



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

Your Ref: ZA60757

PO-1458304

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
By email to: rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

29 June 2023

Dear Rishi,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 June on behalf of your constituent, Mrs Gillian Jamieson, about exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advises the UK Government on the public health aspects of exposure to EMFs, including those from radio frequency sources such as mobile phone base stations, wi-fi and smart meters.

UKHSA's main advice on EMFs is that the exposures should comply with the guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), in which case there should be no consequences for public health. The ICNIRP guidelines apply to the whole population, including children, and people of varying health status, which may include particularly susceptible groups or individuals, and take into account studies involving possible health effects from long-term exposure.

UKHSA has published summary webpages on exposure to radio waves associated with:

- mobile phone base stations, at www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health;
- wi-fi radio waves, at www.gov.uk/government/publications/wireless-networks-wi-fi-radio-waves-and-health/wi-fi-radio-waves-and-health; and
- smart meters, at www.gov.uk/government/publications/smart-meters-radio-waves-and-health/smart-meters-radio-waves-and-health.

UKHSA provides public health advice on limiting exposures, based on the published scientific evidence. The health effects of exposure to radio waves have been researched extensively over several decades, and many publications can be found in scientific

journals and elsewhere. Independent expert groups in the UK and at international level have examined the accumulated body of research evidence, and their conclusions support the view that health effects are unlikely to occur if exposures are below international guideline levels.

The levels of radio waves to which people are exposed tend to be small in relation to the guidelines and therefore do not pose a risk to health. UKHSA continues to monitor the health-related evidence applicable to radio waves, including in relation to these sources, and is committed to updating its advice as required.

Thank you again for writing to me about this important matter.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve', written in a cursive style.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP