



Progress has been swift since we last wrote to everyone in the Airwave cohort, back in 2016. Most importantly, we've answered the research questions for which the Study was originally set up back in 2003.

The papers are freely available on our website; but very briefly, based on 13 years' data:

- We found no evidence that personal Airwave radio use increases cancer risk.
- Airwave users have a slightly lower risk of general sickness absence compared with non-users.
- Considering only those people who use Airwave, general sickness absence was more common with greater radio use, but this may reflect working pattern differences rather than any effects of Airwave itself.

We also said that 13 years data is not long enough to be sure of our conclusions, given that many health effects only became apparent many years after exposure. So the Study continues, now with financial backing of the National Institute for Health Research and the Medical Research Council. This gives us certainty until 2022, at least.

None of this would have been possible without the support of you, the Airwave Study participants. We would like to thank you all for the support you've shown over the years, and look forward to working with you over the coming decades. I hope that you find the content of our newsletter useful and interesting.

Professor Paul Elliott, Airwave Principal Investigator



How Airwave Study members can help change the story of dementia

In the UK, dementia affects 850,000 people and is now the biggest single cause of death for women, and soon will be for men. There have been no real breakthroughs in treatments for dementia in over 20 years and Dementias Platform UK (DPUK) was established to accelerate the development of new treatments.

DPUK brings together anonymised data from multiple health studies, including Airwave, into a single, secure, environment – the DPUK Data Portal. The large data sets in the Data Portal allows key research questions to be answered more rigorously and more rapidly than would otherwise be possible.

To make the best use of these data resources, DPUK has established a number of collaborative initiatives with universities across the UK. We were delighted that Airwave joined our powerful resource in 2017 and we continue to collaborate on important research. The Data Portal operates to the highest data protection standards, so participants and researchers can be reassured that the data are managed securely and responsibly; maintaining privacy whilst maximising scientific value.

Professor John Gallacher, Director of DPUK

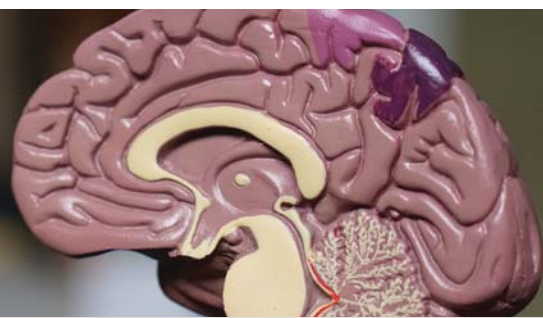
Revisiting the Health Screening Programme

We've relaunched the health-screening programme, aiming to re-screen all cohort members who were screened at least 5 years ago. You can find details of how to benefit from this opportunity at our website, under Participants. And if you keep us up to date with your contact details through the website <https://www.police-health.net/update>, we'll write to you when we're in your neighbourhood.



Help us to stay in touch

When we began the Airwave Study back in 2003, people communicated mostly by letter, telephone, and fax (remember that?). Since then, digital communication has become an important part of how we stay in touch. About one third of our cohort have provided us with an email address, and we would like to communicate with everyone this way. If you have not yet updated us with your email details, please register at <https://www.police-health.net/update>. We promise not to overload you with traffic, and you can opt-out at any time.



Supporting Brain Health Research

The Airwave Study has developed into a significant and valuable research asset with immense value to look at the long-term general health and well-being of current and former members of the police service. For this reason, we're keen to promote its use by other bona fide medical researchers. Our Access Committee scrutinises every application we receive, and we grant access only if approval is given. Our thanks go to the Police Federation supporting this important work.

We're delighted to announce that our partnership with Dementias Platform UK (DPUK) is being extended, meaning that we may invite you to participate in brain health research projects promoted by DPUK. All invitations are optional, of course, but we hope this new initiative will be of interest to you and a further opportunity as part of our research community. We anticipate that the projects we support will lead to progress on the pressing questions of brain health that affect us all.

If you have any queries about our partnership with DPUK, or if you want to opt-out of being invited to join other research studies, please update your preferences at <https://www.police-health.net/update>.



Data Security

We continue to take the issue of data confidentiality very seriously. We recently migrated all our data to the new Imperial College Enclave, a secure operating environment whose design we've helped to shape. It's operated according to ISO 27001 - an international standard for information security management - and independently audited.

You can opt out of receiving Airwave Study newsletters and this will not affect your continued inclusion in the Airwave Study. Please see the Study privacy notice for more details <https://www.police-health.org.uk/imperial-college-research-privacy-notice>. To opt out of receiving newsletters, please notify us via our secure website at <https://www.police-health.net/update> or email airwave.study@clabservices.co.uk quoting your 8-character Participant ID.