



**By email**

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Our ref: 15/10/fb/700

8 November 2018

Dear J. Mwanzia

**Re: Health implications of 5G technology**

Thank you for your request dated 15 October 2018 addressed to Public Health England (PHE). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) I can confirm that PHE holds some of the information you have specified.

I have answered the questions in the order it has been raised:

*The proposed rollout of 5G trials in this country was announced in March 2018. The trial does not seem to include any mention of monitoring of potential health impact on humans, plants and animals. <https://5g.co.uk/news/5g-uk-trial-testing-ground/4302/> Scientists and doctors called on the EU for a moratorium on 5G citing the lack of independent studies on health and environmental effects. <http://www.5gappeal.eu/scientists-and-doctors-warn-of-potential-serious-health-effects-of-5g/>*

*Bearing these in mind, could you please provide answers to the following questions:*

- 1) *What are the current exposure limit values for EMF, radio frequencies and mm wave frequencies?*

Please see below links:

- The ICNIRP guidelines, which cover frequencies up to 300 GHz, as here: [www.icnirp.org](http://www.icnirp.org)
- Government position on EMF exposure guidelines for the general public: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090430163222/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/DH\\_4089500](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090430163222/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500)

- The HSE website with respect to the health and safety responsibilities of mobile communications network operators:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/>
- Industry's voluntary commitment to comply with ICNIRP guidelines and provide compliance certificates with planning applications  
<http://www.mobileuk.org/cms-assets/documents/259876-147086.code-of-best-practice-2016-edition-pub>
- Ofcom's webpage about exposure measurements around base stations  
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/information/mobile-operational-enquiries>

2) *What monitoring is currently taking place to ensure that these levels are not exceeded in individuals and in public places?*

Please see below links:

- The ICNIRP guidelines, which cover frequencies up to 300 GHz, as here:  
[www.icnirp.org](http://www.icnirp.org)
- Government position on EMF exposure guidelines for the general public:  
[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090430163222/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/DH\\_4089500](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090430163222/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500)
- The HSE website with respect to the health and safety responsibilities of mobile communications network operators:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/>
- Industry's voluntary commitment to comply with ICNIRP guidelines and provide compliance certificates with planning applications  
<http://www.mobileuk.org/cms-assets/documents/259876-147086.code-of-best-practice-2016-edition-pub>
- Ofcom's webpage about exposure measurements around base stations  
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/information/mobile-operational-enquiries>

3) *What is the independent research that indicates these levels are set at a safe level?*

Please see the formal evidence reviews mentioned in the attached PHE RF advice summary document, the reference lists those reviews contain and literature databases at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) and [www.emf-portal.de](http://www.emf-portal.de).

4) *Have these studies used the mixture of EMFs to which we are now all exposed?*

Please see the formal evidence reviews mentioned in the attached PHE RF advice summary document, the reference lists those reviews contain and literature databases at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) and [www.emf-portal.de](http://www.emf-portal.de).

5) *What independent studies on 5G have been considered before the test areas are exposed?*

Please see the formal evidence reviews mentioned in the attached PHE RF advice summary document, the reference lists those reviews contain and literature databases at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) and [www.emf-portal.de](http://www.emf-portal.de).

6) *Will the national rollout happen without safety monitoring at the trial sites?*

Please see Q)2

7) *If this becomes government mandated exposure, what can citizens do to access funding from the government to screen their houses if they do not want this exposure?*

PHE does not hold this information.

8) *5G exposure will be added to existing rising exposure to EMF and radio frequencies. What research has been done to ascertain whether this extra exposure will have additive or synergistic effects on biological systems?*

Please see the formal evidence reviews mentioned in the attached PHE RF advice summary document, the reference lists those reviews contain and literature databases at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) and [www.emf-portal.de](http://www.emf-portal.de).

9) *What is being done to ensure there are zones free of wifi and 5G, where exposure is not allowed?*

PHE does not hold this information.

10) *What is being done to ensure that those responsible for the technology pay for the damage done by it? This could break the NHS and have long term environmental consequences*

PHE does not hold this information.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing [foi@phe.gov.uk](mailto:foi@phe.gov.uk)

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information team