

**HOUSE OF COMMONS
WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

For answer on: Wednesday 8 July 2009

Date answered: Tuesday 14 July 2009

DCLG Ref: 4311 08/09 Party: **CON**

Mr Andrew Mitchell (Sutton Coldfield)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what guidance he issues to planning authorities on their consideration of potential health effects arising from the operation of proposed mobile telephone masts; what account he takes of the guidelines for protection from such radiation established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection in establishing such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [285240].

Mr Ian Austin

Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications (PPG 8) states that health considerations can be a material consideration in determining applications for planning permission and prior approval. Whether such matters are material in a particular case is ultimately a matter for the courts. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case.

PPG8 goes on to say that if a proposed mobile phone mast base station meets the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public health it should not be necessary for a local planning authority to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them.