



20 December 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2022017668

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received by Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) as a transfer from Whangārei District Council on 28 November 2022 for information regarding fluoride. You requested:

*“5) As Fluoride is a known neuro toxin, please state the Doctor(s), their credentials, where they studied, position in government (if any) plus whether they have given in their private and commercial capacity the guarantee that the adding of fluoride is 100% safe?”*

Community water fluoridation has been evidentially established, through significant research, as safe, effective and affordable. There is strong evidence that there are no adverse effects of any significance arising from fluoridation at the levels used in New Zealand, and that it is beneficial to New Zealanders of all ages, but particularly the most vulnerable communities. Water fluoridation is recommended by key public health agencies around the world, including the World Health Organization. The key benefit of fluoridating drinking-water is its potential for greater oral health gains at lower cost than other oral health interventions. It is also considered as the most effective public health measure for the prevention of dental decay.

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. These reviews found that there were no adverse effects of fluoride of any significance arising from fluoridation at the levels used in New Zealand. These reviews are 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/).

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 the 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

pp 

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**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**