



MP for Mana

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications
and Digital Media

Minister for Government Digital Services

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing)

BCDM1920-054

16 OCT 2019

Dianne Gatward

Fyi-request-11042-64b73bb7@requests.fyi.org

Dear Dianne

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2019 regarding the roll out of 5G technology in New Zealand.

Telecommunications companies are not required to have a 'contract' with the government to begin using 5G technology. However, I would like to reassure you that New Zealand has a robust regulatory regime in place to govern telecommunications services and any potential impact on communities.

This includes regulations for cell site exposure limits, regular independent monitoring of cell sites, and continued monitoring of research in this field. The main government agencies involved and their roles are outlined as follows:

- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is responsible for establishing the telecommunications regulatory environment, including setting the rules within which the telecommunications companies operate. MBIE is also responsible for making frequency bands available for new uses, including bands for the 5G network. You can read about MBIE's roles here: www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/it-communications-and-broadband/.
- The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for regulatory controls under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991, including the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities (NESTF). You can read more about their role here: www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/national-direction/national-environmental-standards/national-environmental-standards-0s. All network providers rolling out a 5G network must comply with these regulations, including the New Zealand Radio Frequency Field Exposure Standard, which sets maximum exposure limits for the public. The limits in the New Zealand standard are more than 50 times lower than the levels at which adverse effects might occur.
- Network providers must submit pre-commencement reports to the local council to show that the requirements in the NESTF and New Zealand standard will be met for each cell site covered by the NESTF. If the report

shows that the cell site will generate exposures at or above 25% of the public exposure limit, further reporting to the local council is required. If a facility or network operator cannot comply with requirements in the NESTF, then a resource consent is required from the relevant local council. Information on the cell sites in your area can be obtained from your local council.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for expert advice on health effects from electromagnetic fields and closely monitors the research in this area, including the frequencies expected to be used for 5G technologies. An interagency committee hosted by the Ministry of Health monitors research into the health effects of radiofrequency fields. At their recent meetings the committee considered the issue of 5G deployment and concluded there was no evidence which would indicate a need to revise the current regulatory settings. You can read the latest Ministry of Health factsheet here: https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/topic_sheets/5g-and-health-aug19.pdf

Thank you for writing to me about this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media