



133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

1 September 2022

Spencer Jones

By email: fyi-request-19839-fef82bb6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H2022009423

Tēnā koe Spencer

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 4 August 2022. The parts of your request referred to below were transferred from New Plymouth District Council to Manatū Hauora. Please find a response to each part of your request.

2). Please confirm the method you are using to assess cost vs benefit on a community by community basis as required under subsection 116E(3) of the Act. In particular, please provide the data you are using to determine the difference, if any, in tooth decay rates between fluoridated and unfluoridated residents in the communities under consideration for directing implementation of water fluoridation.

3). Please provide all information you have considered in relation to the potential adverse health effects of water fluoridation (as required to protect the public health under section 3A of the Act).

Manatū Hauora has identified the following documents within scope of this part of your request. These documents were provided to the Director-General of Health when deciding whether to direct certain local authorities, including New Plymouth District Council to fluoridate some or all of their drinking water supplies.

- Memo: Decisions on whether to direct certain local authorities to fluoridate some or all of their drinking water supplies
- Appendix to memo: Report to the Director-General of Health: potential directions to fluoridate
- Appendix to memo: Responses from local authorities, including additional relevant emails
- Direction letters to local authorities

The documents listed are publicly available at the following links:

- www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/general-information-releases/information-provided-director-general-health-whether-direct-certain-local-authorities-fluoridate
- www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/fluoride-and-oral-health/water-fluoridation/director-general-healths-role-decision-making-fluoridation-drinking-water-supplies#directives (Direction letters to local authorities)

4). *Please provide list of all controlled documents relating to fluoride and community water fluoridation.*

5). *Please disclose all submissions assessing risk hazardous substances Re fluoride and community water fluoridation.*

6). *Please disclose what specific studies does NPDC rely on for it's current determination on community water fluoridation*

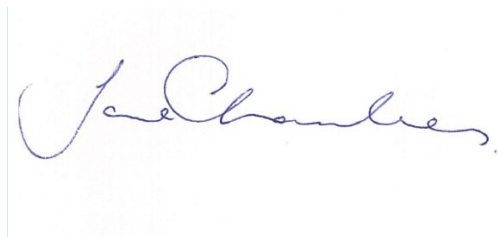
8). *Please clarify that NPDC understands that it has been proven medically (Peer reviewed), scientifically (peer reviewed) and legally (case law) that unlike other substances fluoride is a cumulative toxin which means it accumulates in the body.*

The *Appendix to memo: Report to the Director-General of Health: potential directions to fluoridate* includes the evidence the Director-General of Health considered in relation to the scientific evidence on the effectiveness of adding fluoride to drinking water in reducing the prevalence and severity of dental decay for each drinking water supply including the New Plymouth supply.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Jane Chambers
Lead, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health