• **General research activities related to EMF health:**

1. The National Policing Improvement Agency is the principal funder of the Airwave Health Monitoring Study, which is a longitudinal study into the possible health effects of the use of Airwave (a TETRA system) on the health of police personnel. The Study is being carried out by the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Imperial College London. As of 31st May 2012, 40,387 officers and staff have enrolled in the Study, of whom, 33,556 have had a health screening as part of their involvement. The intention is to establish a cohort of up to 80,000 over the coming years. More details can be found at: [http://www.police-health.org.uk/](http://www.police-health.org.uk/)

2. UK participated in COST action BM0704 “Emerging EMF Technologies and Health Risk Management”. This action is now complete. More information is available from: [http://www.cost.esf.org/domains_actions/bmbs/Actions/EMF_Technologies_Health-Risk_Management](http://www.cost.esf.org/domains_actions/bmbs/Actions/EMF_Technologies_Health-Risk_Management)

3. Mobile Telephone Health Research - The MTHR programme continues with the start of COSMOS (Cohort Study on Mobile Phone Use and Health), this being the only major study currently active in the MTHR 2 programme. The study was launched in April 2010 and recruitment has been steady up to about 70000 participants. Various strategies are being considered to increase recruitment. The team also noted that they were considering applying for funding under the European Framework Programme 7 to support the "integration" of the separate country results and to consider later developments including Smart phones and hands-free kit and their potential to affect exposures. Details may be found at: [http://www.ukcosmos.org/index.html](http://www.ukcosmos.org/index.html)

4. Health Protection Agency Radiation Protection Division responded to a report from the independent Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (published in May 2008) on the health effects of static magnetic fields by establishing a Scoping Group to advise the HPA Board on future research on possible long-term health consequences in people exposed to the static magnetic and other fields associated with MRI. The MRI Pilot Study started on 1st April 2012 (due to report March 2013) - "Assessment of the Feasibility of a Study into Possible Long-term Health Effects Associated with Exposure to Static and Time-varying Magnetic Fields from MRI". Principle Investigator - Frank de Vocht, University of Manchester.

5. HPA has responded to concerns raised by both teachers and parents relating to the rollout of WiFi networks in schools. Much measurement work has been carried out to characterise the emissions and potential exposures of users. More information is available at: [www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1199451940308](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1199451940308)

6. One of the Recommendations of the Stewart Report ([www.iegmp.org](http://www.iegmp.org)) was that a register of more highly exposed people (ie RF workers) be established. The logic for this was that if health effects were caused by RF exposures, then workers being exposed to higher levels than the public were likely to display the effects first. The Register has recruited ~1800 workers so far. Epidemiologists at the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Birmingham University are starting the first study of data acquired so far. For further information send an email to: [RFRegister@bham.ac.uk](mailto:RFRegister@bham.ac.uk)

• **Areas of public concern and national responses:**
1. In the past year the numbers of enquiries and complaints relating to the siting of mobile phone base stations and masts has remained flat. In part this is probably due to fewer new installations being needed to cope with demands for data bandwidth.

2. We are starting to see a number of requests for information relating to the safety of renewable energy systems (eg wind farms and large photovoltaic arrays). Some of these concerns may be generated by NIMBYism, but some uncertainties still need clarification and communication to local groups.

3. In recognition of public concerns about the use of WiFi and a need for more information about exposures to the radio waves involved, HPA staff have been carrying out a systematic programme of research. The first results from the project were presented at the Conference of the Bioelectromagnetics Society in June 2009. These were measurements of the electromagnetic fields and radiated powers from a selection of laptop computers operating at 2.4 GHz. Further measurements with laptops in the 5 GHz band and access points operating in both frequency bands have been completed, as has a modelling study of exposures. These elements of the study will be published once they are finalised. A final programme of measurements has started to determine the proportion of the time that individual Wi-Fi devices transmit under realistic usage scenarios.

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1199451940308

• New public information activities:

1. The Department for Energy & Climate Change published revised versions of two voluntary codes of practice developed in partnership with the Energy Networks Association as part of the response to the outcomes from the Stakeholder Advisory Group on EMFs (ELF). These were on how to demonstrate compliance with the ICNIRP guidelines and on optimising the phasing of conductors. These are available as free downloads from:


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