

“Considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects.”

World Health Organisation,
Fact Sheet 304,
May 2006



Further information

The Mobile Operators Association represents the interests of the UK's five mobile phone network operators - 3, O2, Orange, T-Mobile and Vodafone - on radiofrequency health and associated town planning issues.

For individual operator contact details see www.mobilemastinfo.com

Ofcom has published an Information Sheet on its audit programme:
http://www.ofcom.org.uk/sitefinder/audit_info



Ofcom audit of mobile phone mast radiowaves

A continuing independent audit of mobile phone mast radiowaves by telecommunications regulator Ofcom (the Office of Communications) has demonstrated that emissions are typically small fractions of international health and safety radiofrequency public exposure guidelines.

The Ofcom audit programme was established in 2001 following a recommendation in the report of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones ('the Stewart Report') <http://www.iegmp.org.uk/report/index.htm> The aim of the audit programme is to confirm that radiowave emissions from representative samples of mobile phone radio base stations (often called 'masts') in the UK are below the radiofrequency public exposure guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Mobile phones cannot work without a network of base stations in places where people want to use them.

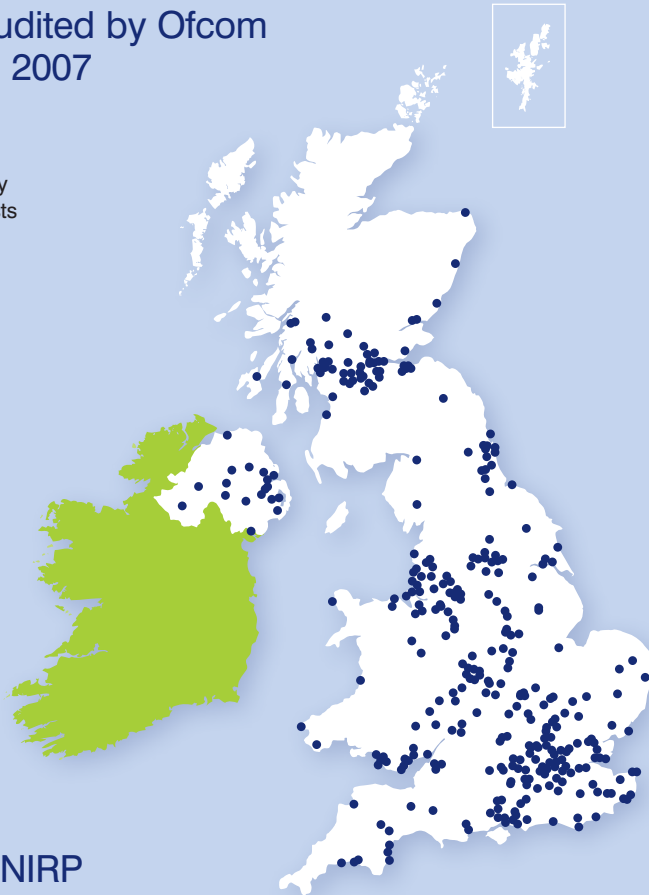
Over 30 scientific reviews worldwide in the past eight years have not found adverse health effects caused by mobile phone base stations operating within the international health and safety guidelines used in the UK.



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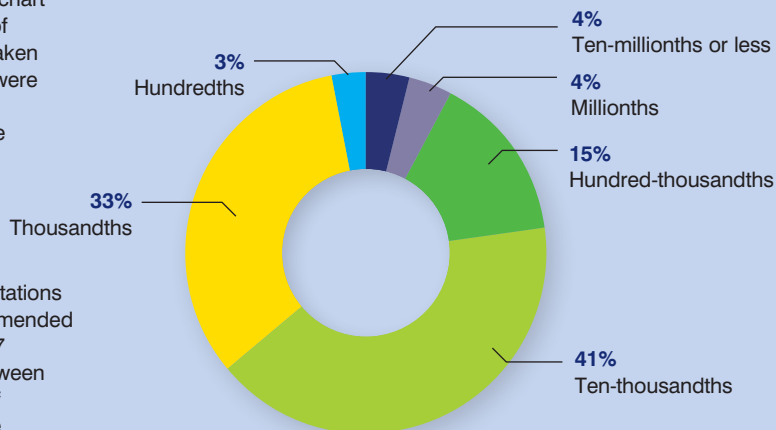
Site Locations Audited by Ofcom between 2001 to 2007

The map of the UK shows the geographic spread of measurements undertaken by Ofcom in response to requests between 2001 and 2007 – each dot represents a measurement location.



Percentage of ICNIRP Guidelines

Correspondingly, the pie chart shows what percentage of the total measurements taken between 2001 and 2007 were hundredths, thousandths, ten-thousandths etc of the ICNIRP guidelines.



Emissions from all base stations are well below the recommended guidelines in all of the 537 measurements made between 2001 and 2007. In 97% of the cases emissions were thousands of times or more below the guidelines.



To date, in response to requests from councils, schools, hospitals and the public, Ofcom has performed over 500 measurements around masts, predominantly near schools and hospitals. The highest radiofrequency emission level recorded was 1/279th of the ICNIRP guidelines.

All of the measurement results can be viewed at:
<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/sitefinder/audits/>

The Ofcom audit measurements are consistent with those carried out by the Radiation Protection Division (RPD) of the Health Protection Agency (HPA):

“The measurements made by Ofcom and RPD show that exposure at publicly accessible locations near to base stations is very much below the ICNIRP guidelines.”

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733767890?p=1158934607786

Ofcom audit

The emphasis of the radiowave measurement programme is on schools and hospitals (as recommended in the Stewart Report) although Ofcom will consider requests for surveys in locations where there is unrestricted public access and concern about signal levels. Ofcom cannot audit within private homes. Anyone wishing to arrange an Ofcom audit of a base station can use the website: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/sitefinder/sitefinder> or contact:

Ofcom Advisory Team
 Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road
 London SE1 9HA
T 0300 123 3333
F 0300 123 0811
E contact@ofcom.org.uk

Ofcom's remit is to measure the radiowave emissions from base stations. Any health interpretation of those measurements is made by the Health Protection Agency, not Ofcom. www.hpa.org.uk

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