

Scrutiny request

Issue - How does Worthing council propose to help those people with 'metallic implants' in their bodies who are NOT protected by the ICNIRP Guidelines, being especially vulnerable to RF EMFs, and in need of extra protection under the council's obligations within the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Equality Act 2010?

Request from - Worthing resident

Public interest - This issue is in the Public Interest because:

According to ICNIRP, their guidelines for limiting exposure to RF EMFs (from telecom installations ie. mobile masts) were designed to: "provide a high level of protection for ALL people against substantiated adverse health effects from exposures to both short- and long-term, continuous and discontinuous radiofrequency EMFs. However, some exposure scenarios are defined as outside the scope of these guidelines...metallic implants may alter or perturb EMFs in the body, which in turn can affect the body both directly (via direct interaction between field and tissue) and indirectly (via an intermediate conducting object)".

This means people with *metallic implants, dental work, pacemakers, metal pins, plates, rods, discs, screws, joint replacements - the list goes on - have no assurance of safety.

Therefore, many members of the public in Worthing can potentially be adversely affected by this lack of adequate protection.

Score =

Ability to change - The Councils are responsible for approving new telecom installations in Adur & Worthing and, subsequently, are responsible and liable for accepting the inadequate ICNIRP Guidelines that do not protect a sector of the public ie. those with metallic implants in their body.

What can the Councils do about this issue?

- 1) The councils can acknowledge this issue is a problem that needs to be solved and not by simply ignoring whistleblowers.
- 2) The Councils can pause their acceptance of new telecom installation applications ie. 5G masts applications until they have fully assessed the potential public health risks associated with this issue.
- 3) The Councils can halt any planned telecom installations until they are 100% certain that the problem has been solved.
- 4) The Councils can quash approved telecom installation applications until they are 100% certain that the problem has been solved.
- 5) The Councils can demand that the UKGOV Regulatory bodies re-assess the RF EMF exposure safety and potential public health risks independently of the ICNIRP guidelines by examining the extensive amount of research studies dating back to the 1970s when

radio frequencies were first investigated by both the US and USSR governments.

Score =

Performance - This issue is in the Public Interest because:

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This means people with *metallic implants, dental work, pacemakers, metal pins, plates, rods, discs, screws, joint replacements - the list goes on - have no assurance of safety.

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Score =

Extent - This is a big problem. An unknown percentage of the Councils' populace is affected by this issue owing to the presence of metallic implants in their bodies.

Score =

Replication - This request has not been submitted previously to JOSOC but the resident asked a similar question at the Worthing Council meeting on 17 October 2023.

Score =

Expected Outcomes - That the Councils will accept their obligations towards public health and safety in regard to RF EMF emissions from telecom installations, and act with urgency to protect those who are vulnerable to these emissions by whatever means are at the Councils' disposal.

Does the proposed review link with the Council strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?

Score =

How could this review be undertaken?

**Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny
Committee Chairpersons/Vice-Chairpersons:-**