

EM-Radiation Research Trust & PHIRE [Physicians' Health Initiative for Radiation and Environment]

Contacts: Eileen O'Connor, [eileen@radiationresearch.org](mailto:eileen@radiationresearch.org), Dr Erica Mallery-Blythe, <http://phiremedical.org>

### **Choosing the type of meter you want**

In 2011, the Minister of State of DECC declared: "... *it will not be an offence for householders to refuse to accept a smart meter.*" DEFRA later confirmed smart water meters are not compulsory. Some utilities misleadingly suggest smart meter installations are mandatory. That assertion is false. However, if fitted they cannot be removed. Their installation can have serious repercussions.

### **Smart meters and health**

Millions of individuals are electrohypersensitive [EHS]. They, and others, can be adversely affected by smart meter emissions. New or worsened health symptoms reported after rollouts include: insomnia; headaches; tinnitus; fatigue; cognitive disturbances; dysesthesias (abnormal sensation); and dizziness.

Research indicates emissions at similar intensities to those created by smart meters can cause health problems. The majority of studies investigating EMFs document biological effects. Many are forced to move, or abandon areas of their homes, due to smart meter radiation. Effects on flora and fauna are also indicated. It appears likely smart meters will detrimentally influence property values and lettability.

Under the Home Office's Code of Practice for Landlords, landlords must not subject prospective or existing tenants to harassment. It is proposed smart meters may cause harassment through creating hostile environments.

Radio waves are classified as 'Group 2B Possible Carcinogens' (WHO/IARC 2011) **based on increased rates of the fatal brain tumour, glioma, linked with increased radiofrequency radiation exposure**. Some experts are calling for an upgrade to Group 2A 'Probably carcinogenic to humans', or even to Group 1 'Carcinogenic to humans' (**see attached Hardell paper**). **The partial report from the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) is already creating pressure for a classification upgrade. The full report, to be published next year, will further corroborate this concerning finding with evidence of DNA damage (see NTP report attached).**

Internationally, legal claims for damages have been won related to environmental EMF exposures and EHS, **and medicoscientific recognition of EHS and other EMF induced illness is escalating (see attached Brussels Appeal, EMF Scientists Appeal and EUROPAEM Guideline)**. Many insurers now refuse to provide cover on EMF-related issues, providing further incentive for individuals and landlords to adopt a precautionary approach with regard to electromagnetic pollution and type of meters allowed on their properties. Occupants can also be adversely affected by smart meters in adjacent properties, so informing neighbours about potential risks can also be prudent **and consent issues likely**.

### **Smart meters and privacy**

Harvesting of fine-grained data by smart meters permits third parties to identify activity patterns in homes, including whether they are occupied, and types of equipment used in them. Such harvesting represents a gross breach of individuals' rights to privacy and can be highly counterproductive. It is also a form of harassment.

Among those that may seek access to such information are: insurance firms (to determine health care premiums and check on insurance claims); civil litigators (to check property occupancy and activities undertaken); and criminals (to identify high-priced appliances and best times to break in). Understandably many individuals would rather keep details of their historical and real time activities private. Privacy is a basic human right.

### **Smart meters and safety**

Unlike conventional meters, smart meters can be hacked. Many can be remotely disconnected, potentially by hackers.

Increased fire risk has been reported after installing electricity smart meters. It has also been suggested that many gas smart meter installations may cause gas leaks.

In 2015, the Institute of Directors called for the smart meter rollout to be "*halted, altered or scrapped*". The risks from such devices are greater than any potential reward. **Safer alternatives, such as traditional meters, exist and address many of the concerns raised.**

**Dr Isaac Jamieson & Dr Erica Mallery-Blythe**

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