



Airwave Health Monitoring Study

A Joint Letter from Northern Constabulary, the Scottish Police Federation – Northern Branch, the Northern Constabulary Branch of Unison, the Northern Constabulary Branch of the Transport and General Workers Union and Northern Constabulary’s Occupational Health Department

As you are aware Northern Constabulary utilises the National Police Radio System – Airwave.

At the commencement of the Airwave project there were some concerns about the technology used, which focused on the possible effects on users’ health. Assurances were sought, and received, from the Home Office that that there was no evidence, from any credible source, that the technology being used posed any discernable risk to health. Notwithstanding these reassurances, this Force, together with its staff associations, requested that staff be involved, at an early opportunity in research being undertaken in the form of a long-term health monitoring study, to allay any remaining fears of our staff. The national scientific based study is being conducted by the Imperial College, London.

The purpose of this letter is straightforward. It is simply to state that those named in the heading fully support this research. Indeed we actively encourage participation. It is accepted that we are all busy people who often have little time to spare within any working day. However, sometimes things are worth making time for and this is one such thing.

Please participate in this research. It will only produce truly valid results if there is a high participation and return rate.

This letter will accompany correspondence from the Imperial College, London whose research will help identify whether there is any impact on health in the medium to long term. To take part in the research you are asked to accurately complete the enclosed questionnaire, give your consent to Imperial College, London being provided with some personal data, (this will be treated confidentially and the data concerned is detailed in this their correspondence), and, should you so wish, take part in a free health screening session at a later date. This is a comprehensive health screening including ECG and blood tests, similar to a private executive medical, the results of which are totally confidential to you.

Under no circumstances will any health information from an individual record be made available to anyone outside the Imperial College research team.

Please take the time to read the enclosed correspondence carefully and we trust we can count on your support and that you will participate fully in this very important research.

Yours sincerely

				
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