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Kennedy warns on danger of mini-motorbikes for kids

Michael Kennedy, Dublin North Fianna Fail TD, urges parents to take notice of the Road Safety Authority warning of the dangers of mini-motorbikes, go-peds or quad-bikes, before purchasing them for their children this Christmas.

Deputy Kennedy said: "In recent years, the Christmas holidays have led to a marked increase in incidents involving these bikes, which are popular amongst children and young teens."

"I understand that these vehicles are made for people over the age of 16 and many of them do not comply with safety regulations in relation to brakes, lighting and indicators," he added.

"The RSA is also warning retailers that anyone found supplying the vehicles to those under 16 is liable for a €3,000 fine or six months in prison.

"These bikes are not toys; they are, in many cases, a danger both to the rider and to the general public. It is important that the Garda and Councils make preparations now to deal with any upsurge in incidents and complaints regarding the abuse of these bikes," said Deputy Kennedy.

"I am aware of the popularity of these bikes in the North Dublin area, where there are plenty of parks and open spaces. There have already been warnings from the council and residents about the use of the Ward Valley Park by teens on quads, and I would call on parents to consider the safety of their children and the affect these bikes have on nearby residents, before purchasing a bike for their children," concluded Deputy Kennedy.