. In this case, the driver was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, raising further awareness of the risks posed by reckless driving mixed with the alarming trend of illegal e-bike use. Kearns' family remembered him as a well-loved individual with a "contagious smile," illustrating the personal toll that such traffic incidents can exact on communities.

On January 11, a serious crash involving two teenagers on an e-bike led to a significant police response, prompting Merseyside Police to refer itself to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. The incident occurred after the police signalled for the riders to stop, resulting in a fall where the 17-year-old sustained severe injuries. This underscores another serious issue: the risks associated with police pursuits involving e-bikes and the potential for tragic outcomes.

Police activities focused on tackling illegal e-bike usage are ongoing in various regions, with recent operations in Norris Green and Kirkdale leading to arrests and the seizure of stolen bikes. Such measures speak to the heightened urgency among law enforcement to address emerging threats and maintain road safety.

In light of these incidents, the public is encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities related to e-bikes. As communities grapple with the increasing visibility of electric bikes—often associated with anti-social behaviour—commitment to collective safety will be vital in reducing risks and preventing future tragedies on the roads.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/balaclava-clad-suspect-rode-e-31600285), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2024-01-12/police-force-refer-itself-to-watchdog-after-teens-injured-in-e-bike-crash)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/balaclava-clad-suspect-rode-e-31600285), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-67304960)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-67304960), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-67955327)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2024-01-12/police-force-refer-itself-to-watchdog-after-teens-injured-in-e-bike-crash), [[7]](https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/may/suspected-stolen-e-bike-and-scrambler-bike-seized-and-man-arrested-in-kirkdale/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/balaclava-clad-suspect-rode-e-31600285> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-67304960> - A 25-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving after a cyclist, Dylan Kearns, 25, was killed in a crash in Kirkby. The incident occurred at the junction of Moorgate Road and East Lancashire Road around 7:00 GMT. The arrested man, aged 45, was also held on suspicion of driving a vehicle while unfit through drugs. Dylan's family described him as a well-known and liked individual with a contagious smile. The investigation is ongoing, and police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage to come forward.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2024-01-12/police-force-refer-itself-to-watchdog-after-teens-injured-in-e-bike-crash> - Merseyside Police referred itself to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) after a serious e-bike crash in Anfield left two teenagers injured. The incident occurred around 7:30 pm on Priory Road on January 11, 2024, when two teenagers fell from an e-bike after a police officer signaled for them to stop. The 17-year-old rider sustained serious injuries to his head and leg, while the 15-year-old passenger was not seriously hurt. The 17-year-old was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, failing to stop, and possession of a Class B controlled drug. The 15-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possession of a Class B controlled drug. The IOPC will review the police's involvement in the incident.
4. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2025/march-2025/man-arrested-and-machete-seized-after-e-bikes-incident-in-norris-green/> - Merseyside Police arrested an 18-year-old man and seized a machete and an e-bike after spotting three males on electric bikes in Norris Green on March 1, 2025. The officers observed the high-powered bikes being ridden with a group of youths. As the police car approached, two riders fled on their bikes, while the third abandoned his and ran into a nearby house. The suspect was pursued and detained in a garden, where a search revealed a machete in his waistband. The man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a bladed article and taking a motor vehicle without consent. He was released under investigation as inquiries continue.
5. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2025/march-2025/man-charged-following-fatal-collision-of-cyclist-in-huyton/> - A 34-year-old man was charged following a fatal collision in Huyton on March 5, 2025. The incident occurred around 12:20 pm at the junction of Tarbock Road and Manley Road, involving a male cyclist riding a blue mountain bike and a black Volkswagen ID5 car. The cyclist, 63-year-old Keith Hornby, was pronounced deceased after suffering serious injuries. The man was charged with causing death by dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking, driving a motor vehicle when the alcohol level is above the limit, driving while unfit through drugs, failing to stop after a road accident, and failing to report the road accident. He was remanded into police custody and appeared at Wirral Adult Remand Court.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-67955327> - Two teenagers were arrested after falling off an e-bike when police signaled for them to stop in Anfield. The incident occurred around 7:30 pm on Priory Road. The 17-year-old rider sustained serious injuries to his head and legs and was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, failing to stop, and drug possession. The 15-year-old passenger suffered superficial injuries and was arrested on suspicion of possessing a Class B controlled drug. The incident has been referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct, and police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with dashcam footage to come forward.
7. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/may/suspected-stolen-e-bike-and-scrambler-bike-seized-and-man-arrested-in-kirkdale/> - Merseyside Police seized a suspected stolen scrambler bike and an e-bike and arrested a 19-year-old man in Kirkdale on May 18, 2024. Officers on patrol observed a group of males riding e-bikes and scrambler bikes in an anti-social manner on Boundary Street. The group fled when approached by police, but one suspect was detained after being found hiding in a garden on Pinecroft Way. The man was arrested on suspicion of driving a motor vehicle with a proportion of specified controlled drug above the limit, taking a motor vehicle without the owner’s consent, using a motor vehicle on a road/public place without insurance, and driving a motor vehicle otherwise than in accordance with a licence. He was released under investigation as inquiries continue.