

## Emma Shaw statement

I've been living in Bath for 20 years, and am a mother of two. I'm concerned about 5G increasing the level of electromagnetic radiation in my city.

It's common knowledge that more than 230 independent scientists and physicians from 35 countries have signed a letter recommending a halt on 5G roll-out until it is proven to be safe and also that Brussels have recently halted 5G over radiation concerns. [1 &2]

Those facts aside I want to ask you all to think about what 5G will mean for our city visually and culturally.

We all know that Bath is a UNESCO world heritage city. It's unique setting, history and architecturally important buildings making it both a pleasure to live in but also a huge draw for the millions of tourist who come every year.

But this status is put at risk when substantial changes happen, as was the case in 2009 with the developments of Southgate and Western Riverside as well as in 2017 with the proposed Bathampton Park and Ride. So it's worth us all being mindful of things that might put our UNESCO heritage status at risk.

5G necessitates the use of small-cell antennas normally spaced approximately 500 feet apart [3]. They range in size "from about 4 feet tall, with some as large as a refrigerator"[4]. Post changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in 2019 no planning permission is required for their erection [5].

This means that if a mobile phone company wants to instal a mast on a lamppost directly outside your home, or on the bus stop outside your children's school - they don't need planning permission to do so you just have to accept it.

In a historically important city like Bath, full to the brim with listed Georgian buildings and with very strict planning and conservation criteria, this lack of accountably seems totally inconsistent.

But there is much we can do. According to Historic England, Article 4 can be used to "control works that could threaten the character of an area of acknowledged importance, such as a conservation area". [6]

According to the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework: Local planning authorities can use article 4 to impose a ban on "new electronic communications development in certain areas" and "insist on minimum distances between new electronic communications development". It recommends that local planning authorities do not do either of these - whilst at the same time admitting that legally we can. [5]

I think we need a public consultation on this to allow the people of Bath to make a fully informed choice.

- 1) <https://www.brusselstimes.com/brussels/55052/radiation-concerns-halt-brussels-5g-for-now/>
- 2) <https://www.5gappeal.eu/>
- 3) <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/5g-devices-are-about-to-change-your-life/>
- 4) <https://interestingengineering.com/the-danger-of-5g-5th-generation-cellular-technology-might-be-a-threat-to-public-health>

- 5) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NPPF Feb 2019 revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)
- 6) <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/historic-environment/article4directions/>