

ES-UK NEWSLETTER

Electro-sensitivity - UK
charity number 1103018

- for everyone sensitised by electro-magnetic radiation -

December 2007

*Welcome to the new-look **ES-UK Newsletter**. We hope you'll like it and want to contribute to future editions. Do let us know your views. It's a newsletter for all of us to share ideas and information.*

ES-UK - some changes

Over the last month there have been some changes in ES-UK.

Jean Philips, chair of the Trustees, gives an overview of what's been happening.

Electrical Sensitivity has been the subject of an increasing number of articles in the national media, magazines and even on major television programmes, such as Panorama. With the growth in interest that has followed on from this, ES-UK has itself undergone a period of change, to cope with the anticipated extra demands on its resources.

Rod Read has been involved with ES-UK since its inception in 2003, and enabled it to grow to provide a source of much-needed support for people who suffer from ES. There has now been a parting of the ways and ES-UK is taking a new role in supporting people with ES and being a source of information to sufferers, friends, families, medical practitioners, politicians, and the general public. We are part way through a lottery financed project funding a series of outreach activities that could come to a venue near you. If you know of a group who would like a talk about ES in your neighbourhood, contact the number listed below. If you know of a group or organisation, doctor's surgery, school, college, complementary health centre that would like information about electrosmog and the effect it has on some people, let us know and the information will speed to you (or them).

Activities that ES-UK hopes to be involved with are being shared amongst the wider circle of Trustees. These include fundraising, dealing with the website information and news, speaking to the media, writing articles for newspapers and magazines, writing and dispatching the newsletter, organising talks, being available on the other end of the phone, etc. If anybody reading this newsletter feels able to help with any of these activities, please contact us on 0845 643 9748 (the new cheaper to call line, charges at local rates only). The more people out there who help promote ES-UK, the less isolated individuals will begin to feel.

Bear with us in this time of change; we do what we can, when we can. Many of the new trustees are electrosensitives themselves, and do not always feel on top form. The trustees are now: Prof Denis Henshaw, Brian Stein, Sarah Dacre, Michael Bevington, Roger Moller and Jean Philips. Dr David Dowson is now medical adviser to the charity, and Olle Johansson is being approached to see if he will be allowed by the Karolinska Institute to be able to be our new scientific advisor.

Jean Philips,
Chair

ES and protection from electromagnetic radiation

Good news of two small but helpful steps for people with ES.

1. VAT relief on protective items

The VAT department has agreed that ES is a disability that entitles people who suffer from this disability to buy certain protective items with relief from VAT.

To qualify for VAT relief, the purchaser has to sign a declaration (provided by the seller) that they suffer from ES.

This may be the first time that ES has been acknowledged officially in the UK as a disabling condition in the form of a tax concession. It comes under Item 2(g), Group 12, Schedule 8 of the VAT Act 1994, which provides VAT relief on equipment and appliances, not specified elsewhere within Group 12, which have been designed solely for use by disabled or chronically ill persons. 'Such goods will qualify for VAT relief when supplied to disabled or chronically ill persons for their domestic or personal use, or to an eligible charity for use by a disabled or chronically ill individual.'

2. Exterior screening paint allowed

Birmingham City Council has allowed Ms Helen Brown to paint part of the outside of her council house with screening paint at her own cost. She requested this 'electro-conductive coating' in order to shield her property against harmful emissions from mobile telephone masts. The treatment to the exterior rather than the interior ensures that there are no breaks in cover because of internal walls and floors and it therefore gives the property better protection. It involves a first coat sealant over the porous bricks, the black finish coat, and then a waterproof covering of standard water-based paint. Helen now feels much better.

ES and lighting – fluorescent, energy-efficient (CFLs), halogen and LEDs

See *ES-UK Newsletter - Lighting Extra* for Ruth Calder's helpful review of the different types of lights.

ES and science

The major **BioInitiative Report** by 14 international scientists based on a review of 2,000 scientific studies came out in August. It calls for an immediate reduction in EMFs.

EMR and Autism: Tamara Mariea and Dr George Carlo have published a paper (2007) showing how autistic children were helped in most cases by spending time in an area free of EMR. As a result, they believe, it eventually began to allow their bodies to get rid of heavy metals like mercury and this in turn led to substantial improvements in their social and verbal progress.

ES and governments

In the **UK** the declared failure of the **Essex provocation study** continues to reverberate. Some recent further analysis of the results suggests that the data could, after all, be interpreted as proving that subjects claiming sensitivity were more accurate in their interpretations of EMF signals than the control group (see the *Powerwatch* website). In that case, the conclusion reached a few months later by the MTHR interim report would be wrong. This stated that, although the symptoms of electro-sensitivity exist and are distressing, they are not caused by electromagnetic fields. The report fails to explain, however, what is the supposed new cause for the symptoms or why they are not investigating such an important cause if they have not yet identified it.

In October the UK's HPA announced an **enquiry into wi-fi**, just four days after the government stated there would not be one. In the meantime scientists from the Radiation Research Trust had pointed out that the HPA had already called for caution over children's exposure to electromagnetic radiation as regards mobile phones, and mobile phones produce levels of radiation in similar ranges to the cumulative effects of constant wi-fi. Scientists are now concerned that the enquiry's results were stated as being likely to be 're-assuring'. This does not sound like open-ended research. Perhaps the low non-thermal levels of wi-fi are merely to be compared to the government's much higher thermal guidelines. If so, this would miss the whole point of investigating the known non-thermal health dangers. Scientists feel that if the study is just to investigate the measured RF levels, the research programme would be a misuse of almost £0.33M of public money, addressing a question that has already been adequately answered by the HPA and others. Existing publications give the levels of wi-fi radiation and show that it is way below thermal levels. In fact scientists are trying to persuade the HPA to make fundamental changes in the announced programme of work so that it primarily collects health and performance data on school pupil wi-fi users.

In July 2007 the **German** Federal government recommended cabled connections rather than wi-fi, on precautionary grounds, especially for children and youth.

In July 2007 the **Alaska's** supreme court confirmed compensation to a person injured by electro-magnetic radiation at below the thermal threshold. It is likely to set a precedent.

In **Canada** a report during the summer of 2007 listed electro-sensitivity, along with other sensitivities, as an environmental disability.

In September 2007 the **European Environmental Agency** called for an urgent review of EMF exposure.

In September it was revealed that **US** research from 1990 showed microchip implants cause tumours in animals, but the manufacturers had not informed the regulators.

In November 2007 **Paris** imposed a moratorium on any further wi-fi installations in public libraries.

In **Taiwan** 1,500 mobile phone base stations are to be dismantled during 2007. The aim is to remove transmitters from roofs of private buildings, buildings near schools or in residential areas, because the legislators said the radiation could cause cancer, miscarriages and diseases of the nervous system, and could even drive people to suicide. There were requests to halve the number of base stations since the coverage rate is five times the amount Taiwan actually needs.

In **Israel** protestors clashed with police at Druze after a mobile phone mast had been uprooted outside the village. There had been many complaints about cancer cases. Transmitters are to be banned from balconies of flats and limited in some cities.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is about to classify **night-shift work and exposure to light-at-night as a 'probable cause of cancer'** (a class 2A carcinogen). As Professor Henshaw notes, this is relevant to ES in that the reason for this classification is the connection with the disturbance of the circadian rhythm and melatonin production. Reduced nocturnal melatonin production, of course, has been linked with magnetic fields from power lines and is related to symptoms like sleeplessness which many people with ES suffer. So one of the factors apparently involved in the causes of ES will at last be recognised officially.

ES and the NHS

No news.

ES and the media

There have been several detailed reports in the UK national press on the effects of ES. In early August the *Sunday Express* had a double-page spread featuring the stories of three individuals under the title 'Using WiFi cost me my life'.

During September there were many newspaper articles on the dangers of using mobile phones for more than ten years. This again raised concerns about children's exposure.

ES and history

On researching some of the history of sensitivity to electromagnetic fields I was interested to see that as long ago as 1930 the side effects of radiotherapy were listed as follows: dizziness, nausea, weakness and sweating. These symptoms sound familiar! Yet some scientists and doctors still seem unaware of the symptoms 77 years later.

Your newsletter editor

I am a comparative newcomer to the ranks of ES sufferers. Just over a year ago a wi-fi system was installed in the classroom of the school where I teach, but this triggered ES in me. I began to suffer dizziness, nausea, headaches, heart palpitations, pains around the body, etc. - all the usual ES symptoms we all know so well. I had never heard of the condition before but soon located the ES-UK website with its helpful information. I was shocked that others had suffered exactly the same harm from wi-fi but there were no warning notices. Three doctors were unable to give help, although one admitted it was a 'political hot potato'. In contrast, Rod Read at ES-UK understood exactly what I had been suffering.

*Please send contributions for the ES-UK Newsletter to:
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Discuss symptoms with Sandi at any reasonable time before 7.00pm, on 01243 604185.

We ask for a donation towards costs of £15 per year and post you Newsletters.