



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk

Eileen O'Connor
Director EM Radiation Research Trust
eileen@radiationresearch.org

Our ref: TOB2023/20176
Your ref:

3 October 2023

Dear Eileen,

Thank you for your email of 18 September, about smart meters. The Secretary of State is grateful to you for having taken the time to write. I have been asked to respond on her behalf.

Please note that your Freedom of Information request has been registered under reference FOI2023/20332 and is being considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. A separate response to your FOI request will be provided by 17 October 2023.

Smart meters are replacing traditional gas and electricity meters as part of a national infrastructure upgrade that will make our energy system more efficient and flexible, enabling us to use more renewable energy and reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels, thereby increasing our energy security. I would like to take this opportunity to address your concerns.

Smart meters use radio waves to allow remote readings to be taken from gas and electricity meters. However, there is no evidence that radio waves produced by smart meters pose a health risk.

The predecessor organisation to the UK Health Security Agency, Public Health England (PHE), carried out an extensive programme of research to assess exposure from smart meters. The results of this comprehensive work are now published in three parts in the peer-reviewed journal *Bioelectromagnetics*, which can be found online here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/bem.22044>

The results of this research confirmed PHE's advice that exposure to radio waves from smart meters is well below the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines.

It is also worth noting that exposure to radio waves from smart meters is likely to be much lower than that from other everyday devices, such as mobile phones. Further information about this topic can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/smart-meters-radio-waves-and-health/smart-meters-radio-waves-and-health>