

1 August 2024

OIA-717

7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe

### Response to your information request - Fluoride in council water supply

Thank you for your request of 14 July 2024 received by Wellington Water and to Porirua City and Upper Hutt City Councils asking a series of questions on fluoride in these council's reticulated water supplies.

Your request was transferred from Porirua and Upper Hutt City Councils to Wellington Water section 12 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987, as they are the lead agency for these council's waters infrastructure. The response to your questions is provided in the appendix on the next page.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively 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



Acting Group Manager  
Network Management

## APPENDIX

1. *What parts of the region under the council's jurisdiction are fluoridated?*

Please refer to the website:

<https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/drinking-water/whats-in-your-water/monitoring-fluoride-levels-at-water-treatment-plants/>

2. *What fluoride chemicals are used to fluoridate the water supply?*

Hydrofluorosilicic acid (HFA) and Sodium Silicofluoride (SSF)

3. *What level is water fluoridated at?*

Please refer to the website:

<https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/drinking-water/whats-in-your-water/monitoring-fluoride-levels-at-water-treatment-plants/>

4. *How frequently is the level of fluoride in the water tested?*

Please refer to the website:

<https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/drinking-water/whats-in-your-water/monitoring-fluoride-levels-at-water-treatment-plants/>

5. *Who performs the testing?*

Eurofins, which is an independent IANZ-accredited laboratory undertakes testing at certain points of the reticulation network. You can view the annual chemical analysis [here](#).

Wellington Water has sensors for monitoring the level of fluoride in the water at each of the four metropolitan Wellington drinking water treatment plants. These readings are taken automatically.

6. *Where is the wastewater discharged?*

Please refer to the website that lists Wellington Water's wastewater treatment plants:

<https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/wastewater/wastewater-treatment-plants/>

7. *Is there a Resource consent for the discharge of fluoridation chemicals?*

No. Under the permitted activity rules of the Natural Resources Plan, the dosing of fluoridated drinking water is allowed at a certain dose (<1.5mg/L)

8. *Can you provide the section of the consent that permits the fluoride discharge?*

I refer you to question/answer seven. No consent is required unless it exceeds the allowable dose level.

9. *Is there a Resource Consent held by the council to add fluoridation chemicals to the community water supplies?*

No. Fluoridation of drinking water is not a resource consent matter.

10. *How much per annum is spent on fluoridation chemicals?*

Approximately \$201K

11. *How much per annum is spent on implementing water fluoridation?*

Please refer to the answers provided to Question 10 and Question 12. Implementation is not calculated on an annual basis. It is not possible to separate out (eg) electrical costs for fluoride pumping from the annual overall electricity cost for the entire water treatment plant.

12. *How much per annum is spent on testing the levels of water fluoridation?*

\$17,440 excl GST for lab testing for 2023. Laboratory testing is complemented by having a number of analysers throughout the network continuously monitoring the fluoride levels in the region.

13. *How much does it cost per Tonne of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid?*

\$500.00/tonne

14. *How many tonne of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid is added into the environment?*

None intentionally, and accidental discharges are managed through legally required spill procedures and infrastructure.

