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Smart Meters and their Adverse Health Effects

1. Adverse health effects from smart meters

a) Smart meters emit non-thermal radiofrequency (RF) radiation. This can cause adverse health effects, such as genetic damage and the symptoms of Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS).
b) Radiation from smart meters can be especially harmful to people who are already sensitive to electromagnetic fields (EMFs), such as those with EHS.
c) Radiofrequency radiation, such as from smart meters, can also be especially harmful to people with metallic implants, including metal hip replacements and mercury dental amalgams.

2. Cancer and non-thermal smart meter radiation

Non-thermal RF radiation, such as from smart meters, is classified as a 2B possible carcinogen by the IARC. A review by the World Health Organization confirms that it causes cancer at non-thermal levels. Many experts state it should now be reclassified as a Class 1 known carcinogen.

3. Householders can refuse a smart meter

Everyone in the UK has the legal right to refuse smart meters: “it will not be an offence for householders to refuse to accept a smart meter” (Hansard, 29 November 2011).

4. No supporting letter is required

Under the Equality Act 2010 no letter or authorisation is required to establish a person’s equal rights and equality of access. Under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 it is the duty of the owner of equipment to ensure that it is safe for all and does not damage health.

5. UK’s current ICNIRP limits are not protective against smart meter radiation

At present the UK government still follows the ICNIRP’s heating limits, not the international non-thermal limits. Under its General Approach, the ICNIRP requires governments to use non-thermal limits for people vulnerable below its heating limits. ICNIRP’s limits exclude metallic implants.

6. Solutions to the problem of adverse health effects from smart meter radiation

Analogue meters can be retained or substituted for smart meters, or smart meters can be set to operate in ‘dumb’ mode without emitting radiation. EHS customers should be listed as vulnerable.

Michael Bevington
Chair of Trustees, Electrosensitivity-UK
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Further information: Current Knowledge about EHS, 2026; Hansard 903W, 2011; Lamech, 2014.

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