

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Date: 23 May 2007

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COUNCIL
24 MAY 2007
PERTON PARISH

Dear Sir

Monitoring of radiation from telephone masts located on The Parkway, Perton

I write following your request concerning the level of emissions from the telephone masts located at the above location. I apologise for the delay in providing this response.

Officers carried out monitoring adjacent to the nearest residential properties to the mobile phone masts to assess the current public exposure to emissions. To put the results into context, they have been compared to Central Government's national guidelines for public exposure. Central Government has adopted the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines published in April 1998 for limiting exposure to the general public. These guidelines are dependant on the frequency of emission and a simple guideline value is not available, for example the O2 network uses frequencies centred around 900 MHz for most of its operation, while Orange uses frequencies around 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz. To overcome the difficulty in measuring the overall exposure, the Council has obtained an integrating meter capable of measuring across the whole of the mobile phone operating range (as well as being able to measure exposure from TV and radio transmissions, which are also similar forms of non-ionising radiation).

Monitoring took place at four different locations around the masts to establish the levels being emitted. The maximum exposure at any of the monitoring locations was 0.0106% of the ICNIRP reference exposure guideline for public exposure (approximately 1/10,000th of the guideline). Measurements ranged from this figure down to 0.0004% (approximately 1/250,000th) of the guideline value as we moved away from the masts and into the estate road. These results are comparable to results from other locations in the District. We are yet to find any locations, which begin to approach even 0.1% of this guideline. This is typical of the experiences of other authorities that monitor and also the work of the Government's Health Protection Agency.

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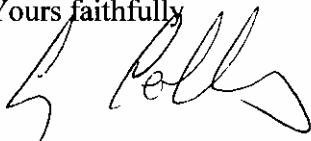
The latest information from the Health Protection Agency is published in NRPB Document: Volume 14, No. 2 "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields: Report of an independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation". It can be downloaded from http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpbf/pdfs/doc_14_2.pdf. An extract from its summary and conclusion is as follows: -

"The weight of evidence now available does not suggest that there are adverse health effects from exposures to RF [Radio-frequency] fields below guideline levels, but the published research on RF exposures and health has limitations, and mobile phones have only been in widespread use for a relatively short time. The possibility therefore remains open that there could be health effects from exposure to RF fields below guideline levels; hence continued research is needed."

The Council will be keeping itself apprised of any developments in research and updated advice from the Government and its advisors.

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters in this letter then please contact either Graham Colling or Karen Baddeley on the number above.

Yours faithfully



R D Armitage
Head of Environmental Health (General) Services