

Radio Waves, The Electromagnetic Spectrum and You...

The radio waves that are used to transmit and receive mobile phone calls have low energy and do not pose a risk to people. They form part of a group of waves called the electromagnetic spectrum. The electromagnetic spectrum is a part of everyday life. Natural sources such as the Sun and the Earth emit electromagnetic waves as well as sources such as TV and radio broadcasters, household electrical appliances, wireless baby monitors and mobile phones.

Radio waves from a mobile phone system are referred to as non-ionising radiation. This means that they occupy the lower end of the electromagnetic spectrum and have low energy. Under controlled circumstances they lack the energy to cause harm to people. Non-ionising radiation is absorbed as heat. Ionizing radiation occupies the higher end of the spectrum. It includes X-rays and gamma rays, and can cause biological harm by damaging genetic material.

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Mobile Networks, Broadband, Masts and You...

A brief and concise explanation about how mobile phones and their necessary infrastructure operate.

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Ireland has the highest mobile usage rates in Europe with 120% market penetration and counting.

We love our phones...though have you ever considered how they work and the technology behind them?



Shared Access

Ireland's leading company in the management of shared telecommunications sites in the country - has developed this leaflet in order to give you a brief and concise explanation about how mobile phones and their necessary infrastructure operate. This document also deals with any concerns people may have regarding living near a phone mast.

Mobile Phones and Masts

A mobile phone is a sophisticated 2-way radio that works by connecting to a base station over a low-power radio link whenever a call is made or received. A base station contains an antenna which connects the mobile phone to the telecommunications network. The antenna may be mounted on a rooftop or on a free-standing structure.

Working Together

At Shared Access we facilitate a fully collaborative approach to ensure the provision of a world-class mobile phone network that meets the highest international standards. We liaise with the various mobile phone operators, we work with local developers to find suitable locations for co-located base stations and we engage with local communities to ensure a full consultation process takes place.

Projects

Shared Access manages a portfolio of over 2000 sites across Ireland. We have been exclusive agents for the State and OPW locations including 220 Garda Stations. We are developing a portfolio of sites with the FAI, Dublin GAA, Munster Rugby, Leinster Rugby, Tennis Ireland and Gala amongst others. Some of our previous projects include Dundrum Shopping Centre, Dublin Port Tunnel and Thomond Park.

Shared Access and You

Shared Access will work with you to develop new sites around the country while simultaneously upgrading the facilities at your locations. For example, floodlighting systems installations at FAI, Dublin GAA, Munster Rugby, Leinster Rugby and Tennis Ireland sites.

Masts and You

The main concern that people living, working or playing near a phone mast have is whether or not the mast can have a negative effect on health. Since mobile phones have come into existence, people have justifiably questioned the long-term impacts of their use and this issue of proximity to mobile phone masts. People are right to seek assurances for their sake and the sake of their families.

The International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), an international body of independent scientific experts, have developed guideline non-ionising radiation exposure limits. These limits are sanctioned and recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Union (EU), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and others. All of the telecommunications sites managed by Shared Access adhere to these guideline limits.

The UK government commissioned Stewart Report concluded that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be a fraction of the guideline limits. In June 2010 researchers at Imperial College London concluded that living near a mobile phone mast while pregnant does not increase the risk of children developing cancer.