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OPEN LETTER

Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity: Housing needs and Gold Band or Urgent priority

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the person who has given you this letter. He/she suffers from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS), a condition which can be severely disabling, where electrical and wireless devices can cause a wide range of serious symptoms.

I have been involved in this area of health since 2006 when I was sensitised to wireless radiation after Wifi was installed in my workplace. As chair of trustees of a national charity, Electrosensitivity UK, which seeks to help people who suffer from this condition of EHS, I have come into contact with hundreds of people in the UK who are adversely affected by wireless radiation – and not the different condition of a Nocebo effect or Electrophobia which requires prior cognitive conditioning. I have assembled a list of relevant studies, available on the charity's website www.es-uk.info under Research. EHS is now formally recognised as a functional impairment in Canada, Sweden and the USA.

Since 2012 judges in Tribunal Courts of the First Tier in the UK have granted appeals against the DWP for the award of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for people who suffer from EHS. In these cases, the judges were convinced that the persons suffering EHS were sufficiently functionally impaired to be eligible to receive ESA and/or Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The criteria for the award of ESA are comparable with those for the Gold Band or Urgent category of housing needs. These include the fact persons with EHS have an "urgent medical need or long-term disability that would be eased by a move to a more suitable property". All health experts on this condition agree that the key treatment is the provision of housing accommodation where exposure to man-made electromagnetic radiation has been eliminated or significantly reduced, especially in sleeping and living areas. Denying the person affected such protection makes the condition worse through the accumulated effects of continued radiation exposure, leading to further neurological disorders and cancers. I therefore consider it inevitable that a person with EHS will be increasingly adversely affected if he/she continues to live in his/her present accommodation without the appropriate shielding or radiation reduction which some countries require local authorities to provide for people with such health needs.

Further information is available from trustees and volunteers at ElectroSensitivity UK through the contact details above.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Bevington
Chair of Trustees, ElectroSensitivity UK