

## 5G Rollout

### **Background**

The roll out of 5G has begun in parts of cities across the UK.

The Government and the telecom industry support 5G and cite the economic benefits of much faster broadband speeds.

5G is transmitted at a much higher frequency than 4G and many people are concerned about the health impacts on humans and the environment caused by “unsafe” wireless radiation levels. In addition, the higher frequency used in 5G does not penetrate objects as easily as 3G and 4G. As a result, antennas would be required every few hundred metres. This has sparked concern that trees and other objects in the way of the signal may need to be removed.

There is not unanimity within the scientific community that 5G is safe and in County Cork, Brussels, and Geneva, 5G roll out has been halted through the application of the precautionary principle until independent, and not industry funded, research confirms 5G is safe.

Government responded on 18 July 2019 to health concerns

Exposure to radio waves has been researched and reviewed. The evidence suggests exposure from 5G radio systems within current guidelines does not pose a risk to public health or the environment.

### **House of Commons Library briefing on 5G**

Full report online at:

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7883>

### **Planning consultation**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is leading a joint consultation with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on extending 5G mobile provision in rural areas

This consultation seeks views on the principle of amending permitted development rights for operators with rights under the Electronic Communications Code (Code Operators) to support deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage, and the circumstances in which it would be appropriate to do so. The consultation also seeks views on whether it is appropriate to impose specific limitations, conditions and restrictions on any amendments to permitted development rights to mitigate the impact of any new development.

- A change in government policy on planning applications for mobile telephone masts to ensure that all heights of masts are subject to a full planning application and proper consultation with local councils (where possible);
- New build houses and business to be provided with in-built infrastructure to enable connection to fibre-optic broadband; &

- Rural Coalition's call for infrastructure which reaches rural areas, so the rural economy can grow and create quality jobs.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has voiced strong opposition to new plans by the UK government proposal to simplify the planning rules (Permitted Development Rights) for new mobile infrastructure (4G / 5G masts etc.) in order to improve rural network coverage across England. NALC will be responding to the consultation and are seeking the views of town and parish councils.

The Government's proposals have won support from both the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and mobile network operators via Mobile UK.

The consultation document online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-permitted-development-rights-to-support-the-deployment-of-5g-and-extend-mobile-coverage>

### **Issues**

- a lack of definitive, scientific evidence on whether or not 5G is safe to human health and the wider environment
- the need to fell trees,
- the carbon footprint of manufacturing and installing the infrastructure,
- security risks,
- amending permitted development rights.

### **LEGAL**

Town and parish councils have no legal powers to either ban or allow the roll out of 5G.

### **Other town and parish councils**

Both Glastonbury and Frome Town councils have adopted the precautionary principle and opposed the roll out 5G in their towns until there is a consensus that 5G wireless radiation is harmless to humans and the environment.

Totnes declared a moratorium on the introduction of the new technology in the town.

Stroud Town Council resolved to ask their MP to lobby the Government for research into the carbon footprint of "smart" technology including 5G.