

Contents

1	Summary and Recommendations	1
	Background	1
	Sources of exposure	1
	Current guidelines on acceptable levels of exposure to radiofrequency radiation	2
	Main conclusions on the possible effects of mobile phone technology on human health	3
	A precautionary approach and related issues	4
	Advice to Government	4
	Standards	4
	Planning issues	5
	Exclusion zones	6
	Use of mobile phones near hospitals	7
	Devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	7
	Advice to industry	7
	Health related research	8
	Public information and consumer choice	9
	National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB)	10
	References	10
2	Introduction	11
	Background to the introduction of mobile telecommunications	12
	Mobile phone networks and communication	14
	Present and future use of mobile phones	15
	Benefits of mobile telecommunications technology	16
	Economic significance of the mobile phone industry to the UK economy	17
3	Public Perceptions and Concerns	19
	The public	19
	Politicians	20
	The media	21
	Specific interest groups	21
	The telecommunications industry	22
	Mobile phone manufacturers	22
	Network operators	22
	National Radiological Protection Board	23
	Public information	25
	General conclusions	26
4	Radiofrequency Fields from Mobile Phone Technology	27
	Radiofrequency radiation usage	27
	Radiocommunication	27
	Electromagnetic compatibility	28
	Technology of cellular mobile phones	29
	Cellular radiofrequency networks	29
	Cellular phone technologies	30
	Electric and magnetic fields, intensities	33
	Fields from mobile phone systems	35

	Output from mobile phones	35
	Output from base stations	36
	Field penetration into the body: dosimetry	38
5	Scientific Evidence	40
	Interaction of radiofrequency fields with tissues	40
	Mechanisms	40
	Thermal effects	41
	Heating in the head	41
	Non-thermal effects	42
	Mobile phones	45
	Base stations	45
	Experimental studies	45
	Significance of experiments on molecules, cells and animals	45
	Stimulus conditions	46
	Biological issues	48
	Nervous system: can exposure cause functional changes in the brain and brain and affect behaviour?	48
	Effects on cell membranes: do RF fields affect the movement of substances across membranes?	48
	Calcium efflux	50
	Neuronal excitability	51
	Neurotransmitter systems	52
	Electroencephalograms (EEGs) in animals	53
	Thermoregulatory behaviour	55
	Motor activity	55
	Auditory responses	56
	Learning and memory	56
	Blood–brain barrier	60
	Studies of melatonin	60
	Effects on the eye	61
	Overall conclusions of effects on the nervous system	63
	Cancer-related studies: can exposure to RF radiation affect carcinogenic processes?	63
	Ornithine decarboxylase: does exposure to RF radiation, <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> , affect its catalytic action?	64
	Gene expression: does exposure to RF radiation initiate changes in the action of genes?	65
	Does RF radiation affect cell growth, survival or proliferation?	66
	Genotoxicity: does exposure of cells to RF radiation cause DNA damage, mutation or chromosomal aberrations?	67
	Mutagenesis	68
	DNA damage: <i>in vitro</i> studies	68
	DNA damage: <i>in vivo</i> studies	69
	DNA damage: indirect indicators	70
	Long-term studies of cancer induction in animals	73
	Spontaneous tumour incidence	73
	Epigenetic effects: does RF radiation interact with known genotoxic agents to enhance their promotional effects?	74
	Tumour transplantation: does RF radiation enhance the progression of transplanted tumours?	76
	General conclusions from studies of cancer	76
	Haematopoietic system, immune system and longevity	77

Reproduction and development	78
Influences on the cardiovascular system	80
Summary and conclusions on animal and cellular experimental studies	80
Laboratory studies of the effects of RF radiation on people	81
Brain function	81
Studies of cognitive performance	81
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	84
Conclusions from studies on brain function	85
Effects on heart and blood pressure	85
Conclusions on heart and blood pressure studies	86
Mobile phones and driving	86
Experimental evidence for effects on driving	87
Conclusions on experimental evidence for effects on driving	88
Epidemiological evidence for effects on driving	88
Conclusions on epidemiological evidence for effects on driving	90
Epidemiological studies on general health effects	90
Studies of people using mobile phones	92
Mortality and cancer incidence	92
Other health effects	92
Exposure to RF radiation through work and hobbies	93
Cancer	93
Health outcomes other than cancer	97
Residence near radio and television transmitters	97
Conclusions from epidemiological studies	99
Proposals for further research	99
Case-control studies of cancer risk in relation to the use of mobile phones	99
Cohort study of users of mobile phones	99
Symptoms in mobile phone users	100
Mobile phone use and motor vehicle accidents	101
Effect of mobile phone base stations on well-being	101
Conclusions based on overall scientific evidence	101
Overall recommendations for future research	102
Annex – Current research funding	104
6 A Precautionary Approach	107
Risk assessment	107
Risk management	108
The precautionary principle/approach	109
Application of the precautionary approach to mobile phone technology	110
Exposure guidelines for radiofrequency radiation	110
Base stations	114
National register of base stations	115
Exclusion zones	115
Audit of base stations	115
Planning process	116
Base stations near schools	117
Developments in rural areas	118
Mobile phones	118

Information for consumers	118
Shields	119
Hands-free kits	120
Use by children	120
Use near hospitals	121
Use while driving	121
Annex – Current planning procedures for telecommunications development	122
Legal position	122
Policy guidance	123
Scotland	124
Northern Ireland	125
7 References	126
Glossary	146
Appendix A – Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones	150
Appendix B – Written evidence	155
Appendix C – Meetings	159