

29 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202203394

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for information about safety data and 5G.

On 1 March 2022, your request was transferred from the Office of Minister of Health, Hon Andrew Little to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for response. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Can you provide the current testing safety data for the safety of 4g and safety data from switching on from 4g to 5g on all living plants, insects, animals and humans for 2021/2022.

4G and 5G, like all other generations of mobile phone technology, allow wireless communication by using radio waves. The main distinguishing feature is the way that information is encoded onto the radio wave. Research into the health effects of radio waves has been carried out for about 70 years. You can find recent summaries of this research on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/non-ionising-radiation/research-non-ionising-radiation. There is additional information about cell sites and 5G available at: www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/environmental-health/radiation-environment/cellsites-and-5g. The Ministry does not hold information on the effects of radio waves on plants, insects and animals.

Current scientific studies of the effects of being surrounded by emfs in the home and cities and what s safe exposure of ghz standing beside a 5g cell tower and the safety of being exposed to more than 60ghz.

For current scientific research, please see the previous answer. The Ministry recommends the application of exposure limits set out in New Zealand standard NZS 2772.1:1999 Radiofrequency fields – Maximum exposure levels – 3 kHz to 300 GHz. There is information about this standard at: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/non-ionising-radiation/radiofrequency-field-exposure-standard. An exposure limit of 10 watts per square meter applies at the frequencies around 3.5 GHz currently being used by 5G cell sites in New Zealand, and frequencies above 60 GHz.

Do the upgraded street lights in Riverton contain a 5g aerial and components of 5g networking system which are used to transmit as an antenna for the 5g network, please provide the safety standard data of the light/5g and what Ghz that they produce?

The Ministry does not hold information about streetlights in Riverton. You may wish to contact your local council to request this information. However, the Ministry notes that there are no transmitters in Riverton licensed to operate at the frequencies currently authorised for 5G in New Zealand.

The Ministry understands many new streetlights are linked by a network of low power radio transmitters that are completely independent of the 5G network, which allow them to be controlled remotely, and send reports back to the local council (e.g., lamp failures). However, you would have to seek information from the Southland District Council to see whether this is the case with the streetlights in Riverton.

Where are the 5g towers in Riverton and surrounding areas?


The Ministry does not hold this information. However, according to information on the publicly available Register of Radio Frequencies at <https://rrf.rsm.govt.nz/smart-web/smart/page/-/smart/WelcomePage.wdk> maintained by the Radio Spectrum Management service of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the closest 5G tower to Riverton is in Wallaceville.

What is a safe 5g radiation exposure/ghz reading for humans daily as to not to cause cancers and mutations to human body. (current data) 2018-2022 What is a safe 5g radiation exposure/ghz reading for insects, animals, birds daily as to not kill or cause cancers and mutations (current data) 2018-2022

As noted above, the recommended exposure limit at the frequencies around 3.5 GHz currently being used by 5G cellsites in New Zealand is 10 watts per square metre. Also as noted above, the Ministry does not hold information on the effects of radio waves on insects, birds and animals.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention