



Warwickshire

January 2008

AIRWAVE HEALTH MONITORING STUDY

A Joint Letter from Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Police Federation, the Warwickshire Police Branch of Unison, and Warwickshire Police Health and Safety Adviser

As you are aware Warwickshire Police has introduced Airwave, the National Police Radio System and the system is now fully live in most of the UK.

At the beginning of the Airwave project there were concerns about the technology that focused on possible effects on health. Assurances have been sought and received from the Home Office that there was no evidence from any credible source that the technology being used posed any discernable health risk.

Notwithstanding these reassurances, this Force, together with its staff associations, have requested that staff be given the opportunity to be involved in research being undertaken. This will be in the form of a long-term health monitoring study to seek to allay any remaining concerns. A national scientific based study to this effect is being conducted by the Imperial College, London.

The purpose of this letter is straightforward, it is simply to state that, as signatories to this letter we fully support this research, indeed we actively encourage participation.

It is accepted that we are all busy people who often have little spare time 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 data concerned is detailed in their correspondence), and should you wish,
- take part in a free health screening at a later date.

This health screening is comprehensive, similar to a private executive medical, including ECG and blood tests and the results 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 other than yourself.

KEITH BRISTOW
CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

Yours sincerely,



Keith Bristow
Chief Constable



Simon Payne
Police Federation



Ken Lambert
Unison