

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 90522020

Our Ref: DOH/EIR-2018-01  
Date: 19th September 2018

Dear Ms Harron

## **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004**

I refer to your request sent to the Department of Health on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018, which we have processed under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

For ease of reference I am copying your request below:

***The World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified wireless radiation (RF/EMF) as a Group 2B 'Possible Human Carcinogen' from 2011 onwards, based on scientific evidence that linked wireless exposure with increased risks of brain or head tumours, damage to DNA and other types of genotoxicity, increased oxidative stress and evidence from animal studies.***

***The World Health Organisation's (WHO) IARC 2B 'Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans' classification includes wireless RF/EMF radiation from any transmitting source in the range of 30 KHz to 300 GHz emitted from any device. This includes mobile phones, tablet computers/iPads, Wi-Fi devices, etc.***  
<https://ehtrust.org/science/whoiarc-position-on-wireless-and-health/>

***The 2013 World Health Organisation's IARC published their full report or monograph 'The evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans'. Vol 102 outlines that children absorb wireless (RF/EMF) radiation deeper into their bodies than adults and also states that the classification includes exposure to all radiofrequency radiation [RF] and not just mobile phones, pages 34 & 33 of***  
<http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol102/mono102.pdf>.

***The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland [UK] is a member state and also participates in the Governing Council of the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer. The UK was also a founding member of the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer in 1965.*** <https://www.iarc.fr/en/about/membership.php>

***Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, you are requested to provide the following:***

***1. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, or any other form of evidence in which it is stated that "Wi-Fi exposure is safe and poses no risk to children's health, including cancer".***

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of The Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents, please answer: "The Department of Health do not hold any documents, written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, or any other form of evidence stating that Wi-Fi exposure is safe and poses no risk to children's health, including cancer".***

***2. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, etc. in which it is stated the known safe level of exposure for children aged 0-4 years to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi.***

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents please answer: "No known safe levels of exposure to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi, for children aged 0-4 years are held by the Department of Health."***

***3. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, etc. in which it is stated the known safe level of exposure for children aged 4-11 years to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi.***

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents please answer: "No known safe levels of exposure to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi, for children aged 4-11 years are held by the Department of Health."***

***4. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, etc. in which it is stated the known safe level of exposure for children aged 12-18 years to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi.***

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents please answer: "No known safe levels of exposure to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi, for children aged 12-18 years are held by the Department of Health."***

**5. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, etc. in which it is stated the known safe level of exposure for children with Down's Syndrome aged 0-4 years to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi.**

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents please answer: "No known safe levels of exposure to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi, for children with Down's Syndrome aged 0-4 years are held by the Department of Health."***

**6. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, etc. in which it is stated the known safe level of exposure for children with Down's Syndrome aged 4-11 years to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi.**

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents please answer: "No known safe levels of exposure to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi, for children with Down's Syndrome aged 4-11 years are held by the Department of Health."***

**7. All documents written or electronic, scientific studies or reports, World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer monographs and classifications, etc. in which it is stated the known safe level of exposure for children with Down's Syndrome aged 12-18 years to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi.**

***If you, Richard Pengelly, acting as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, confirm that there are no such documents please answer: "No known safe levels of exposure to wireless RF/EMF radiation, including Wi-Fi, for children with Down's Syndrome aged 12-18 years are held by the Department of Health."***

The Department of Health does not hold any information containing the statements included in your request. There is a significant amount of published information in the public domain on the topic of exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF EMF), including Wi-Fi. These documents and reports use their own words to present the scientific evidence and draw conclusions from it. Public Health England (PHE) provides support and specialist advice to the Department of Health on a range of health protection matters including radiation protection. I have attached a document, which contains a summary of PHE advice on exposure to RF EMF, and links to where more detailed information can be found. I hope this is helpful.

*If you feel that the information we have provided does not fully meet your request please contact us at 02890 522020 in the first instance. You have the right to request a formal review by the Department within two calendar months of the date of this*

letter. If you wish to do so, please write to Mr Brendan O'Neill ([foi@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@health-ni.gov.uk)), Annexe 3, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SQ.

*If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.*

*If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Lauder'.

**Lynsey Lauder**  
**Population Health Directorate**