

# Accessibility for people disabled by Electrosensitivity (ES) and Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS)

## *Background*

### **(a) Accessibility for people disabled by ES/EHS requires environmental changes**

- Electrosensitivity (ES) and Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) are Environmental Intolerances or Allergies, as defined by the World Health Organization and others.
- Accessibility for people disabled by ES/EHS requires environmental changes by reducing radio frequency radiation (RFR) from devices such as Wifi, mobile phones, masts etc.
- Changing the environment complies with: Health & Safety at Work 1974 Act, Equality Act 2010.

### **(b) Number of people in the UK denied accessibility by being severely disabled by ES/EHS**

- 800,000 (1.2%) estimated. About 1% of people with ES/EHS also have the different condition of Electrophobia (EPh). Both disabilities are removed by removing RFR from the environment.

## *Measures necessary to reduce disability from ES/EHS*

### **1. Adoption of non-thermal guidelines to give access to people disabled by ES/EHS**

- Long-term non-thermal environmental guidelines (e.g. Bioinitiative 2012, EUROPAEM 2016, IGNIR 2018) allow access for people disabled by long-term non-thermal ES/EHS.
- Short-term heating-only guidelines (ICNIRP) do not prevent disability from ES/EHS, or cancers.
- UK courts and tribunals have recognised long-term disability from ES/EHS since 2012.

### **2. Application of non-thermal accessibility accommodations for people disabled by ES/EHS**

- E.g.: restricting or removing Wifi, Bluetooth, use of mobile phones, phone masts, etc.
- Accessibility accommodations have been made by employers in the UK since 2006 for people disabled by ES/EHS, e.g. by creating areas free of all Wifi and of all mobile phone/tablet use.
- These accommodations for people disabled by ES/EHS apply to cinemas, homes, hospitals, hotels, libraries, museums, schools, shops, stadiums, theatres, transport, workplaces, etc.
- Refusal or removal of RFR smart meters is allowed (since 2011) but not yet neighbours' meters.
- Preventative restrictions or removal apply to other carcinogens such as smoking and asbestos, other allergies such as nut and food intolerances, and virus risks such as COVID-19.

### **3. Extra accessibility accommodations for particular disabilities additional to ES/EHS**

- Hearing-aids without Bluetooth, for people with ES/EHS and hearing disability (severe hearing disability affects perhaps 0.1% of people with severe ES/EHS disability).
- Blue-Badge Scheme, for people with ES/EHS also confined to a wheelchair (perhaps 0.1%).
- Chemical restrictions, for people with ES/EHS and severe chemical sensitivity (over 10%).

*For additional information on accessibility and people disabled by ES/EHS, see <http://www.es-uk.info/>*