



Wi-Fi

the new passive smoking

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On the radio recently I heard a report outlining the dangers to children of passive smoking and, along side this, how the Government are going to reduce tax on juice and smoothie bars to encourage people to eat more fruit.

As I carried on with my morning's work I started to think about these two news items and about a newspaper article I read a few months ago and a television programme that had been aired about in an invisible danger to health – Wi-Fi.

While I fully support that all of us including children suffer the consequences of passive smoking, at least with smoking you can see it and you can smell it and most of us can move away from it. With Wi-Fi on the other hand, you can't hear it, see it or smell it so you don't know whether it's there or not unless, like me you were suddenly invited to log on to an unprotected network signal.

The safety of any new form of technology or any product that is being sold to us should I feel always be investigated by the consumer who should never just believe what is being marketed towards us by those who would profit. After all we were told not so many years ago that smoking was not harmful, computers not harmful; polluting the environment not harmful but there is now much evidence to the contrary. We are now told that mobile phone masts and electrical pylons are not harmful to health but there are few of us who would choose to live near

one, so why have two million UK residents installed Wi-Fi in their homes in the last 18 months when Wi-Fi has a radio frequency that is up to three times stronger than a mobile phone mast and a range of hundreds of meters?

And it doesn't stop in the home, Wi-Fi is being installed in towns/city centres, airports, railway stations, shopping malls and universities and this type of Wi-Fi, called WiMax has a range of between 4-10 miles. Wi-Fi has been installed in 70% of our secondary schools and 50% of our primary schools which is extremely alarming because children's skulls are thinner and absorb more radiation than adults. This seems ludicrous when you read that in 2000 the Government carried out an enquiry into the safety of mobile phone masts and their connection with health and found sufficient scientific research to apply a precautionary approach when siting masts near schools. They then allow the much stronger signal of Wi-Fi directly into the schools!

The German Government, not known for having an alarmist attitude, say that Wi-Fi should be avoided because of the potential health risks it may pose and have urged their citizens towards the use of telephone line internet access instead.

So, what are the health dangers? There are many symptoms such as tiredness, poor sleep quality, headaches, depression, frequent miscarriage, skin problems, nausea, poor concentration, aches and