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24 February 2023

s 9(2)(a)

By email: **s 9(2)(a)**
Ref: H2023019906

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 (the Ministry of Health) on 7 February 2023 for information regarding community water fluoridation. Each part of your request is responded to below:

A list of those previously unfluoridated water supplies that are now required to fluoridate?

The information you have requested is provided in the table below.

Local authority	Water supply
Auckland Council / Watercare	Onehunga
	Waiuku
Far North District Council	Kaitaia
	Kerikeri
Hastings District Council	Hastings Urban
Horowhenua District Council	Levin
Kawerau District Council	Kawerau
Nelson City Council	Nelson
New Plymouth District Council	New Plymouth
Rotorua Lakes Council	Rotorua Central
	Rotorua East
Taranua District Council	Dannevirke
Tauranga City Council	Tauranga
Waipa District Council	Cambridge
Waitaki District Council	Oamaru
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Athenree
	Wharawhara
Whangārei District Council	Whangārei
	Bream Bay

The previous Director-General, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, will have been required to make those orders based on fact. Therefore I ask, in respect of that list,

- a) the levels of naturally occurring fluoride in each water supply*
- b) a copy of the laboratory test results for each supply*

Manatū Hauora does not hold information on the level of naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water supplies or laboratory tests for each supply. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

- c) the target level of natural fluoride salt once supplemented with the same fluoride salt as that already in each supply.*

Manatū Hauora recommends fluoridation be at the level of 0.7 to 1 parts per million. Local authorities that have been directed to fluoridate their drinking water supplies must do so at the specified level (0.7 to 1 parts per million). Please note that Manatū Hauora sets an overall recommended level of fluoridation, which incorporates both the naturally occurring and added fluoride in the drinking water.

Please note too that the maximum acceptable value for fluoride is 1.5 parts per million, as stated in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand. Local authorities that exceed the maximum acceptable values, including for fluoride, are required to notify Taumata Arowai, the new drinking water regulator. Information about Taumata Arowai can be found at: www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/.

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 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
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Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui