

Key points made by Dr Draper, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University Childhood Cancer Research Group in relation to his own Study of Childhood Cancer on LMFM Radio, (16 January 2008) relating to the proposed power lines for the North East of Ireland

- There is no scientific evidence to categorically prove that power lines cause childhood leukaemia. An association has been found, but no causal link.
- It is not such the distance from the power line that determines the link, as the actual level of exposure. If you had two houses which were equal distance from the power line, you could have different levels of exposure.
- If a link with the level of exposure could be made with childhood leukaemia, it would account for approximately one percent of cases.
- Consideration must be given to the other health benefits that might be achieved if the money that it would cost to put the lines underground was spent in another field. There is a balance to be struck on how money is spent, and whether more health benefits will be achieved by spending that money in some other way.
- There is a little concern regarding how much money you spend avoiding a risk which is actually still a bit uncertain.
- One possibility is that the link is all due to chance. Secondly, it may be due to some other factor unrelated to power lines, but related to the area that they go through. Thirdly, it might be something else that is directly to do with power lines but is not the magnetic field.
- More research is needed into this area.