



Department for
Digital, Culture,
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Dear ,

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 November to the Freedom of Information team at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), regarding 5G safety and testing. We have treated your request as correspondence as it is not a request for recorded information, and to respond to the questions raised requires an explanation. Please find answers to your questions below:

I can confirm that the department does not hold information within scope of your request because the department is not responsible for studies related to electromagnetic fields including so called "5G microwave frequencies", or microwave frequencies more generally, and their effect on human health.

Public Health England's (PHE's) Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) is responsible for public health matters in the UK associated with electromagnetic fields, including exposure to microwave frequencies (noting that microwave frequencies are used in a wide range of applications as well as telecommunications).

PHE advice recommends exposures for microwave frequencies are kept within guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). PHE are committed to monitoring the evidence applicable for electromagnetic field exposure and to revise its advice, should that be necessary.

I would therefore recommend contacting PHE with regard to your concerns. You can make a request by emailing: foi@phe.gov.uk.

5G is a term used to describe the fifth generation of mobile communications technologies. There is not yet a common definition as this is an experimental technology that is not yet commercially available. Definitive standards are due to be agreed in 2019 and incremental deployment is expected over the following decade.

5G is likely to be deployed as part of an intricate patchwork of technologies, including advanced LTE (4G), Wi-Fi and 5G New Radio (a 'network of networks'). Deployment will be in phases rather than all at once, and will likely vary by geography due to different demand levels and costs.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Mellin
Ministerial Support Team

