



13 August 2024

John Christie
fyi-request-27759-85f06326@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO OIA 020-2024-25

Dear John Christie

Official Information Act request: health effects of fluoridation

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 22 July 2024. You requested:

“[Numbering added] ...

1. *Therefore my first request is for documents (including drafts), reports, memos, letters, notes and emails (including material stored in computers and databases) dated 10 November 2023 or later that are related to the health effects of fluoridation and held by OPMCSA.*
- ...
2. *My second request is for documents (including drafts), reports, memos, letters, notes and emails (including material stored in computers and databases) dated 01 January 2024 or later related to the TCSA trial [In February of this year in the USA, a trial was held under the provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TCSA)], that are held by OPMCSA.*
- ...
3. *My third request is for documents (including drafts), reports, memos, letters, notes and emails (including material stored in computers and databases) dated 01 March 2023 or later related any of these documents, [two documents from the US National Toxicology Program entitled] “Draft NTP Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopmental and Cognitive Health Effects: A Systematic Review” and “Association between fluoride exposure and children’s intelligence: A systematic review and meta-analysis”. These were made public on 15 March 2023 under the title, “Documents provided to the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors for review and deliberation regarding the DRAFT NTP Monograph on Fluoride and DRAFT Meta-Analysis]” that are held by OPMCSA.”*

Professor Dame Juliet Gerrard’s term as the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor finished at the end of June this year.

Please find attached email correspondence identified by the office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor as being relevant to your request. These are set out in the table below.

Item	Date	Subject Line	Decision
Item 01	31/10/2023	Re: Fw: Fluoridation Review	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)

Item	Date	Subject Line	Decision
Item 02	7/11/2023	RE: F papers?	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)
Item 03	14/11/2023	CSA OIA 2023-004: [s9(2)(a)] Fluoridation of water supplies ...	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)
Item 04	11/12/2023	RE: Fluoridation Review	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)
Item 05	8/02/2024	RE: fluoride	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)
Item 06	27/05/2024	RE: Fluoride study?	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)
Item 07	16/07/2024	RE: Media request: Fact Check on Fluoride in water lowering children's IQs	Release withholding some information under: s9(2)(a)

As noted in the table above, and on the documents themselves, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

In addition, in the table below is a link to the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor's website page with information relating to fluoridation: "*Fluoridation: an update on evidence*". This webpage was last edited on 17 November 2023 and includes some information relevant to your request (as noted in the table below).

Section	Edit Date	Link	Details
Section - Select papers brought to our attention since our review	Last edited: 17/11/2023	www.pmcsa.ac.nz/topics/fluoridation-an-update-on-evidence	<p>Lists:</p> <p>National Toxicology Program, "<i>National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors Working Group Report on the Draft State of the Science Monograph and the Draft Meta-Analysis Manuscript on Fluoride</i>", 2023 ntp.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/BSC_WG_Report_Final_Version_BS_C_approved051623_508.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information on the National Toxicology Program – Fluoride: Assessment for Developmental Neurotoxicity assessment is available here: ntp.niehs.nih.gov/whatwestudy/assessments/noncancer/ongoing/fluoride (Accessed on 7 November 2023)

Your request as it relates to the information on the Chief Science Advisor's website is declined under section 18(d) of the Act, on the basis that this information is already publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff