



UK Health
Security
Agency

UK Report of National EMF Activities in 2025-26

Report to WHO International Advisory
Committee, June 2026

About the UK Health Security Agency

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) prevents, prepares for and responds to infectious diseases, and environmental hazards, to keep all our communities safe, save lives and protect livelihoods. We provide scientific and operational leadership, working with local, national and international partners to protect the public's health and build the nation's health security capability.

[UKHSA](#) is an executive agency, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

UKHSA's information and advice about Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) can be found by following the onward link to "Our health protection services" and then to "Radiation":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

Recent Developments

Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE)

COMARE is the UK's independent scientific advisory committee on the health effects of ionising and non-ionising radiation. Its Electromagnetic Fields and Health Working Group (EAHWG) provides expert advice on health impacts associated with EMF exposure, reviews the scientific evidence base, and identifies research priorities relevant to the UK population. The EAHWG met three times in 2025. Further information on COMARE's structure and work programme is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-medical-aspects-of-radiation-in-the-environment-comare>

General research activities related to EMF and health

UK Government-funded EMF research is primarily delivered through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). Key ongoing studies include:

Airwave Health Monitoring Study (AHMS) Tissue Bank

Launched in 2003, AHMS investigates potential health risks associated with the Airwave (TETRA) communication system used by UK police and emergency services. The cohort includes approximately 53,000 participants with both active and passive follow-up through linkage to hospital, cancer, and mortality records.

The study examines relationships between radiofrequency exposure and outcomes such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, and cognitive function. A recent publication ([Di Gravio et al., 2025](#)) reported no association between TETRA radio use and cancer risk, including head, neck, and central nervous system cancers. Current analyses are focusing on coronary artery disease and stroke outcomes. The study also supports broader research into health in a well-defined occupational group. Details of the study and its publications are available at: <https://police-health.org.uk/>.

COSMOS – Cohort Study of Mobile Phone Use and Health

COSMOS is an international cohort study with approximately 310,000 participants, including around 105,000 from the UK. It examines long-term health effects of mobile phone use and RF-EMF exposure.

Recent developments include:

- Integration of 5G exposure metrics into epidemiological analyses
- Ongoing collaboration with mobile network operators, UKHSA, Ofcom, and Mobile UK
- Development and rollout of a new participant questionnaire
- Updates to NHS data linkage and mobile operator data-sharing agreements

A manuscript on mobile phone use and adiposity has been submitted to the BMJ, while another on cardiovascular and cerebrovascular outcomes is nearing publication. Other information about the international study can be found here: <http://www.ukcosmos.org/>.

SCAMP – Study of Cognition, Adolescents and Mobile Phones

SCAMP involves approximately 11,000 secondary school students and investigates the effects of digital technology use on cognitive and behavioural development.

Recent progress includes:

- Publication of findings on social media use and mental health ([Shen et al., 2026](#))
- Linkage with the National Pupil Database
- A peer-led intervention on mobile phone use

- Continued data collection on cognition, mental health, and 5G exposure

The study combines epidemiological and detailed exposure assessment approaches. Further details on SCAMP are available at: <https://www.scampstudy.org/>.

Areas of public and occupational concern, and national responses

Public concerns continue to focus on EMF sources near homes, particularly mobile phone base stations and power lines. Some individuals identifying as electromagnetically hypersensitive (EHS) attribute a wide range of health symptoms to EMF exposure.

UKHSA responses are based on comparing exposure levels to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, and on conclusions from major expert reviews (e.g. WHO, SCHEER).

5G remains a major source of enquiries to UKHSA. Following earlier measurement campaigns around base stations ([Calderon et al., 2025](#)), further measurements are underway across the Transport for London network, including platforms and tunnels where 5G is deployed. The higher-frequency 5G band (FR2) is not currently used in UK networks, but measurements will be undertaken if deployment occurs.

UKHSA continues to provide public guidance on mobile phone base stations and 5G technologies through its [official webpages](#). Additionally, its updated [Living with Radiation](#) publication supports broader public communication on radiation in the environment.

Ofcom continues to monitor EMF emissions from 5G-enabled base stations. Licence conditions require compliance with public exposure limits based on ICNIRP guidelines. Measured EMF levels have consistently been well within these limits. Monitoring has been repeated at sites in Belfast, Cardiff, London, and Liverpool to assess trends over time.

Occupational Exposure

Controls of workplace exposures in the UK are governed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work (CEMFAW) Regulations 2016. This year the 2nd five-yearly Post Implementation Review (PIR) is being undertaken. The PIR is expected to be “light touch” and will be published by the end of July 2026.

Common issues raised regarding occupational exposure follow a similar theme to those from the public, with a number of concerns relating to telecommunications and smart meters. There have also been some enquiries around occupational exposure during pregnancy. A couple of “whistle-blowing” concerns have been raised regarding testing of RADAR systems, which have led to site inspections. A couple of MRI projectile incidents, in the healthcare and veterinary sectors, have also been investigated.