

Reference:	FOI.3441.20
Subject:	Safety certificates
Date of Request:	23 June 2020

Requested:

Further to FOI 2996

1. Independent safety certificates for the Health Boards WI-FI equipment.

Compliance certifications are not these, not is a “declaration of conformity”. What I am looking for, not unreasonably, are certificates based on independent, appropriate and meaningful testing, preferably using the “Gold standard” of scientific method, indicating, beyond a reasonable level of doubt, human safety with respect to this technology. Please cite these papers and how your equipment specifically relates to them.

2. Environmental impact assessments.

- a. How have frequency effects and the pulsed characteristic of the radiation, in addition to power intensity exposures, been incorporated in your decision making?
You admit to a risk of electromagnetic and radio frequency exposure from Aruba WI-FI/WLAN (wireless local area network) products. Let me remind you of the ICNIRP statement:
“Different groups in a population may have differences in their ability to tolerate a particular NIR (non-ionising radiation) exposure. For example, children the elderly, and some chronically ill people might have a lower tolerance for one or more forms of NIR exposure than the rest of the population.”
(You make reference to the ICNIRP.) What is your policy for these vulnerable groups?
- b. I also need information on how the UHB has weighed the (considerable) other side of the science on this issue; this is somewhat summed up in a December 2018 review in The Lancet of 2,000 plus peer-reviewed studies on the impact of wireless technology and on human and animal systems that revealed 68.2% find significant biological effects. The Lancet review concluded:
“This weight of scientific evidence refutes the prominent claim that redeployment of wireless technologies poses no health risks at the currently permitted non-thermal radio-frequency exposure levels.” Yours is the responsibility.

3. Health Board insurance provision for electromagnetic and radio frequency exposure.

- a. As a diagnosed (and tested) electro sensitive person, whose medical advice is avoidance of this radiation, can you assure me that you are fully covered for the harm I am likely to incur from being on your premises should protection for me with my condition not be provided or prove inadequate?
- b. I am a disabled person in receipt of PIP (both components). Please show me the relevant section from your insurance policy.

Response:

1. & 2. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that as much information as possible has been provided in our response to FOI 2996/20.

Official guidance on this matter is provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO). For ease of reference the web link has been provided below:

https://www.who.int/health-topics/electromagnetic-fields#tab=tab_2

In addition, given that Wi-Fi networks are extensively used throughout all health premises may we suggest you contact the Welsh Government (WG) for further information and advice. Contact details for WG have been provided below:

Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

3. The UHB confirms insurance provision is in place via a shared risk pooling arrangement with other health bodies in Wales, Welsh Risk Pool. Therefore, the UHB does not have an insurance policy document which would include the specific details requested. Further information on the Welsh Risk Pool can be found via the following web link:

<https://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/welsh-risk-pool/>