

Dear Editor,

The article published by the Irish Times on Sept 2nd, 2019 “*Can mobile phone use cause cancer?*” is factually incorrect, does not inform parents of the truth and in no way shows a priority for the health of Irish children.

As Editor, the Irish public would appreciate your personal reassurance that any future articles concerning mobile devices, related mobile services and public health will at the very least be 'fact-checked'.

The author states '*Devices can create physical strain but little evidence for them being risk factors for disease*'. That is completely untrue. In 2012, the Italian Supreme Court ruled that '*mobile phone use*' caused Innocente Marcolini's brain tumour.

The case twice went before the Italian Supreme Court and twice the Supreme Court found that Marcolini's '*mobile phone use*' caused his brain tumour.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-phones/italy-court-ruling-links-mobile-phone-use-to-tumor-idUSBRE89I0V320121019>

In 2011 Ireland was sent Resolution 1815 by the Council of Europe. This document reaffirmed the head tumour risk (an earlier warning had been sent in 2009) and stated the following: “*reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields, especially to radio frequencies from mobile phones, and particularly the exposure to children and young people who seem to be most at risk from head tumours*”.

Resolution 1815 contained a specific section on the '*protection of children*'. The Irish Government was told to put in place information campaigns targeted at Parents, Teachers, and Children regarding the dangers of mobile phones and other devices emitting microwave signals e.g. WiFi routers, DECT phones, Baby monitors etc etc. The Government did nothing.

Two years later in 2013, the European Environment Agency (EEA) published Late lessons from early warnings: science, precaution, innovation. Section 21 deals with Mobile phones and brain tumour risk. This section stated '*A more recent news release based on the Danish Cancer Register states that during the last 10 years there has been an almost 4-fold increase in the incidence of the most malignant glioma type, glioblastoma.*'

The report goes on to say: "*Most journalists seem to make only reference to news reports or press releases without making their own evaluations or without seeming to have read the original articles*". This appears to have been the case with the author, Dr. Muiris Houston.

Since 2013 there have been numerous independent studies which clearly show that exposure to microwave frequencies can cause brain tumours.

In November 2018, the final report from a 10 year National Toxicology Program (NTP) study was released and the results found '*In both studies (GSM and CDMA), exposure to RFR in male rats resulted in higher numbers of animals with tumors of the heart and brain.*'

There is no doubt that mobile phone exposure increases the risk of brain tumours.

The author states: "*The only consistently recognised biological effect of radiofrequency radiation in humans is heating*".

That statement is blatantly incorrect and his assertion sounds like claims made by the Mobile Industry when trying to convince people microwave signals won't harm them.

That misleading advice has very serious public health implications. The author should be aware of 2016 Irish legislation that protects workers from over-exposure to EMFs - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS) Regulations 2016.

The legislation clearly states:

(b) non-thermal effects, such as the stimulation of muscles, nerves or sensory organs. These effects might have a detrimental effect on the mental and physical health of exposed employees.

The HSA Guidelines for the above legislation also advise that:

- People with pace-makers as 'high-risk' when it comes to Wi-Fi exposure.
- Special consideration must be given to pregnant women when it comes to Wi-Fi exposure.
- Businesses must conduct a risk assessment when they get a Wi-Fi network installed.

The Irish Government has yet to properly inform people in Ireland about the dangers from Mobile Phones, Wi-Fi routers and other sources of microwave emissions.

In 2011 the Irish Government drafted the Mobile Phone Radiation Warning Bill. This was

'An Act to provide that a warning label shall be affixed to the exterior casing of mobile phones and on related packaging, which shall state clearly that mobile phones emit electromagnetic radiation.'

Every mobile phone and its packaging must have a clearly legible warning affixed to it. Such warning must:

- (a) specify the mobile phone's non-ionising radiation level (limit 12eV), and*
- (b) the specific absorption rate (SAR), and*
- (c) contain the following warning:*

"WARNING: THIS DEVICE EMITS ELECTROMAGNETIC20 RADIATION. USERS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, SHOULD KEEP THIS DEVICE AWAY FROM THE HEAD AND BODY."

If the author's bias is towards the Health and Safety of Children, he should focus on finding out 'Why don't we have a Mobile Phone Radiation Warning Act?'

To recap

We have 2016 EMF Legislation that most businesses and people don't know about. We have clear unambiguous advice from Europe that Mobile Phones are particularly dangerous for Children. There are Supreme Court Rulings confirming mobile phone use caused a brain tumour. We have 10 year studies that show increases in brain and heart tumours from mobile phone microwave exposures and eight years ago the Irish Government were informed that children are a high-risk group when it comes to Mobile phones and that Wi-Fi should not be in schools.

People in Ireland have been kept uninformed, presented with misleading information and the authors article '*Can mobile phone use cause cancer?*' is a classic example of the misinformation machine.

Hopefully the Irish Times will rectify this situation and publish an accurate article in the very near future?

Yours Sincerely

Allan J Brennan

2019 MEP Candidate for Ireland South – Upgrade Resolution 1815 from Guidelines to Directive
 Founder of WiFi Projects - Ireland's 1st Certified Wireless Network Provider
 Founder of GigaBeam Ireland - Introduced Millimetre-wave technology to Ireland (76-86Ghz spectrum)
 Awarded Fellowship of the Irish Computer Society for his Contribution and Promotion of the Irish Wireless Industry