

ES-UK: Complaint to BB1 about Health: Truth or Scare, broadcast April 23 2019

The section on mobiles and Wifi was inaccurate.

1. Ohene incorrectly claimed that sunlight is more dangerous than mobiles' polarised pulsed radiation. The latter cause all the established specific symptoms of Microwave Sickness or electrosensitivity, known since 1932, including cancer, just like electronic weapons used since the 1950s by the military.
2. Many people are consciously affected. Government-backed surveys show that 800,000 people (1.2% of the UK population) are severely electrosensitive, most to mobiles, Wifi masts and smart meters.
3. SAR heating tests derive from Schwan's invalidated hypothesis of 1953 that the only adverse effect of radio frequency radiation is a bodily temperature rise of one degree within six minutes, proven false by 1959 in the USSR and now by all scientists, since exercise produces a similar temperature rise but without the established RF harm. This includes electrosensitivity, neurological, cardiovascular and DNA harm, infertility, cancers, anxiety and depression, together with exacerbating chronic illnesses, diabetes, MS and ADHD etc..
4. The programme failed to mention IARC's 2011 classification of RF radiation as a 2B human carcinogen because of increased brain tumours caused by non-thermal RF exposure from mobile phones. Since 1953 RF radiation has been known to cause cancer and recent confirmatory studies make most experts consider that RF radiation should be reclassified as a class 1 certain human carcinogen.
5. The programme failed to mention international guidelines for long-term (over 6 or 30 minutes) exposure to RF radiation, which ICNIRP accepts the public can choose. These are based on DNA damage, VGCC leakage, cryptochrome effects, cerebral blood perfusion changes, along with evidence from genetic and other bio-markers.
6. The BBC should retract this feature and replace it with up-to-date scientific evidence showing the established harm from RF radiation.
See <http://www.es-uk.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Selected%20ES%20and%20EHS%20studies.pdf>

Reply by Hollie Bann, BBC Complaints:

We reviewed this and saw contributor Ashley worried about how Wi-Fi could affect her children, considering that the programme was exploring 'invisible dangers' that could exist in the air around us. Particularly, she was concerned about cancers. Steve Brown explained that when mobiles began to be released, headlines claimed that radiation from them could be contributing to a rise in brain tumours. He then stated there was no evidence found that this was the case at the time, but there's a new surge of headlines now and some studies have come about saying there could have been some influence all along. However, it was explained that the NHS has claimed there's still no solid evidence for this. As Ashley was so worried, a bio-physicist came to her house to give her some scientific advice.

Although we appreciate your extensive research here, we must assert that this was a brief look into low, medium and high risk radiation emissions in a basic household, and was not a comprehensive scientific analysis of radiation. The results, which were explained, were much lower than Ashley's fears. Unfortunately, there is not always enough time to include all the information our viewers would like to hear during such short segments - headlines aim to provide a summary of the issue at hand. Our coverage is intended to be balanced and informative in the long run. However, I understand you feel strongly about this and please be assured I have placed your

complaint on our daily audience feedback report, to be viewed by senior BBC management, and the producers of the programme.