

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Wednesday 10 November 2021

1. QUESTION FROM TERE WELLS (NOT IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR REMOTE))

Re: RFT and Local Ecological Environment

The British Ecological Society have identified RFR (Radio Frequency Radiation) as a top emerging issue affecting natural diversity & conservation.

What steps are DCC putting in place, or have put in place, to monitor the local ecological environment towards their net zero policy with regard to the planned extensive rollout of 5G, are these plans being risk assessed, risk assessed as an ongoing programme and if so by who?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR DAVIS

Anthropogenic radio frequency radiation has been cited in scientific literature as an emerging ecological threat. However, there is, currently, no consensus on the precise nature and severity of the risks. Devon County Council has no remit or practical ability to put in place meaningful research or monitoring of this issue, either in the context of the national rollout of 5G or any other source of radio frequency radiation.

2. QUESTION FROM RHIANNON AUGENTHALER (NOT IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR REMOTE))

Re: Energy Consumption of 5G

How has the energy consumption of 5G been factored into the council's plans in regards to emissions and which Committee is responsible for assessing the emissions, carbon footprint and energy consumption of 4G, 5G and similar technologies?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR DAVIS

Devon County Council is not responsible for the provision or operation of 5G services, so does not have any energy consumption or related carbon emissions directly related to such activities (i.e. Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions).

In the event of the Authority procuring and deploying any 5G related services, the measurement of the associated supply chain (i.e. Scope 3) emissions will

measured through our standard greenhouse gas reporting practices. At present, such emissions are calculated using nationally available carbon intensity factors for different types of purchasing categories. These emissions are reported as part of our overall carbon footprint via the County Council's web site (see: [2020 Carbon Footprint - Environment \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)). The Authority's Carbon Reduction Plan (available on the County Council web site at: [Devon County Council's Carbon Reduction Plan 2020 - 2030 - Environment](#)) sets out a process for managing such supply chain emissions. Progress in the implementation of this Carbon Reduction Plan is reported via the Council's Environmental Performance Board, on which I sit as the relevant Cabinet member.