



MTHR

Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme

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Press Release

Mobile Telecommunications & Health Research Programme

Report On Mobile Phone Research Published

Mobile phones have not been found to be associated with any biological or adverse health effects a UK's largest investigation into the possible health risks from mobile telephone technology. The Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) Programme has published their conclusions today in their 2007 Report.

The six year research programme has found no association between short term mobile phone use and health. Studies on volunteers also showed no evidence that brain function was affected by mobile phone signals used by the emergency services (TETRA). The MTHR programme management committee has concluded there is no need to support further work in this area.

The research programme also included the largest and most robust studies of electrical hypersensitivity anywhere in the world. These studies have found no evidence that the unpleasant symptoms experienced by sufferers are the result of exposure to signals from mobile phones or base stations.

The situation for longer term exposure is less clear as studies have so far only included a limited number of participants who have used their phones for 10 years or more. The committee recommends more research be conducted in this area.

The MTHR programme also investigated whether mobile phones might affect cells and tissue beyond the phone. The results so far show no evidence for this and the committee believes there is no need to support further work in this area.

Professor Lawrie Challis, Chairman of MTHR, said "This is a very substantial report from a large research programme. The work reported today has all been published in respected peer-reviewed scientific journals. The results are so far re-assuring but there is still a need for more research, especially to investigate whether any adverse effects emerge from longer-term phone use from adults and from use by children."

The research programme has also funded some basic measurements of radio signals from microcellular base stations such as those found in airports, railway stations and shopping malls. These have shown that exposures are well below international guidelines.

Additional studies also confirmed that the use of a mobile phone while driving, whether hand-held or hands-free, causes impairment to performance comparable to that from other in-car distractions. There are however concerns that the demand on cognitive resources from mobile phones may be greater.

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12th September 2007

Notes For Editors

The Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme was set up in response to the recommendations contained within the 'Stewart Report'.

The Programme received approximately £8.8 million of funding from a variety of government and industry sources.

To ensure the independence of the research carried out, scientific management of the programme an independent Programme Management Committee made up of independent experts, mostly seni academics. Funds contributed by the sponsors of the Programme are managed on behalf of the Coi Department of Health as Secretariat to the Programme.

The first Chairman of the Programme Management Committee was Sir William Stewart and he was November 2002 by Professor Lawrie Challis, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Nott formerly Vice-chairman of the Stewart Committee.

The Programme was set up in 2001 and has supported 28 individual research projects, mostly und universities. Of these, 23 have now been completed and most have published results in peer-review and medical journals (23 papers to date, with more expected in the near future).

The Report 2007 summarises the state of knowledge at the time of the Stewart Report and the cur knowledge, taking account of both research supported by the Programme and that carried out else provides an indication of future research priorities.

Details of all the projects supported by the Programme are published on its web site (<http://www.r>

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