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Sent via Email from Eileen O'Connor, Director EM Radiation Research Trust:

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Channel 5
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Channel 5 Complaints Department: Email Address: viewerenquiries@channel5.com

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Smart Metering Implementation Programme Energy Security and Net Zero Claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk

Cc. Ofgem: consumersaffairs@ofgem.gov.uk

Ofcom: sent via an online form.

Brian Stein CBE Chairman EM Radiation Research Trust

EM Radiation Research Trust would like to express our dissatisfaction with the Channel 5 episode 'Smart Meters Should You Get One?' Aired at 8pm on 31st January 2024:

<https://tvregular.com/2024/01/31/smart-meters-should-you-get-one-31-january-2024-on-channel-5/>

The EM Radiation Research Trust encouraged the public to watch Channel 5s episode on Smart Meters and we are now reviewing comments from the public with many people calling the programme a whitewash, biased and an advertisement for smart meters while others are saying that the programme did not provide both sides of the story and therefore leaving the public powerless and unable to make informed decisions.

According to the latest Government report, at the end of September 2023, there were 33.9 million smart and advanced meters in Great Britain in homes and small businesses (59% of all meters). **That is a lot of people WITHOUT smart meters in this country.**

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6567152e312f4000de5d574/Q3_2023_Smart_Meters_Statistics_Report.pdf

The episode ended with a call for the public to "listen to the experts." **This comment has backfired.** MSM reported that many viewers were fuming at this conclusion as they vowed to never get a smart meter. Several comments here:

'Furious Channel 5 viewers vow 'never' to get a smart meter after 'spying' claims.'

@williamworthy said: "What shabby smart meter programme."

@geezerpaulr said: "Channel 5 pushing the smart meter scam big time tonight !"

@asklowley said: "Don't get a smart meter. The energy companies will sell your data do you want that I have refused."

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/technology/furious-channel-5-viewers-vow-never-to-get-a-smart-meter-after-spying-claims/ar-BB1hB6VV?fbclid=IwAR2jiprI8pLCQbDRL0JDwanVTafA-vG0rLwODSAqXTvjef8g2qSEgFTzBxQ>

The Channel 5 programme promoted benefits for smart meters with regards to changing consumer habits towards reducing energy consumption. These measures can be achieved by creating public awareness without the use of a smart meter. The programme was derogatory when interviewing smart meter customer 'smart' vs the traditional meter customer calling her 'not smart.' It could be claimed that the programme was stealthily suggesting that those who are refusing smart meters are 'not smart.' This form of language is disrespectful towards those who are using their legal right to 'opt out' by refusing to accept a smart meter due to concerns for data protection, privacy, and faulty meters etc. Customers are complaining about excessive spikes in bills and faulty meters which could be similar to Mr Bates vs The Post Office scandal that recorded false readings. The public are right to raise concerns.

The smart meter episode exposed data security issues but did not address health concerns associated with this technology. The microwave emissions from a mass rollout of smart meters presents a health hazard to the population according to many doctors and scientists.

The Channel 5 episode said the smart meter talks to the supplier every 30 minutes and 5 minutes, but failed to mention that these signals are exposing the public to microwave radiation. Imagine every household on the street, or block of apartments sending multiple signals every 5 minutes from gas, electric and water meters? The 2017 Ecologist Report mentions how smart meters 'emit as many as 14,000 short bursts of intense microwave radiation a day, disrupting cellular electrochemistry and causing health symptoms from migraine to tinnitus, insomnia, dizziness, anxiety, chest pain, palpitations, and memory loss. Now a growing number of **'electro-sensitives' have had enough.** <https://theecologist.org/2017/apr/11/smart-meters-and-cell-damage-pulsed-em-radiation-our-health-risk>

The EM Radiation Research Trust doubts that Channel 5 will win customer support, trust, and respect after using insulting language such as 'not smart' insinuating lack of intelligence for those who refuse smart meters. Good journalism has a responsibility towards balanced reporting and fairness and should not favour or act as a mouthpiece for private interests. The comment referring to the customer as 'not smart' is not only insulting towards the millions of customers who are refusing smart meters but could also be discrimination towards those who suffer with electrosensitivity. Many people in the UK are unable to cope with radiation from smart meters or are unwilling to accept that risk. Electrosensitive claims have been recognised in the UK courts, one of the cases includes a child who was awarded a special education plan: <https://phiremedical.org/news/>

We do not wish to hear of more tragedies such as the sad loss of 15-year-old schoolgirl Jenny Fry who took her own life in the UK due to suffering with electrosensitivity in 2015. Jenny left a note found after she died saying:

"I have no hope for humanity, we are destroying this beautiful earth as we speak, I'm not good enough with words to stand out from the crowd and somehow help humanity. I'm insignificant, an insignificant number on some ones screen and so is my whole life a tiny blip in the whole existence of the universe and I find it hard to be hopeful when I can barely enjoy anything anymore."

Jenny died on 11/6/2015. Her mother Debra continues to campaign to have Wi-Fi restricted in schools. <https://www.radiationresearch.org/news/jenny-fry-a-15-year-old-schoolgirl-who-sadly-took-her-own-life-in-2015/>

Children have right to be free from excessive exposure to wireless radiation and a right to be free from commercial exploitation. The International Declaration On Human Rights of Children in the Digital Age is calling for these rights to be protected. <https://www.thechildrensdeclaration.org/>

Electro-sensitivity is very real and cannot be ignored or ridiculed. A French court recently ordered the removal of a man's smart meter after he suffered from headaches due to electro-sensitivity triggered by the Linky (smart) meter: <https://stopsmartmeters.com.au/2024/01/01/french-court-orders-removal-of-mans-smart-meter/>

Many people suffering with Electrosensitivity live in remote areas or attempt to shield against this form of radiation and often become prisoners in their own home. Smart meters and smart appliances will offer no place to hide. What sort of society are we consigning those who are suffering with Electrosensitivity to live their lives in pain, enforced poverty and isolation? ES-UK offer support and information for those suffering with Electrosensitivity. According to ES-UK surveys show that 1.2% of the general population are severely affected, 3-8% moderately sensitive, 30% slightly sensitive and 100% are subconsciously sensitive. EHS is disabling for some people. The International Classification of Diseases includes ES under ICD-10-CM: W90.0 (RFR) and W90.8 (ELF). <https://www.es-uk.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ES-UK-information-leaflet.pdf>

The EM Radiation Research Trust (RRT) would like to draw your attention to the letters of complaint sent to the UK Government and Energy Providers regarding concerns about Energy Bill and Smart Meters. Also read the letters of response from the Government, available to download from the EM Radiation Research Trust website: <https://www.radiationresearch.org/news/smarty-meter/>

You may be surprised to hear that the Government does NOT hold any information regarding public liability insurance for the wireless industry. Surely, the Government should check if the companies rolling out smart meters or wireless telecommunications equipment holds public liability insurance which covers claims for ill health due to wireless radiation? <https://www.radiationresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Information-Rights-Team-FOI2023-20332-Response.pdf> This should also include liability claims for smart meter fire hazards and infringements of data security/privacy.

Microwave radio frequencies as emitted by smart meters is recognised as a class 2B carcinogen by the WHO. https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208_E.pdf
The public are therefore expected to accept smart meter technology emitting RF radiation 24/7 within their own homes, with this form of radiation officially classified by the WHO as 'possibly causing cancer'.

The EM Radiation Research Trust calls on Channel 5 and the public to listen to experts who are knowledgeable in this area of research such as Dr David Carpenter, Harvard Medical School-trained physician who headed up the New York State Department of Public Health for 18 years with expertise in electromagnetic fields. He warns of smart meter dangers and stresses the need for an analogue meter option. **He is a top expert** and one of many doctors and scientists who are raising concerns about the dangers associated with this technology. Dr Carpenter said, the question to ask – **“what is the evidence that smart meters are safe?** We have evidence that demonstrates that exposure to RF radiation for long periods of time increases the risk of cancer, damage to the nervous system, caused electro-sensitivity and reproductive effects. Dr Carpenter said **there is no**

justification for the state department to say there are no adverse effects. It should be up to the public if they wish to be subjected to and continuously exposed 24/7 to elevated levels of radio frequency radiation.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7L21XOC2wA>

This group of esteemed doctors and scientists reinforce concerns for health saying: “Smart meters and cell phones occupy similar frequency bands of the electromagnetic spectrum, meaning that cell phone research can apply to smart meter RFR.” Smart meter RFR consists of frequent, very intense but very brief pulses throughout the day. Because smart meter exposure over a 24-hour period can be very prolonged (pulses can average 9,600 times a day), and because there is building evidence that the sharp, high intensity pulses are particularly harmful, the cell phone study findings are applicable when discussing adverse health impacts from smart meters. While the strongest evidence for hazards coming from RFR is for cancer, there is a growing body of evidence that some people develop a condition called electro hypersensitivity (EHS). These individuals respond to being in the presence of RFR with a variety of symptoms, including headache, fatigue, memory loss, ringing in the ears, "brain fog" and burning, tingling and itchy skin. Some reports indicate that up to three percent of the population may develop these symptoms, and that exposure to smart meters is a trigger for development of EHS.” Download here: <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Carpenter-Letter.pdf>

The UK Government offers assurance to the public claiming that the smart metering rollout is underpinned by **consumer choice**. Energy providers are then fined millions if they fail to meet targets to install smart meters to meet the Government’s rollout obligation resulting in **a mandate in all but name and zero consumer choice**. <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/energy-suppliers-pay-total-ps108-million-not-meeting-smart-meter-installation-targets-2022>

Utility customers should be protected and not required to accept smart meter hazards as a condition of receiving electric, gas, and water services. Government should protect customer choice ensuring analogue meters remain available. Excessive installation and running costs, privacy issues, threats, discrimination and harassment by industry or government are not acceptable with regards to life, liberty, or health.

The EM Radiation Research Trust hand delivered the ‘Smart Meters Smarter Practices’ Report to Number 10 Downing Street over a decade ago. We call on the UK Government to stop the smart meter rollout and to follow the recommendations contained within this report as a matter of urgency. <https://www.radiationresearch.org/articles/smart-meters-smarter-practices-document/>

The EM Radiation Research Trust calls on Channel 5 and the UK Government to address serious health concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen O’Connor

Director EM Radiation Research Trust

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