



25 August 2022

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**s 9(2)(a)**

By email: **s 9(2)(a)**  
Ref: H2022008988

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a)**

### 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 29 July 2022. You requested.

*“...all records that scientifically proves bacteria are the causative agent of the demineralisation of tooth enamel. If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.*

Manatū Hauora has interpreted your request to be about community water fluoridation. In 2014, the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor and the Royal Society of New Zealand reviewed the substantial body of scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of fluoridation of public water supplies. In June 2021, after considering new research on fluoridation and comprehensive reviews published since 2014, the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor found the conclusions of the Royal Society Te Aparangi remain appropriate. The review is publicly available and can be found at: [www.pmcsa.ac.nz/topics/fluoridation-an-update-on-evidence/](http://www.pmcsa.ac.nz/topics/fluoridation-an-update-on-evidence/). Any research about the causes of demineralisation of tooth enamel that is of relevance to the efficacy or safety of community water fluoridation is within the scope of both the 2014 and 2021 review.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Jane Chambers  
**Group Leader, Public Health Policy and Regulation**  
**Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health**