


22 November 2024

OIA IRO-779



Tēnā koe 

### Request for information - Fluoridation

Thank you for your request dated 8 November 2024 for the following:

*How much does the WCC Council spend on fluoridation chemicals and equipment maintenance each year?*

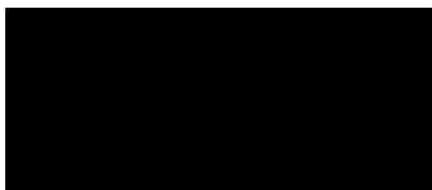
This aspect of your request was transferred from the Ministry of Health to Wellington Water under section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982. The response to your question is available in the appendix on the next page.

Please note that it is our policy to publicly release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/about-us/official-requests/official-information-act-responses/> with your personal information removed.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to email us at [official.information@wellingtonwater.co.nz](mailto:official.information@wellingtonwater.co.nz)

Nāku noa, nā



**Group Manager  
Network Management**

## APPENDIX

*How much does the WCC Council spend on fluoridation chemicals and equipment maintenance each year?*

Wellington Water is contracted to manage the drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services for the Wellington City Council (WCC). There are four treatment plants in Wellington (Te Mārua, Wainuiomata, Waterloo, and Gear Island), owned by Greater Wellington Regional Council. (ref

<https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/drinking-water/water-treatment-plants>). WCC does not specifically spend any money on fluoridation.

The Wainuiomata, Waterloo and Gear Island Water Treatment Plants supply water to Wellington's business district and southern and eastern suburbs. Fluoridation is a treatment activity, which is managed at the treatment plants by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). WCC owns and manages the distribution system only. Consequently, GWRC carries the responsibility for funding fluoridation.

Approximately \$210,000 is spent annually on fluoridation chemicals. The implementation of fluoride at the water treatment plants is not possible to separate out. For example, electrical costs for fluoride pumping from the annual overall electricity cost for an entire water treatment plant.

The table below details what type of fluoride chemical and its annual average cost at each Water Treatment Plant:

Water treatment plant	Fluoridation chemical	Amount used (annual average) -tonnes	Cost * (annual average)
Te Marua	Hydrofluorosilicic	115	\$56,350.00
Gear Island	Hydrofluorosilicic	90	\$44,100.00
Wainuiomata	Silicofluoride	36	\$86,040.00
Waterloo	Silicofluoride	24	\$24,000.00

\* Unit cost of Hydrofluorosilicic is \$0.49/kg, Silicofluoride is \$2.39/kg

The 2023 annual cost of fluoride testing is \$17,440 excl GST for laboratory testing for all water treatment plant sites. This figure cannot be separated out by treatment plant. We also have a number of analysers throughout the network continuously monitoring fluoride levels in the region.