



THE INDEPENDENT ANTHONY CUTHBERTSON

5G AND CORONAVIRUS CONSPIRACY THEORY

Recent claims of a possible link between the pandemic and introduction of 5G: realistic or ridiculous?

No matter the topic, you can be sure there is a conspiracy theory out there proving or disproving it. The pandemic has seen its fair share of fake news, which are all the more disturbing considering the global nature of the crisis. One of the most enduring ones places the blame for the virus outbreak on 5G towers.

An unfounded conspiracy theory that radiation from 5G towers causes coronavirus and cancer is spreading across social media and messaging apps,

1. unfounded without foundation, unproven / **radiation** energy transmitted in the form of rays, particles or waves / **tower** tall and high structure, here, for an antenna / **to cause** to provoke, result in, lead to / **to spread, spread, spread** to extend, propagate / **across** all over, everywhere in / **social media** social networks / **app** = application /

resulting in widespread panic about the next-generation technology. A petition to block the UK government from rolling out 5G across the country has received more than 110,000 signatures, assisted by celebrities sharing it with their followers. The Change.org petition uses pseudo-science to support false claims

resulting in creating, having the effect of / **widespread** extensive, by many people, popular / **to roll out** to put in place, install, deploy / **to share** to communicate /

about the health risks of 5G, which allegedly range from cancer to coronavirus.

2. The petition's founder, who goes by the name Delroy Chin, writes that radiation

to support here, to back up / **claim** assertion, affirmation / **health** physical well-being / **allegedly** supposedly / **to range from... to** to vary from... to.

2. to go, went, gone by the name of to be known as, to call himself /

emitted from 5G towers sucks the oxygen out of the atmosphere and disrupts the regular functioning of the human body. "Our bodies are 85 per cent water and the shortwave radiation increases the breakdown in our natural biology causing cancers and other serious health conditions," it states. "Symptoms of 5G exposure include respiratory problems, flu-like symptoms (temperature rises, fever, headaches), pneumonia. Very much like the effects of the coronavirus."

CELEBRITY SCAREMONGERS

3. TV personality Amanda Holden was among those pushing the scare-mongering petition, posting it to Twitter where she has close to 2 million followers. The claims prompted a warning to British broadcasters from media regulator Ofcom to not push baseless conspiracy theories, as they have "the potential to undermine people's trust in the advice of mainstream sources of information" during the public health crisis.

4. Numerous scientists have dismissed the concerns about the fifth-generation wireless technology. They note that, like 4G and other iterations of cellular communications systems, 5G uses an electromagnetic waveform that emits non-ionising radiations. The World Health Organisation (WHO) states on its website that "a large number of studies have been performed over the last two

to suck to draw (liquid or air) out of / **to disrupt** to perturb, destabilise / **regular** normal / **shortwave** electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength equal to or less than that of visible light / **to increase** to raise, accentuate / **breakdown** dysfunction / **health condition** illness, medical issue / **to state** to assert, declare / **exposure** situation of being subjected to... / **flu-like** resembling the flu / **rise** augmentation, increase / **fever** very high temperature / **headache** pain in the head, migraine.

3. personality celebrity / **to be among (st)** to be one of, an example of / **to push** to promote, encourage / **scare-mongering** alarmist / **close to** nearly / **to prompt** to cause / **broadcaster** company that makes and shows television and radio programmes / **baseless** without proof / **to undermine** to weaken, damage / **trust** confidence / **advice (inv.)** recommendation / **mainstream** conventional, traditional.

4. numerous a number of, many / **to dismiss** to reject disdainfully / **concern** (source of) worry, anxiety / **wireless** not connected by wires or cables / **to perform** to carry out, do / **over** during the course of /

decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use."

5. It is not the first coronavirus-related conspiracy that has gained traction online in recent weeks. In March, the French government was forced to issue a statement that using cocaine would not protect people against the deadly virus. It came in response to a series of viral memes, which showed doctored news headlines praising the class A drug's effectiveness at "killing" coronavirus. France's Ministry of Solidarity and Health tweeted: "No, cocaine does not protect against Covid-19. It's an addictive drug that causes serious adverse and harmful ef-

decade period of ten years / **to assess** to analyse, estimate, evaluate / **whether** if (yes or no) / **to date** until now, up to now / **adverse** negative, destructive.

5. -related -linked, -associated / **to gain traction** to spread, attract attention / **to issue** to publish / **to come, came, come** to happen / **in response to** in reaction to, faced with / **to doctor** to falsify, modify, here, to fake / **headline** large title on the front page of a newspaper / **to praise** to speak favourably of, to express approval of / **effectiveness** efficiency / **harmful** dangerous, damaging /

Numerous scientists have dismissed the concerns about the fifth-generation wireless technology.

Avec VERDIÉ HELLO, les cultures se vivent et se partagent.

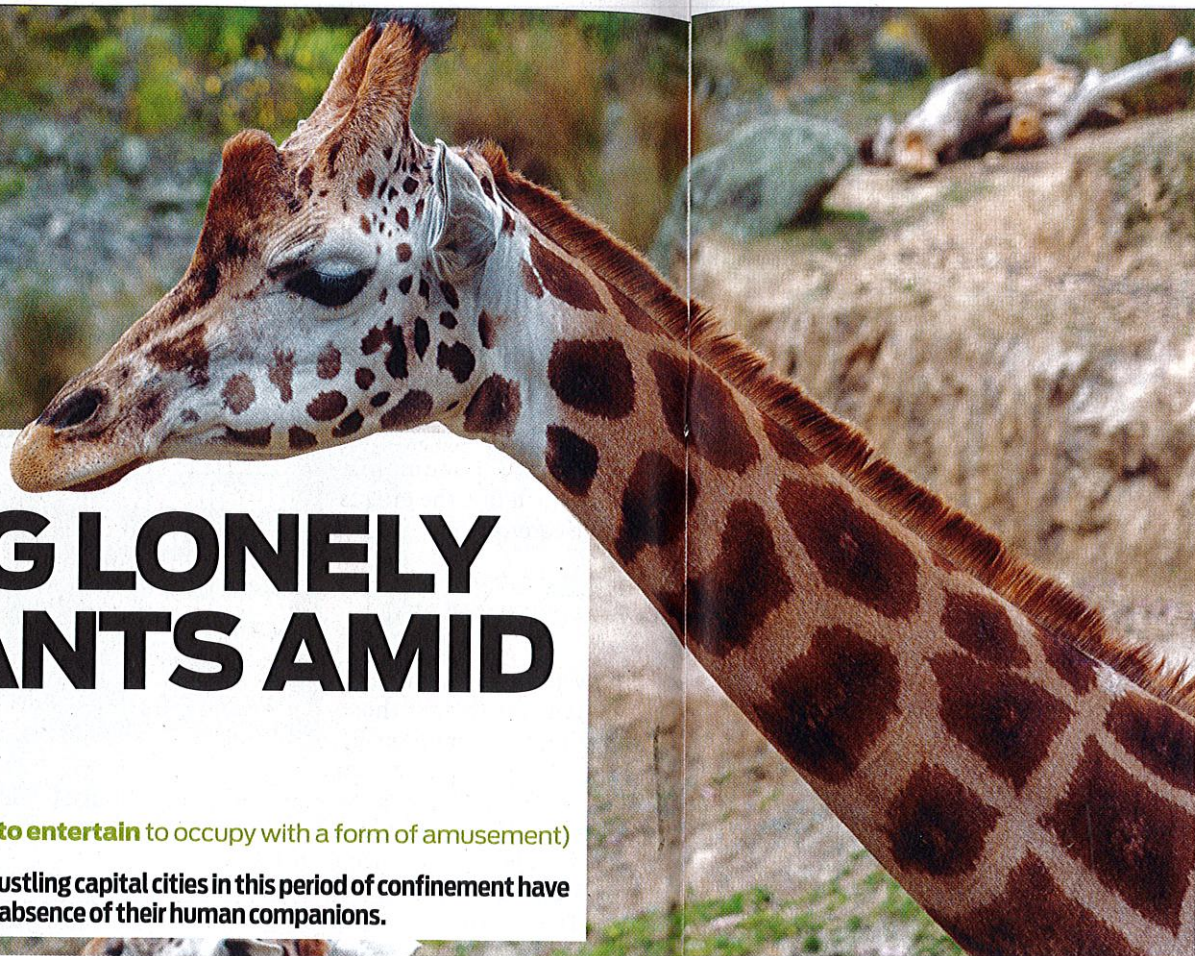
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SUR LE BOUT DE LA LANGUE

Rappel
Lorsque 'hundred/thousand/million' est suivi d'un substantif exprimant un chiffre précis on ne met pas de 's'.
En revanche, pour donner un chiffre moins précis, une évaluation, on ajoute 's' et 'of':
2 hundred people / hundreds of people
2 thousand students / thousands of students
2 million followers (53) / millions of followers.

The spread of disinformation across online platforms like YouTube and WhatsApp has been described by the WHO as an "infodemic". In an effort to combat it, the UN agency launched an online tool to make official and verified information about the pandemic accessible to billions of people.

disinformation fake news / **effort** attempt / **to launch** to establish, create / **tool** function, here, platform / **to make, made, made** here, to render (fig.) / **billion** = thousand million.



THE GUARDIAN | ELEANOR AINGE ROY

ENTERTAINING LONELY ZOO INHABITANTS AMID LOCKDOWN

Efforts to keep confined zoo animals happy (to entertain to occupy with a form of amusement)

Images of animals wandering about in the streets of the world's usually bustling capital cities in this period of confinement have gone viral... But in zoos too, it would seem that residents have noticed the absence of their human companions.

While humans have been using Netflix and Zoom to quell the coronavirus lockdown ennui, New Zealand's zoo animals have also been struggling with boredom – and zookeepers have had to resort to some unusual measures to keep them entertained. Puzzles, perfume and new types of play have all been deployed to keep the more curious residents engaged and happy.

1. to quell to pacify, to calm / lockdown confinement / to struggle with to have difficulties with, here, to suffer from / boredom ennui / zookeeper person who looks after zoo animals / to resort to to have recourse to / unusual different, unconventional / to keep, kept, kept sb entertained to keep amused, to distract / engaged occupied, mentally active.

2. By early April, more than 700 people had become infected with coronavirus in New Zealand and the country was one week into a month-long shutdown, meaning no one could leave the house except to get necessities such as food, medicine or to take brief bouts of exercise.

MISSING THEIR FRIENDS

3. Meanwhile, in the nation's zoos, the most intelligent and social animals – including gorillas, kea, otters and meerkats – were missing their human friends. Nathan Hawke, from Orana wildlife park near Christchurch in the South Island, said zookeepers had observed that many of their rare and endangered animals were missing the attention of

2. early beginning / month-long lasting one month / shutdown closure / to mean, meant, meant to signify / necessities necessary item / medicine medication / bout short period.

3. meanwhile in the meantime, at the same time / kea large New Zealand parrot / otter aquatic mammal with dark brown fur / meerkat suricate / to miss to feel the absence of sb's presence / wildlife park zoo / endangered in danger of becoming extinct /

humans, and continued to show up for their daily "meet the public" appointments – despite there being no public to watch them any more.

4. Orana is home to more than 400 animals. Keepers were making an effort to be in certain parts of the park at set times, to minimise the disruption to animals who could become confused if their routine of "meeting the public" was abruptly halted. The rhinos keep turning up for their 3.15pm appearances – when they usually get a belly rub – while the giraffes have remained punctual for their noon and 3pm commitments. "People provide a great real-life stimulation for the animals,

to show, showed, showed or shown up to come, to appear / daily everyday / appointment session.

4. to be home to to be the place where sb lives / at set times fixed / disruption disorder / confused disoriented / to halt to stop / to turn up to come / appearance act of appearing in public / usually generally, normally / belly rub act of caressing the stomach / commitment obligation, responsibility / to provide to offer / real-life real, true /

KEEPING THEM ENTERTAINED

5. Zookeepers have been forced to work twice as hard to stimulate and entertain the animals, including taking llamas for long walks, spraying cologne and perfume in hiding places to intrigue the lions, and offering puzzle feeders or playing unusual sounds to keep the keas on their toes. Many of the companion and farmyard animals have also been moved to different parts of the park, Hawke said, allowing them a new area to graze, fresh sights and new neighbours with whom to negotiate relations.

6. "The kea and gorillas particularly seem to be missing people, they really enjoy seeing the public. So [lockdown] is forcing us to think outside the square and go above and be-

5. twice as hard double, twice as much / to take, took, taken for a walk to go out with sb for a promenade / to spray to apply a substance with an aerosol / hiding place secret place / feeder food box / to keep, kept, kept sb on their toes to make sure sb remains alert / farmyard farm / to move to transfer / to allow here, to give / to graze to eat grass / fresh new / sight view / neighbour person who lives next-door / to negotiate relations here, to interact.

6. to seem to appear / to enjoy to like / to think, thought, thought outside the square to think outside the box, to be creative and think differently / to go, went, gone above and beyond to do far more than usual /

yond for our precious animals," Hawke said. "It's about maintaining a new normal and filling the gap that the visitors would otherwise fill."

Curious animals such as otters and meerkats were keenly aware of the absence of visitors

7. At Wellington zoo in the North Island, animal care manager Joanne Thomas said curious animals such as otters and meerkats were keenly aware of the absence of visitors, and dingos had been taken to visit other zoo animals to keep them busy. "We do believe it is as engaging for the animals as it is for the visitors when the two interact," Thomas said. "Otters for example can be

very interactive with our visitors. Now we are seeing them focus much more on the keepers than they usually do." Under the country's level 4 restrictions, zookeepers are classed as an essential service, and allowed to continue working. ●

to maintain to keep / normal normality / to fill a gap to fill the void, to replace the empty space / otherwise in other circumstances.

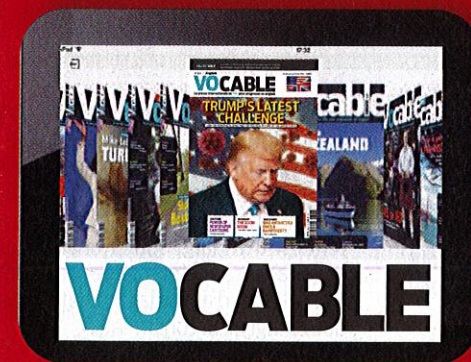
7. care manager person who looks after the physical and mental well-being of animals / keenly very much / to be aware of to be conscious of / busy active, occupied / engaging stimulating / to focus on to concentrate on / to be classed as to be classified as.

some of our very social animals, such as kea, are thinking something odd is up," Hawke said.

odd strange, bizarre / to be up to be happening.

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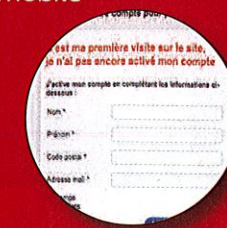
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