



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP
Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dsit

4 July 2023

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

Your Ref: ZA60757
Our Ref: MC2023/06365/GT

Dear Rishi,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 June, to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on behalf of your constituent, Ms Gillian Jamieson of Rydal Croft, North Cowton, Northallerton, DL7 0HF, regarding the safety of wireless technologies and radio waves. Following the Machinery of Government changes, your letter request has been passed to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) as this issue falls within the department's remit. I am responding as the Minister responsible for Digital Infrastructure.

I would like to reassure Ms Jamieson that a substantial international consensus exists to the effect that wireless technologies are safe. The Government relies on scientific advice received from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in relation to radio waves. UKHSA advise that exposure to radio waves should not exceed levels set out within the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines.

The ICNIRP, which is formally recognised by the World Health Organization, issues guidelines on human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) based upon a large amount of research carried out over many years. This includes the frequencies used by all mobile and wireless technologies. The ICNIRP guidelines underpin health protection policies at UK and European levels. During the course of the last two decades, more than 100 expert reports on EMFs and health have been published internationally, with well over 3,000 studies informing these reviews.

Reviews carried out by the independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR) found no convincing evidence that radiofrequency field exposures below guideline levels cause health effects in either adults or children:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radiofrequency-electromagnetic-fields-health-effects>.

Also, the most recent report by the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) explained that the results of current scientific research show that there are no evident adverse health effects if exposure remains below the levels set by current standards. Furthermore, the World Health Organization has stated that, to date, no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-5g-mobile-networks-and-health>.

I would like to reassure Ms Jamieson that Government information on the matter remains current and is continually assessed.

A robust regulatory framework exists to ensure that exposure to EMFs remains well within safe levels. In the UK, the control of exposures occurs through product safety legislation, health and safety legislation and planning policy. These regulatory areas all consider the international guidelines. Additionally, Ofcom spectrum licence conditions require licensees to comply with

the international guidelines for limiting exposure to EMFs for the protection of the general public. Licensees are required to keep records demonstrating their compliance.

Ofcom has been carrying out EMF measurements near mobile phone base stations for many years. These published measurements have consistently shown that EMF levels are well within the general public EMF limits. Further information on Ofcom's measurements near mobile base stations can be found here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/information/mobile-operational-enquiries/mobile-base-station-audits>.

I hope this information is helpful and offers reassurance to Ms Jamison as to the safety of wireless technologies.

Yours ever

John

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP
Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure

Subscribed 200c.

*9.30 - 27th Sep.
5.00 - 20th Sep.*

