

Thursday, 28th April 2022

OIA IRO-230

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information request information on the overdosing of fluoride from Wellington Waters' Hutt supply of drinking water.

I write regarding your official information request dated Thursday, 24th March 2022 for fluoride levels of all four Wellington fluoridation plants between 2019 and February 2022.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and determined that we cannot grant your request.

Pursuant to section 17(d) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, information for question will soon be made publicly available at the conclusion of the independent inquiry into fluoride.

Upon conclusion of the inquiry, we will notify and make available all information you have requested. We will send you that information by the end of May 2022.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Manager, Customer Experience
Wellington Water Ltd

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www.wellingtonwater.co.nz

Our water, our future.

Friday, 8 July 2022

OIA IRO-230

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information request information on the overdosing of fluoride from Wellington Waters' Hutt supply of drinking water.

I write regarding your official information request dated Thursday, 24th March 2022 for fluoride levels of all four Wellington fluoridation plants between 2019 and February 2022.

You asked requested the below information:

1. I would like to request the data regarding the overdosing of fluoride from Wellington Waters Hutt supply of drinking water.
2. I would like to know how many times the breach occurred, when it occurred, for how long, from the date the first breach was recorded until the time the fluoride was turned off completely.

Lower Hutt drinking water is provided by the Waterloo treatment Plant. The fluoride dosing measurements made at the Waterloo plant can be found in the column 'H' of the Daily Average spreadsheet attached in our email response to you. Results from laboratory tests on the water can be viewed in column 'D' of same spreadsheet.

See attached in the **Appendix** of this letter paragraphs that explain the data we have provided to you.

For further reference, the independent inquiry into the cessation of fluoride is available on our website, and you can find that report here: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/your-water/drinking-water/fluoride-inquiry>

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Group Manager, Network Management Group
Wellington Water Ltd

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Appendix

Fluoride Analyser data

This data set comprises readings from our fluoride analysers that continuously monitor water in the pipeline downstream of the dosing points at each water treatment plant before it enters the network. The data is broken into six financial years (the historical extent of these data), each displayed on a different tab. The left-most column on each tab gives the date that the data points apply to. The other columns give the average reading for the given day by water treatment plant. Note that there are two analysers each at Gear Island, Te Mārua and Wainuiomata treatment plants. The readings from the analysers tell us whether or not the fluoride concentration in the water is within the optimal range of 0.7 – 1.1 mg/L. The analysers are also used to detect dosage levels above the maximum acceptable limit so that we can act to prevent water with high fluoride concentrations entering the network. Please note that at some of our water treatment plants, when we are not fluoridating, the analyser goes to its default full value. This is not an indication of an overdose of fluoride. This is a historical issue with the analysers and has since been fixed.

Compliance data

To demonstrate to our regulators and other stakeholders that the water we produce at our treatment plants satisfy drinking water standards, we regularly collect samples of fluoridated treated water for analysis at an independent and certified laboratory. Fluoride results from this sampling and analysis program from 2007 onwards are provided in separate files, one for each of the four treatment plants. The fluoride concentration corresponding to the date in the leftmost column is given in the fourth column from the left. Note that the data includes lab results from after the dates that the Te Mārua and Gear Island dosing facilities were shut down. The fluoride detected in the water from Te Mārua is the background fluoride naturally present in the source water. The recent fluoride levels in the Gear Island data reflect the mix of fluoridated and unfluoridated water coming from Waterloo and Wainuiomata treatment plants that would normally receive additional fluoride from the Gear Island dosing facility.