

Margaret Coaster
Smart Metering Team, Ofgem E-Serve
9 Millbank, London SW1P 3GE

Submission on behalf of The Bio Electromagnetic Research Initiative

We are deeply concerned about the way in which the smart meter implementation programme has been fast tracked, particularly this consultation.

In Chapter 4 the reasons given for the proposal to speed up implementation are as follows:

"Consumer impact: There is anecdotal evidence of growing consumer interest in smart metering, fuelled by increasing supplier advertising and activity in the area of energy monitors and smart metering. Seizing on this enthusiasm at an earlier stage could help promote engagement by these consumers and harness the potential for achieving increased benefits." (see section 4.19 in the Implementation document).

However, your Consumer View Report on your focus group study seems to contradict this statement:

"Overall the concept generated less enthusiasm than might have been hoped but fewer concerns than might have been feared."

So WHY the rush??

Given the importance of this implementation we are also concerned that with regards to the consultation process, the democratic process has not been adhered to:

As the 'public' is very much involved and affected, this should have been a 'public' consultation, which should have been carried out by each energy company, issuing a questionnaire to their customers. This could have been sent out to them along with their bill, thereby avoiding the expense of using 12 carefully picked focus groups whose views cannot possibly reflect those of the 'general' public.

What is also of great concern is the 'omission' by some of the energy suppliers to explain the transmission mode of these smart meters to their customers, which could be interpreted as 'wilful neglect'. Instead of actually telling their customers that the installation of a smart meter is equivalent to a mobile phone mast being installed within their home, they state that the "signal is transmitted electronically". This simply is NOT acceptable as this does not inform the consumer who has the right to correct information, information which they can understand.

We also have direct experience of one energy company actually denying that the transmission mode is wireless, using pulsed microwaves. For people (and the numbers are growing daily!) who are sensitive to WiFi ,the 'enforced'

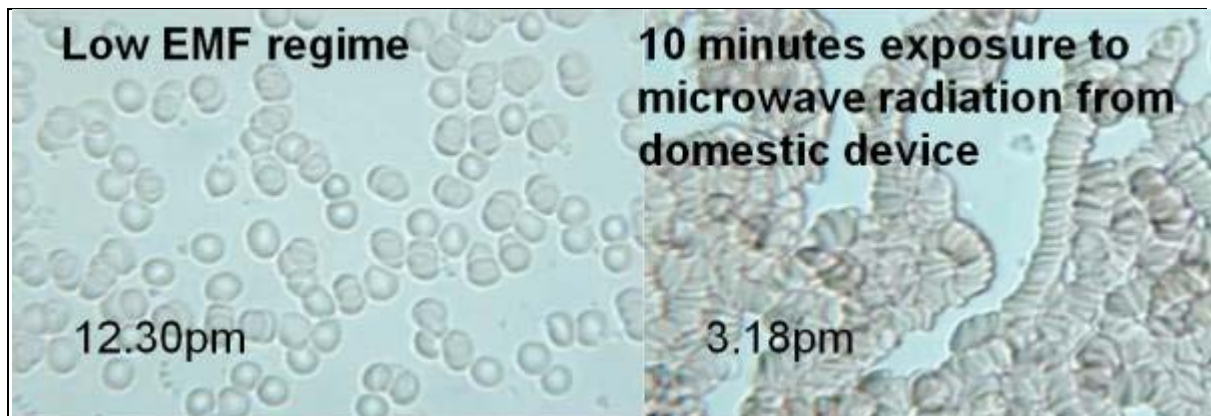
installation of a device emitting pulsed microwaves within their home could have devastating consequences. The signs are that we will soon see more legal challenges from victims suffering health effects as a result of WiFi exposure following the latest Italian High Court judgement. There is no evidence that possible health effects have even been mentioned during the focus group process which makes an 'informed' decision making process impossible.

For these reasons alone this consultation must be deemed as flawed and its procedure to be revised and restarted according to correct 'democratic' guidelines. The above mentioned method, suggesting that energy companies should carry out this process, is the most appropriate.

ONLY wired meters should be introduced to avoid harm and protect the vulnerable. It is against Human Rights to force people sensitive to electromagnetic radiation to have wifi in their homes against their will, and to not even inform them of this fact constitutes 'wilful neglect'. If the government insists on making 'wireless' meters mandatory, they must prepare themselves for legal challenges in the future.

Here are some examples of Microwave Radiation & Biological Effects (more info on www.bemri.org)

The effects of different electromagnetic field regimes on subject's blood cells using darkfield-microscopy are shown below. The coagulated clumps of cells (*created as a result of exposure to microwave radiation*), indicate an increased risk of ailments such as infarction, stroke or thrombosis.



Havas (unpublished research)

Raised exposures to microwaves linked to:

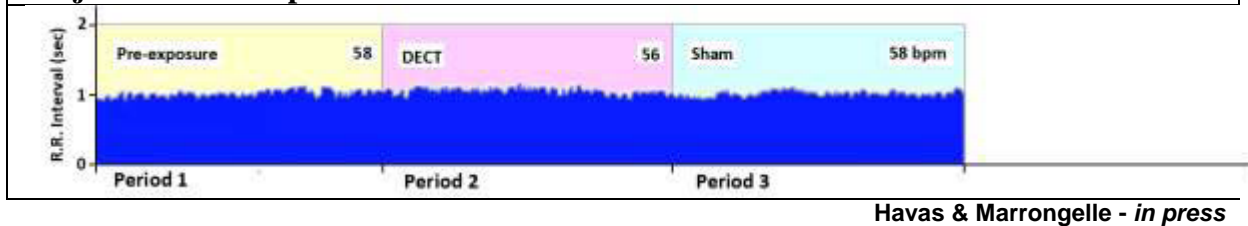
Increased stress	Reduced blood circulation
Lower oxygen transport	Fatigue
Heart problems	Blood pressure abnormalities

Safer regimes/technologies that do not emit microwave radiation should be used wherever possible for smart meters.

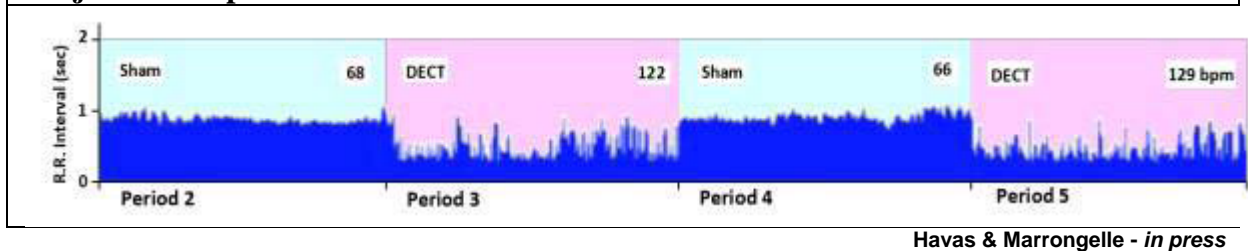
Wireless Devices & Heart Rate

Effects of conventional wireless transmissions on electrohypersensitive individuals. Exposure intensity of 3 $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$

Subject A – non responsive



Subject B – responsive



Results: Changes noted in some Electro-hypersensitives

40% (8 subjects) – changes documented

20% (4 subjects) – tachycardia.

Other points:

Your Fact Sheet 90 states:

It is estimated that by 2020 an average consumer will be saving around £14 a year on their gas and electricity bills, as they reduce their energy usage in response to the better information provided by smart meters. Some consumers may save considerably more.

An individual saving of £14 per year for a £10bn plus spend?? And what happens to the meter readers who will, in the current climate, mostly end up without jobs and on state benefit. The £15bn "savings" that DECC calculated does not allow for these people ending up on state benefits!

The following was printed in the Chartered Institute of Building Service Engineers (CIBSE)'s Journal.

"SMART MOVE CRITICISED AS 'USELESS'"

UK government plans to roll out smart meters to every home by 2020 have been described as 'virtually useless' for helping consumers cut their energy bills and carbon emissions.

Smart meters are intended to make consumers more aware of their energy consumption, improving energy efficiency, cutting carbon emissions and reducing energy bills. But Joel Hagan, chief executive of Onzo, a body that helps utility companies achieve their objectives, said: 'While smart meters will result in more accurate bills, they will not provide people with the information they need to manage their energy usage and cut costs.'

Energy suppliers will be responsible for installing smart meters into their customers' homes. DECC has published a paper, Smarter Grids: The Opportunity, which sets out the argument for developing

smart grids in the UK."

Source of information: CIBSE Journal January 2010, P12.

Note: CIBSE is the standard setter and authority on building services engineering and is represented on major bodies and organisations that govern construction and engineering occupations in the UK, Europe and worldwide. It publishes Guidance and Codes internationally recognised as authoritative, and sets criteria for best practice in the profession. It speaks on behalf of that profession and is consulted by government on matters relating to construction, engineering and sustainability.

We must reiterate again that, to protect the general public from harm, a`wired' system must be used.

For WAN it is essential that fibre optics or Ethernet is used for the transmission of data and regarding HAN, we should have the right to refuse a wireless home network and be able to opt for a wired connection to our in-house display.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

www.bemri.org

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