Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review: Call for Evidence

I am responding to your Call for Evidence in respect of your Consultation Document entitled Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review. I write as an individual.

I am not answering your five specific questions as posed in your Consultation Document as they are too narrow and do not cover the very important matter of health concerns.

Introduction Para 2

"The Review will assess whether any additional policy interventions are needed to create the conditions for long term investment in world-class digital connectivity that is seamless, reliable, long-lasting and widely available, whilst also promoting a stable environment for investment."

Yes, we need connectivity to be seamless, reliable, long-lasting and widely available but of equal importance any new technologies must be safe – and this applies to users and those who may not be users but who will be subject to the effects of any radiofrequency (RF) radiation used by the new technologies. This is where policy interventions will be needed to ensure that the environment is not polluted by unsafe, and unhealthy, impacts. We already know from the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer that RF radiation has been classified as a 2B carcinogen. Continuing to flood our natural environment with further, and possibly more powerful, pollutants is a technological and moral mistake which must not be allowed to proceed.

Introduction para 3

"The Review will assess . . . . . what the wider implications of change could be for industry and consumers."

But it's not just consumers of the new technology that will be affected. As stated above, the public generally will be impacted if our environment is to be swamped with RF radiation which is a 2B carcinogen.

Resolution 1815 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – supported by the UK – recommends that member governments set preventative thresholds for levels of long-term exposure to RF radiation in all interior areas, in accordance with the precautionary principle, not exceeding 0.6 volts per metre, and in the medium term to reduce it to 0.2 volts per metre (recommendation 8.2.1). The Resolution was passed in 2011 and refers to interior areas but if 5G is to be rolled out over wide areas then it is also the outside environment, particularly in urban areas that will also suffer from the effects of RF radiation. Given that the level of radiation on Great Western Railways new

Hitachi intercity trains is above 1 volt per metre one has to wonder whether the medium term level of 0.2 volts per metre as advocated by Resolution 1815 could possibly be achieved for outside areas.

If not, what are the health impacts, what authority will be setting the maximum levels and how will it be monitored and enforced? We cannot have the situation where RF radiation is being pumped into our living environment with no controls over it. We already have cumulative and uncontrolled radiation from Wi-Fi in our towns and cities from pubs, shops, restaurants, banks, leisure centres, smart meters, etc. The addition of radiation from 5G will create unsafe environments and for some, parts of our country will become no go areas for those already suffering from electrohypersensitivity and it will lead to many more becoming affected.

Interestingly, recommendation 8.2.2 of the CoE Resolution requires member governments to undertake appropriate risk-assessment procedures for all new types of devices prior to licensing. What risk assessments have been undertaken with respect to a 5G roll-out? I am assuming none because no authority is prepared to stand up against a strong commercial and Government lobby that simply wishes to see 5G implemented regardless of the consequences.

Call for Evidence para 1

DCMS wishes to “understand what market or policy interventions might support long term investment in the next generation of telecoms infrastructure and what consequences such interventions could have on competitive dynamics, markets and consumers”.

A policy intervention on the health impacts of a 5G roll-out is essential in order to understand and control the RF radiation in our environment and the health impacts on the population generally. As stated above it is not just the consumers of the 5G technology that will be affected, rather it is the entire population that will be exposed to the injurious radiation.

A policy intervention on levels of RF radiation could be highly beneficial to the population at large if it means a less polluted environment for us all.