



25th June 2020

Position Statement on 5G Exposure

Mobile phone technology utilises radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF EMFs) to send and receive data. The specific method employed is known as a 'wireless standard', a term used to describe a family of different wireless protocols. '5G' is the fifth generation of such wireless standards.

There has been concern in recent times regarding the rollout of 5G in the UK. The concern is related to general levels of electromagnetic fields in the environment and potential adverse health effects. Questions related to 5G exposure are understandable as, if new technology such as this is introduced into the community, then clear and high quality information is required to address health concerns.

The Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) has received a number of enquiries relating to 5G exposure and the possible effects on health. Members of SRP's Electromagnetic Fields and Optical Radiation Committee are radiation protection professionals who keep up to date with recent developments as part of their professional work. However, as volunteers, they are often unable to provide individual responses to enquiries. Instead, the following Statement presents the Society for Radiological Protection's view on 5G and the potential adverse health effects. The Statement is jointly issued with the Association of University Radiation Protection Officers (AURPO).

"The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is an international, independent, non-government organisation that provides reference levels and basic restrictions in its guidelines. Compliance with these RF field levels will provide protection against known adverse health effects from EMF exposure. Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator, has found in a recent study that EMF levels around the UK are between 0.005% and 1.50% of the ICNIRP reference levels for general public exposure. Ofcom's results are consistent with results obtained by many other authoritative bodies around the world. EMF levels within communities remain at hundreds and sometimes thousands of times below safety limits stated in ICNIRP guidelines.

Despite the changes in technology and the increasing number of base stations as new network infrastructure is installed, EMF exposure to members of the public remains significantly below RF safety thresholds.

ICNIRP has recently updated its RF guidance this year for the first time since 1998. The organisation has not identified any new risks to health in this period, and states that 5G will not cause any harm provided that the ICNIRP 2020 guidelines are adhered to. We similarly believe that adherence to RF exposure limits presented in the ICNIRP guidelines will protect against known adverse health effects."

SRP and AURPO would also like to emphasise that there is no scientific evidence linking mobile phone technology to any biological virus.

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