

**PE1416/F**

Petitioner Letter of 13 August 2012

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. It does not appear to me that the Scottish Government have addressed the issues here.

1. **Siting of masts** – I accept that certain arrangements were put in place following the Stewart Report in 2000. However the central issue is the approach to the siting of masts. The 2012 Report referred to indicates that there “is no convincing evidence that RF field exposures below guideline levels cause health effects in adults or children. This, if I may say so, is a rather different proposition from an assurance that there are in fact no such health effects. If the matter was fully established, there would be no need for the further comprehensive review which is planned.

It is worthy of note that the MTHR 2003 study concluded that there was “no association between risk of early childhood cancers and the mother’s exposure”. This strikes me as a rather more robust finding than the 2012 study.

Accordingly it seems to me that we are still in the position where the health effects of RF field exposures – particularly over the longer term – are still not entirely clear. In that situation, it is odd that other countries find it appropriate, in the exercise of the precautionary approach, to ban the siting of masts near schools while Scotland does not.

2. **Sitefinder database** – The position on this is, if anything, even more unsatisfactory. The Scottish Government appear to be satisfied that the purpose of the database was only to provide sufficiently comprehensive data to prove a point about levels of public exposure being below guideline levels.

I must say I take the view that the public are entitled to know where masts are situated in their area. It is not a particularly onerous obligation on the operators and I find it a bit of a liberty on their part to “suspend participation”. The uncertainty and mystery now surrounding this, far from reassuring the public, seem destined to upset and worry the public who may reasonably conclude there is something to hide.

Apart from other considerations, since 2000, the coverage of mobile phone masts, the advances in technology, the new devices reliant on mast cover, and the move from 3g to 4g have greatly increased the demands on the system.

I very much hope that no Scottish Parliament Committee would find itself satisfied by the response on these matters from the Scottish Government, and that you will feel

able to press for a full reply – and appropriate action - on your earlier, entirely legitimate questions.

Best wishes,

Robert Brown