[redacted]

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From: Sev En [redacted]
Date: Fri, 11 Mar 2022 11:42:39 +0000
Subject: SOME evidence in support of objection to EMF emitting radio masts at residential St Richards NW1 1BS, planning application
[redacted]

Because EMF radiation can be harmful, some measures are in place to REDUCE (not eliminate) risks to employees and to the general public.
Health and Safety legislation requires risk assessments are carried out to ensure that risks arising from EMF exposure associated with the deployment and operation of communication networks are effectively controlled. However very little is known about or legislated about off-peak hours/days when the traffic limitation imposed by design factors impose certain limitations.

The ICNIRP guidelines are applied through the Government's National Planning Policy Framework for England. The framework describes the information about local community consultation and compliance with the ICNIRP exposure guidelines that should accompany planning applications and also explains that local planning authorities should not set health safeguards different from the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure during peak periods when design factors impose limitations.

Industry has voluntarily committed to comply with the ICNIRP guidelines and to provide certificates of compliance with planning applications for base stations.

Monitoring of exposures

The radio-wave exposure level produced by base stations depends on their output powers, the directional characteristics of their transmitting antennas and where people can be exposed in relation to the antennas. In general, being closer to an antenna results in higher exposures, but the most powerful antennas tend to be mounted high up on masts or non residential buildings – they are designed to direct MOST (not all) of their power towards the horizon, so exposure levels beneath antennas are small (but not absent. Antennas located nearer to street level and inside buildings are designed to communicate over short distances and transmit with lower power levels than antennas mounted at height. People can access directly in front of these types of antennas, but the exposure levels are low due to the low output powers.

The maximum output power from each base station is set by operators to balance call/data traffic across the different sites that make up the network. The actual output power at any given time depends on the amount of calls and data being handled and use of excessive power at any given site is only prevented because of reduction of the capacity of the network for other users. So, optimising transmitted powers to be the minimum needed to carry out communications effectively is an important feature of efficient network design. It also tends to keep public exposures low during peak periods.

The strength of the radio waves from base station antennas also falls off quickly with increasing distance. So, radiofrequency fields at ground level and in places normally accessible to the public are below guideline levels. Where guidelines can be exceeded, normally within a few metres directly of the most powerful antennas, exclusion zones are implemented to restrict access. (WHY?) Signed NH (a St Richards resident)