

**Complaint:**

*Tanya Beckett's The Inquiry: Why are people attacking 5G mobile phone masts  
BBC Radio 4, Saturday May 2 2020*

Subject of complaint: The unscientific nature of the programme.

This was the most unscientific BBC programme I have heard. Failings included:

1. it proposed an absurd conspiracy theory that a doctor in Belgium started the debate about RFR, 5G and viruses,
2. it rejected the mainstream scientific evidence of harm from RFR from 1799 onwards,
3. it confused the two separate conditions of physical electrosensitivity and psychological electrophobia,
4. it omitted the IARC's plan to reassess RFR's 2B category,
5. it omitted leading international experts who consider there is sufficient scientific evidence for RFR to be a class 1 known or 2A probable human carcinogen,
6. it omitted courts increasingly awarding compensation for brain tumours and electrosensitivity caused by RFR,
7. it omitted underwriters not covering RFR, or instead classifying it like asbestos,
8. it failed to mention that current UK "safety" guidelines are short-term and heating only and in 2008 were voted as obsolete by the European Parliament,
9. it did not state that these short-term limits are 10 million times above international long-term guidelines,
10. it failed to mention that some 80% of the peer-reviewed scientific evidence shows that RFR causes cancer, electrosensitivity, infertility, cardiovascular and neurological harm and damage to wildlife,
11. it omitted the FDA/NTP 'gold standard' \$30 million study to assess whether mobile phones cause cancer which found 'clear evidence', their top category, that they do,
12. it failed to mention that much mainstream science supports the fact that RFR exposure can weaken the immune system.

It was one of the most blatant set of lies, fake news and conspiracy theories I've ever heard.

I ask that the BBC retracts the programme and tries to retrieve its now seriously damaged reputation by broadcasting a similar length programme based on the actual mainstream and majority scientific evidence.

Michael Bevington, May 8 2020

**BBC Complaints Team, Reference CAS-6055497-Y2L9B0, May 21 2020**

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In this programme, Tanya Beckett looked at 5G and examined why it's become the centre of conspiracy theories, with some linking it to the coronavirus. A number of uses for 5G were explored, as well as the concerns for its roll-out, scientific and otherwise. Contributors included BBC Technology reporter Zoe Kleinman; Associate Professor in Science and Technology Studies at UCL, Jack Stilgoe and James Temperton of Wired. We'd note that the Belgian doctor's comments were not presented as factual.

This was intended to be a short programme that explained 5G in simplistic terms and how viral content can spread misinformation. It was not intended to be an extensive exploration of the alleged health effects of 5G. While we might on occasion report that some people hold the view that 5G poses health risks, we are not required to reference this minority view whenever we report on 5G, nor are we required to give it equal weight or prominence.

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