

IRELAND
Report on EMF Activities
13th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF
June 2008

Statutory Developments

The responsibility for the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields in Ireland became the function of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government on 1 May 2007. A single state agency will be established to deal both with ionising radiation and non-ionising radiation. This will be achieved by extending the statutory powers of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) to include responsibility for matters relating to non-ionising radiation. The details of implementation of the new mandate for the RPII will be presented to Government for approval in due course following detailed consultation with other relevant Government Departments and Agencies.

Research Activity

The Irish Government have also agreed to establish a national research programme to undertake further scientific research in Ireland on the health effects of exposure to EMF. This research programme will build expertise in Ireland and contribute to global knowledge

Public Concern

Concern over power line fields has increased in some areas due to the expansion of the high voltage transmission network. Concern over existing phone masts is currently not widespread. Hypersensitivity to electromagnetic fields remains a difficulty among a small group of people.

Public Information

The website of the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) continues to provide information for the public on the location of mobile phone masts. ComReg also carries out a monitoring programme to ensure compliance with the ICNIRP limits. These reports are available on the www.comreg.ie website.

The main power company, the Electricity Supply Board is very aware of people's views and concerns on the issue of Electric and Magnetic Fields. The ESB supplies detailed information on this subject on their www.esb.ie website. A measurement service for power frequency electric and magnetic fields is provided by them for concerned members of the public. Eirgrid, the national high voltage grid system operator also provides information on its website

The Department of the Environment provides information on the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields on its website www.environ.ie.