

TETRA / Airwave Information Sheet

Will TETRA work?

TETRA is a mobile radio technology that is being used for a proposed new police communications system, offered throughout the UK by the Home Office.

BUT there are a number of doubts about whether TETRA will live up to its specification for police requirements.

It is widely reported that police handsets interfere with **medical equipment**. In some emergency situations they cannot be used, since they can interfere with heart pacemakers and first aid defibrillators.

Police TETRA handsets or vehicle units interfere with **vehicle electronics**: they are not *guaranteed* safe to be used in motorway patrols.

If police handsets or vehicle units **interfere with electronics**, they cannot safely be used in situations where they might trigger terrorist devices.

Fire services have reported that the **handsets can spark**: they cannot be used in situations where flammable gases are present – even to call for help.

TETRA handsets recently failed in London Underground: they cannot provide safe coverage against terrorist threats.

TETRA can't send data fast enough, but they are supposed to link up with police computers.

TETRA is not as secure against eavesdropping as made out to be. In some situations they are very much less secure and transmissions could be jammed.

And TETRA is not the only available system!

the whole story: www.tetrawatch.net

email: watch@tetrawatch.net

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What will TETRA cost you?

Dear Council Tax payer...

Since the contract was awarded to mmO2 (then BT), the European Commission has found the British Government guilty of unlawfully limiting the contract to tender to TETRA systems only and in our opinion guaranteeing the contract to O2. The existing **contract is unlawful** as it contravenes European competition laws as defined in the treaty of Rome.

TETRA is a Home Office initiative being rolled out throughout the UK. TETRA will cost in excess of £3 billion to put in place, which is double the original estimate, and we expect these costs to continue to spiral. The cost of the system is in sharp contrast to the French Police system which has the same functionality and services, but which was nationally implemented for the lowly sum of £300 million.

Initially, police forces were reluctant to adopt TETRA, as old technology, untested and not good Value For Money. It was decided to offer £500 million to be divided between 54 police forces to encourage the police to accept it. This works out at less than £10 million per force. (If a force did not take TETRA, it would receive no part of this funding.) This was described in parliament as **a kind of bribe**.

Police forces will each receive up to £10 million, which will cover initial rollout and the **first year's costs**. The cost of equipment (handsets are £800 to £1,000 each). The cost of coverage outside the 'core' coverage of the system will be extra, as will additional equipment for data linking, and replacement of equipment vulnerable to electrical interference. **There's an awful lot more to buy, with your money!**

TETRA is a bad choice by the Home Office
TETRA is poor value for our money