

Tuesday, 12 July 2022

OIA IRO-217

Email: [REDACTED].co.nz

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information request for month-by-month publishing of fluoride levels in Wellington's water over the last 10 years.

I write regarding your official information request dated 16th March 2022 for month-by-month publishing of fluoride levels in Wellington's water over the past 10 years – broken down into each area.

Please see in our email response to you the data you have requested. Please note that the daily Average data dates back only to 2016, whilst compliance data dates back to 2007.

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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www.wellingtonwater.co.nz

Our water, our future.

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.

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.