

**Mobile Phone Mast Campaign
Evidence for Birmingham Scrutiny Committee**

**Submission by Eileen O'Connor, Chairwoman [SCRAM](#)
[Trustee EM- Radiation Research Trust](#)**

18th March, 2005

Second reading of the STUNELL Bill 18th March, 2005

After renewed interest in the dangers of mobile phones and masts, Andrew Stunell MP has presented to parliament his private members bill, the Telecommunication Masts Planning Control Bill. If passed it will stop companies from putting up mobile phone masts without consulting local communities and gaining planning approval from the Local Authority. The Bill would bring in the so-called 'precautionary principle', giving planners more powers to refuse mast applications. It is due to have its second reading on the 18th March (though may fail to be read as two other private members bills are scheduled for the same day).

STUNELL: The Government have backed out of repeated promises to change the planning laws. This Bill is long overdue and has cross-party support. It is a chance to make the Government take notice of the concerns of people all over the country. The Bill would give extra protection to schools, medical facilities and homes from high radiation levels from all telecommunication masts. (Andrew Stunell MP, 18/01/05)

I supplied a huge box of research almost a year ago to MP Mike O'Brien. Mike has taken the research to the Department of Health and the DTI; he recently passed it onto the NRPB for advice. I encouraged Mike O'Brien and the Government to focus on research from Russia, China, Sweden and other European Countries.

The UK has allowed the highest output of radiation in the world. They recently brought the guidelines down to meet ICNIRP standards. However this does not offer any form of protection at levels below the microwave heating stage. They simply make sure that the radiation does not allow your body to cook. We all know that before cooking takes place many biological changes have already happened. [Statement by Dr Mike Clark NRPB](#)

The Government and NRPB now admit that radiation from electric pylon's doubles the risk of contracting leukaemia at the power levels of 0.4 microtesla, other European Countries have brought down their power levels to 1 or 2 microtesla. However, the UK levels have remained 100 times higher than the rate known to double the rate of leukaemia. They also admit that they have known about this for over three years.

The Government has taken over £22 billion in the selling of the licences to the mobile phone Industry. They put £3.5 million back into research along with £3.5 million from the Mobile Phone Industry. Further support was announced on 10th November 2004 for research on three additional studies for the MTHR programme. While we welcome further research, we are concerned that it lacks true independence and would prefer the funding to go to an independent trusted group of scientists.

Other Countries now medically recognise that some people are electro-sensitive to this form of radiation. Sweden now has a medical register of 285,000 and California has 700,000. We believe these figures are an under estimated as many people are not aware that their symptoms are connected to the surrounding background radiation. However if the same figures apply to the UK we could have over 2.1 million people affected. Sir William Stewart, Head of Health Protection, UK has called for the precautionary principle especially when children are concerned as they will absorb a higher dose of radiation.

The Precautionary Principle lacks a clear and universally accepted definition (Foster et al., 2002) and actions by some countries suggest that there is confusion and debate about what the Precautionary Principle means and how it should be applied. I believe that the UK Government must be confused by the Precautionary Principle:

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992

“In order to protect the environment the **Precautionary Approach** shall be widely applied by states according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty), 1992

“Community policy on the environment ...shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that preventative actions should be taken, that the environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay.”

Wingspread Statement

“It is necessary to implement the Precautionary Principle: When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. “The process of applying the Precautionary Principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action”.

European Environment Agency, 2004

“The **Precautionary Principle** provides a framework, procedures and policy tools for public policy actions in situations of scientific complexity, uncertainty and **ignorance**, where there may be a need to act before there is strong proof of harm in order to avoid, or reduce, potentially serious or irreversible threats to health or the environment, using an appropriate level of scientific evidence, and taking into account the likely pros and cons of action and inaction”.

Children Act 1989 Part 3 Section 17

Places a legal obligation on Local Authorities to protect children in their area against significant harm and or abuse or the risk of. The Children Act stands apart from other legislation in so much as the risk of harm does not have to be proven or to have taken place, but could be a likelihood or perceived risk.

We are now seeing evidence of cancer clusters appearing in the main beam of radiation throughout the UK after long term exposure.

The Naila Study, Germany (November 2004) – This study was conducted over 10 years and has just been released by The Federal Agency for Radiation Protection, Germany. Medical doctors compiled case histories since 1994 – 2004 looking at heightened risk of being taken ill with malignant tumours. They discovered a **threefold** increase after five years exposure to microwave radiation from a mobile phone mast transmitter for up to 400 metres distance, compared to those living further away.

Another study carried out by **Ronni Wolf MD and Danny Wolf MD, Kaplan Medical Centre, Israel (April 2004)** discovered a fourfold increase in cancer within 350 metres after long term exposure to a phone mast and a **tenfold** increase specifically among women, compared with the surrounding locality further from the mast.

Three other short term mobile phone mast studies have also found significant health effects such as headaches, dizziness, depression, fatigue, sleep disorder, difficulty in concentration and cardiovascular problems. Click on the studies for more information.

1. [Santini et al \(Paris\) \[Pathologie Biologie \(Paris\)\] 2002](#)
2. [Netherlands Ministries of Economic Affairs, Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment and Health Welfare and Sport. \(TNO\) 2003](#)
3. [The Microwave Syndrome – Further Aspect of a Spanish Study – Oberfeld Gerd. Press International Conference in Kos \(Greece\), 2004](#)

Campaign groups have been working with physicist Dr John Walker. Six studies now show increase in serious illness appearing in the main beam of radiation after long term exposure. I would suggest that the threefold increase found in the Naila study up to 400m and the fourfold increase found in the Israel study will be much higher. These figures will be diluted; they will have taken in the whole area within the 350/400m range. Dr John Walker's research clearly shows the clusters of illness appear in the main beam of radiation around 1.5 volts per metre, which is way below the guidelines. Areas clear of radiation in between the main microwave beams of are not reporting illness. This proves that people are not worrying themselves sick and that this situation is real. We believe the increase will be approx 10 to 12% within the main beams.

[The hamlet of Wishaw is a prime example: \(telegraph news article here\)](#)

- Five ladies developed breast cancer
- One case of prostate cancer
- One bladder cancer
- One lung cancer
- Three cases of pre-cancer cervical cells
- One motor neurone disease age 51, who also had massive tumour removed from the top of his spine.
- People have developed benign lumps
- Electro sensitivity
- Three cases of severe skin rashes
- Many villagers suffering with sleep problems, headaches, dizziness and low immune system problems.
- Horse with blood problems, continuous treatment needed by the vet.

Out of the eighteen houses surrounding the mast at up to a range of 500 metres, 77% of the tiny hamlet had health related illness believed to be as a result of radiation from the mast, the out-break of illness occurred in 2001 after seven years of exposure to the radiation emitted by the T-Mobile mast. We are now in contact/communication with many people who are suffering from this form of radiation.

One other important fact is that since the Wishaw Mast vanished on 6th November 2003, many of the residents are reporting a feeling of well-being. The residents are reporting improvement in their sleep patterns and increased energy levels. The headaches and dizzy symptoms have disappeared. We have recently seen a baby boom with three babies born in the village, one of the ladies had previously had treatment for pre-cancer cervical cells, another had previously suffered a miscarriage. We have also seen a return of wildlife in the area and the horse has since recovered and is now strong and healthy and no longer needs treatment. Finally a tree has blossomed for the first time in 10 years in line with the mast.

The effects of EMR are being felt by wildlife and the environment as a whole, Birds, bees, worms, trees are all being affected. **We need to fight for not only the future of mankind but for the future of the whole environment.**

Medical Doctors are also campaigning for precaution

[Finland: Helsinki Appeal 2005 \(click here for link\)](#)

The Helsinki Appeal 2005 from “EMF Team Finland” calls on the European Parliament to act promptly for the adoption of the new safety standard in the European Union. Physicians and researchers, feel great concern about the Precautionary Principle not being sufficiently applied to the electromagnetic fields. They want that the standards recommended by ICNIRP to be **rejected**, because recent scientific studies report about various disturbances caused by mobile phone and other RF radiation. They also appeal to the European Community to take prompt measures for solving the refunding of the NEW REFLEX project, which showed evidence of genotoxic effects of mobile phone radiation and should be continued.

<http://www.emrpolicy.org/>

[Irish Doctors Environmental Association \[IDEA\] \(statement here\)](#)

The Irish Doctors’ Environmental Association believes that a sub-group of the population are particularly sensitive to exposure to different types of electro-magnetic radiation. The safe levels currently advised for exposure to this non-ionising radiation are based solely on its thermal effects. However, it is clear that this radiation also has non-thermal effects, which need to be taken into consideration when setting these safe levels. The electro-sensitivity experienced by some people results in a variety of distressing symptoms which must also be taken into account when setting safe levels for exposure to non-ionising radiation and when planning the siting of masts and transmitters.

Two Top Birmingham Consultants

Following a meeting I arranged with a group of scientists, my oncologist and breast cancer surgeon. My consultants supplied me with a letter on 9th December 2003, stating that “we agree that there is some scientific evidence that suggests microwaves can damage cells but as yet there is no direct evidence that this is a problem in humans. We

would agree that this issue needs to be raised at the highest level and funding released to support the debate and independent research to get a definitive answer.”

[Thirty GPs in Liverpool \(news article here\)](#)

It was reported in the Liverpool Echo on 24th November 2003 “It’s bad medicine”. A group of thirty GPs, hospital doctors and consultants have signed a petition over the installation of a mast which they believe is a risk to health.

[Freiburger Appeal \(click here for the link\)](#)

In October 2002 a team of German medical doctors started the Freiburger Appeal. After seeing a dramatic rise in severe and chronic diseases, they have noted a clear temporal and spatial correlation between disease and exposure to microwave radiation. The appeal has since been signed by 1000s of doctors.

There is a conflict in the science world concerning the adoption of the ICNIRP standards. The western world scientists are trying to force through acceptance of ICNIRP guidelines in order to create harmony and globalization. Many new European Countries are eager to join the European Union and willing to accept the ICNIRP guidelines as a consequence. [emfacts \(more info here\)](#)

However the Russians, Chinese and many other parts of Europe are rejecting ICNIRP standards and are concerned about the biological effects. The Ministry of Chinese Health revealed that in the last ten years studies on radiation similar to that emitted by the mobile phone industry have shown a majority of results are showing biological effects. Out of 154 studies, 88 or 57% have shown biological effects such as **cancer**, genetic molecular and cellular changes, electro physiology effects, behaviour changes etc. in a survey by Dr Henry Lai, Washington University, Seattle 2003. It said that the amount of evidence for biological effects and the characteristics of these are so alarming, that all efforts should be dedicated to find a way to minimize these effects.

I would advise all parents to encourage their children to use their mobile phones for emergency use only. There is now research confirming brain tumour connection with over use of mobile phones. We are also seeing a 40% increase in brain tumours across Europe. A top brain surgeon spoke live on TV in Australia earlier this year saying he has seen chronic rise in brain tumours and a 21% increase in children. Brain tumours are now the number one childhood disease. [News article](#)

It has also been reported in the “Midlands by a top Dental University Lecturer that we are now seeing a massive increase in mouth cancer in children and teenagers”. I am worried that radiation from phones will intensify around the mouth if children are wearing braces or have fillings, metal intensifies radiation. [See statement](#). What do our children and teenagers have in common? Over use of mobile phones, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to work out why we are now seeing a rise in mouth cancers and brain tumours.

I realise that there is an urgent need for education on the health issues and research. I have been alarmed at the amount of mobile phone masts that have been put near schools, hospitals and densely populated areas. [News item](#)

There are many ordinary people committed to fighting for justice. This has become one of the number one issues in our MPs’ post bags. Join the fight to bring about sensible

legislation calling for all masts to go through the full planning process and greater INDEPENDENT research.

I would like to leave you with some final words from an ex-Government Military Scientist Barrie Trower he said “This Government, some of the Government Scientists and this Industry, will be held responsible for more deaths in peace time than any terrorist group in the World ever.”

Eileen O’Connor

Trustee for the [EM - Radiation Research Trust](#)
Chairwoman - [SCRAM](#)