

23 February 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2024035465

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 the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 30 January 2024 for information regarding fluoridation of drinking water. Each part of your request is responded to below.

*“Based on what studies/research (provide references) fluoride is recommended to be used in our NZ drinking water? How much fluoride stays in our teeth (supposedly to treat them) if we drink 1 L of water of NZ max specified levels of fluorine?”*

In 2014, a comprehensive report was published by the Royal Society Te Apārangi, prepared jointly with the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, reviewing the substantial body of scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of fluoridation of public drinking water supplies. In June 2021, the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor carried out an update of the review.

The reports discuss how fluoridation of drinking water improves oral health and includes information about fluoride intake. These reviews concluded that there are no adverse health effects of any significance arising from fluoridation at the levels used in New Zealand. The 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).

You will see that the studies considered in these reviews are referenced throughout the report and links to further reading and resources are provided.

*“Why several EU nations and even China do not follow the same standards/reasons that we cite to fluoridate our water? Is our science different to EUs, Japan etc?”*

The Ministry is unable to comment on behalf of other jurisdictions. As such this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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



Jane Chambers  
**Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**