Dr Starkey obtained an MSc in Neuropharmacology from the University of Bristol in 1990, followed by a PhD in Neurophysiology from London University. Her career in neuroscience research has covered work into the basic brain mechanisms underlying learning and memory, circadian rhythms, refractory epilepsy and depression. She is concerned by the effects of pulsed microwave electromagnetic fields (as emitted by mobile phones and wireless devices) on the brain. She supports a precautionary approach to the use of mobile phones and wireless technologies, particularly in schools and colleges, and acknowledges the need for further research into the effects of this radiation on the body.