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Dear Sir or Madam

## **An Invitation to Take Part in a Study Evaluating Possible Health Effects from Mobile Phone Base Stations**

We are a team of researchers in the Psychology, Computer Science and Electronic Systems Engineering Departments at the University of Essex who have received funding from the Department of Health (Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme <http://www.mthr.org.uk>) to investigate whether the electromagnetic fields emitted from mobile phone base-stations have a direct affect on human health and well-being. The principle investigator is Professor Elaine Fox from the Psychology department. The project started in January 2004 and will run for at least two years.

The first part of the project will investigate whether some people are particularly sensitive to the type of electromagnetic fields generated by mobile phones and their associated base-stations and masts. The concept of the “*electromagnetic hypersensitivity syndrome*” (EHS) is controversial and we will attempt to understand this syndrome in more detail by means of a large questionnaire-based survey, in addition to talking in detail to people who believe that they are hypersensitive to electromagnetic fields. The second part of the project (due to start around August, 2004) will involve an experimental study in which we will test people who are hypersensitive to electromagnetic fields, as well as those who are not, under double-blind conditions. This means that people will sometimes be tested when a base-station is turned “on” and emitting a standard electromagnetic field and when the base-station is turned “off” and is not emitting an electromagnetic field. The electromagnetic field emitted by the base-station (we will test GSM and possibly UMTS signals) is standard and well below recommended guidelines (i.e., several *thousand* times weaker than a standard mobile phone). This study will allow us to establish in a scientifically-valid way whether mobile-phone base-stations really are affecting people’s health and feelings of well-being.

We are very interested in contacting people who believe that they are particularly sensitive to electromagnetic fields, as well as those who are not, and who would be interested in taking part in this study. The experimental part of the study (beginning in

August, 2004) will require people to come to the University on four separate occasions about 1 week apart. Travel expenses will be covered as well as a payment of £5.00 per session.

**If you would be interested in taking part in this study please either send by post or e-mail your contact details to [ehstudy@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ehstudy@essex.ac.uk).**

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours Faithfully,

Elaine Fox

Professor Elaine Fox