**Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOI Reference:</th>
<th>FOI 530</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date request received</td>
<td>29(^{th}) November 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date information is due to be sent</td>
<td>30(^{th}) December 2020</td>
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**Information Requested:**

With the ongoing installation and deployment of 5G WIFI technologies across Wales, can you please advise on:

1. What advice PHW has provided to the Welsh Government, Local Authorities and Local Health Boards on the public health and public protection implications of widespread and long-term human exposure to the non-ionizing radiofrequency radiation inherent in 5G WIFI technologies?

2. What peer-reviewed scientific evidence PHW is using to determine the safety of the use of 5G in Wales in terms of long-term human exposure to the non-ionizing radiofrequency radiation inherent in 5G technologies?

**Information provided for the answer:**

Thank you for your recent request.

Public Health Wales and Welsh Government are guided by Public Health England (PHE) as the UK expert advisors on the public health aspects of exposure to radio waves. PHE publishes a range of information and advice including comprehensive scientific review reports and statements, which can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electromagnetic-fields](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electromagnetic-fields).
This material supports the view that exposures from mobile phone base stations and other radio
technologies in the environment are small in relation to internationally agreed guidelines published by
the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and are not expected to
pose a hazard to the public. This includes 5G where the overall exposure is expected to remain low
relative to guidelines. ICNIRP guidelines were last revised in 2020 and are based on major reviews
the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (2015), as well as individual
studies identified following those reviews. They account for new technological developments such as
5G.

As advisers to the UK Government, including Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, PHE
publishes comprehensive reviews of the scientific evidence relevant to radio wave exposures and
health from time to time. The most recent PHE-backed review was undertaken by its own independent
expert Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (AGNIR) and published at the end of April 2012. The
AGNIR report considered whether there was evidence for health effects occurring in relation to
exposures below the ICNIRP levels. The overall conclusion was that, although a substantial amount of
research has been conducted in this area, there is no convincing evidence that radio wave exposures
below guideline levels cause health effects in either adults or children. The AGNIR report can be
found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radiofrequency-electromagnetic-fields-health-
effects. Further information about AGNIR and its reports, as well as other UK expert committees with
an interest in non-ionising radiation, can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/advisory-
group-on-non-ionising-radiation-agnir.

PHE is also a collaborating centre in the World Health Organization’s International EMF Project. The
WHO states that the main conclusion from its own reviews is that EMF exposures below the limits
recommended in the ICNIRP international guidelines do not appear to have any known consequence
on health. The WHO is in the process of carrying out its own authoritative review and health risk
assessment of radio frequency EMFs and PHE will consider this review carefully when it is published:
www.who.int/peh-emf/research/rf_ehc_page/en/. PHE keeps emerging scientific studies worldwide
under review and supports the scientific processes and officially mandated organisations described
above.

Public Health Wales agrees with PHE and our current position (2019) can be found at

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request
and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should
write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales

2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400
Email: wales@ico.org.uk