





Stewart, a former Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government. This reported on 11 May 2000, having reviewed the literature and conducted a number of public hearings around the UK.<sup>3</sup> The main conclusions, summarised in an accompanying press release were:

- The use of mobile phones and related technologies will continue to increase for the foreseeable future.
- ? The balance of evidence to date does not suggest that emissions from mobile phones and base stations put the health of the UK population at risk.
  - ? There is now some preliminary scientific evidence that exposures to RF radiation may cause subtle effects on biological functions, including those of the brain. This does not necessarily mean that health is affected but it is not possible to say that exposure to RF radiation, even at levels below national guidelines, is totally without potential adverse health effects.
  - ? The Expert Group has recommended that a precautionary approach to the use of mobile phone technologies be adopted until more detailed and scientifically robust information becomes available.
  - ? For base station emissions, exposures of the general population will be to the whole body but normally at levels of intensity many times less than those from handsets.
  - ? Some people's well-being may be adversely affected by the environmental impact of mobile phone base stations sited next to houses, schools or other buildings, as well as by fear of perceived direct effects.
  - ? For all base stations, including those with masts under 15m, permitted development rights should be revoked and the siting of all new base stations should be subject to the normal planning process.
  - ? The use of mobile phones whilst driving can have a detrimental effect on the quality of driving. Drivers should be discouraged from using mobile phones whilst on the move.
  - ? The widespread use of mobile phones by children for non-essential calls should be discouraged.

Sir William Stewart amplified his personal concerns about phones (but not masts) to the British Association for the Advancement of Science in September 2001:

Sir William Stewart...called for the cost of handsets to be increased to restrict their use by children. Sir William...said he would not allow his grandchildren to use a mobile phone...<sup>4</sup>

In 2000, David Blunkett wrote to all schools urging headteachers to restrict the use of mobile phones for pupils younger than those in the sixth form. In addition, all children under the age of 16 are told to use their mobile phones only in emergencies in a new point-of-sale leaflet drawn up by ministers.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.iegmp.org.uk/>

<sup>4</sup> "Mobile telephones in new brain tumour alert", *Daily Telegraph*, 5 September 2001

<sup>5</sup> "Schools warned on mobile phones", *Financial Times*, 25 July 2000



















