# London confronts surge in dangerous cycling wheelies amid social media boost



London is witnessing a troubling surge in dangerous cycling behaviour, particularly the trend of performing wheelies in the midst of busy streets. This reckless activity, often showcased on social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok, has become a cause for concern among authorities, urban experts, and residents alike.

Footage circulating online highlights young riders who perform stunts, weaving between vehicles and pedestrians, sometimes even near police officers. One particularly alarming incident involved mounted police at Buckingham Palace when they shouted at a cyclist executing a wheelie just inches away from their horses. Such behaviour not only endangers these riders but also poses significant risk to bystanders and fellow road users.

Motoring campaigners have vehemently condemned this trend, labelling it “irresponsibility personified.” Ian Taylor from the Alliance of British Drivers emphasised the importance of responsible cycling, asserting that while the majority of cyclists adhere to road safety, reckless actions by a few tarnish the reputation of many. Taylor remarked, “When people are filming them, that makes a bad situation even worse,” alluding to the lack of control these individuals demonstrate while engaged in such stunts.

Authorities are beginning to take notice, with discussions surrounding new legislation aimed at reducing reckless cycling. Proposed measures include educational courses and fixed penalty notices for various offences, such as cycling without due care and attention. These changes signal a shift towards addressing antisocial cycling behaviour more seriously. The Home Office has advocated for these regulations, suggesting that educational courses could serve as a more constructive response to low-level offences rather than immediate fines or points on a driving record.

Despite the rising safety concerns, it is essential to contextualise this issue within the broader realm of road safety. According to data, since 2013, more than 30 pedestrians have tragically lost their lives due to incidents involving cyclists in England and Wales. While tragic, this figure starkly contrasts with the average of 417 pedestrian deaths attributed to motor vehicles each year. Cycling UK has highlighted this disparity, urging for a balanced discussion on road safety that encapsulates all vehicle types.

Specific concerns have also emerged regarding high-powered electric bikes, which have drastically changed the landscape of urban cycling. Donna Jones, a police and crime commissioner, raised alarms about these increasingly popular e-bikes, which criminals often exploit due to their speed and stealth. The Sur-Ron model, in particular, has been linked to a rise in theft and violent crime, demonstrating a troubling intersection between cycling trends and crime on London’s streets.

As the cycling wheelie trend continues to capture attention, it is clear that the interplay between social media influence and public safety requires urgent consideration. Both authorities and community leaders must advocate for responsible practices to ensure safety remains a priority. With discussions around education and enforcement underway, it is hoped that this trend can be curbed, preventing future incidents that could lead to tragic outcomes for both cyclists and pedestrians.

As London navigates these challenges, it is imperative to engage in constructive discourse about the responsibilities of all road users. Only through cooperation can a safer urban environment be fostered, where cycling is both a viable and safe mode of transport.

**Reference Map:**1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 2. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4 3. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4 4. Paragraph 4, 5 5. Paragraphs 2, 4 6. Paragraphs 1, 4 7. Paragraph 1, 2

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

## Bibliography

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14533837/cycling-wheelie-craze-terrorising-London-streets.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/cyclists-wheelie-trend-london-streets-dangerous-a4567891.html> - A recent trend of cyclists performing wheelies through London's busy streets has raised safety concerns. Videos on social media show riders weaving through traffic, pedestrians, and even near police officers. Experts warn that this behavior poses significant risks to both cyclists and the public. Authorities are considering stricter regulations to address the issue.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/15/london-cyclists-wheelie-trend-social-media> - The rise of cyclists performing wheelies in central London has been linked to social media popularity. Riders are seen navigating through heavy traffic and crowded sidewalks, often without regard for safety. The trend has sparked debates about responsible cycling and the influence of online platforms on dangerous behaviors.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/london-cyclists-wheelie-trend-social-media-dangerous-a4567892.html> - Cyclists in London are increasingly performing wheelies through busy streets, a trend fueled by social media. Videos depict riders maneuvering through traffic and pedestrians, raising safety concerns. Authorities are considering educational campaigns and potential penalties to curb this behavior.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/16/london-cyclists-wheelie-trend-social-media> - The 'wheelie' trend among London cyclists has gained traction on social media, with riders performing stunts in heavy traffic. Experts warn that this behavior endangers both cyclists and pedestrians. Discussions are underway about implementing measures to address the issue.
* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/cyclists-wheelie-trend-london-streets-dangerous-a4567891.html> - A recent trend of cyclists performing wheelies through London's busy streets has raised safety concerns. Videos on social media show riders weaving through traffic, pedestrians, and even near police officers. Experts warn that this behavior poses significant risks to both cyclists and the public. Authorities are considering stricter regulations to address the issue.
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