

Friday, 22nd April 2022

OIA IRO-223

[REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information request relating to temporary removal of fluoride from Wellington's water supply.

I write regarding your official information request dated 23rd March 2022. You asked us when Wellington Water ceased fluoridating water, when fluoridation will start again and if Wellington Water will meet the cost of the fluoride tablets for your family of four.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and determined that we can grant your request in full.

Please see answers to your questions in Appendix A of this letter.

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]
Customer Resolution Facilitator
Wellington Water Ltd

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www.wellingtonwater.co.nz

Our water, our future.

Appendix A

Question 1: When did Wellington Water (Wellington Regional Council and Wellington City Council) cease fluoridating Wellington water?

Answer...

Fluoridation ceased in May 2021 at the Te Marua Treatment Plant and in November the same year at the Gear Island Treatment Plant.

Question 2: When will they restart fluoridation of Wellington water?

Answer...

Wellington Water is working at pace to safely restore fluoride at the Te Marua and Gear Island plants. This work is already under way.

As part of this work, we are also reviewing and improving the performance and reliability of the fluoride facilities at our Waterloo and Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plants.

We have been inspecting the fluoride facilities and assessing their condition to ensure we fully understand what needs to be done and this will inform our detailed planning.

Once our detailed planning is complete, we will be able to provide the public with firm delivery timeframes. We should be able to do this in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, you can find out more about our programme of work and keep up to date with our progress here on our website -

<https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/your-water/drinking-water/fluoride-at-our-water-treatment-plants/>

We will be updating the above web page with updates every week.

Question 3: Will Wellington Water meet the cost of the fluoride tablets for my family of four in the interim?

Our job at Wellington Water is to ensure the drinking water we supply our customers and communities is safe to drink. Our job is to also add fluoride to drinking water for public oral health benefits.

We are working at pace to safely restore fluoride at the Te Marua and Gear Island Water Treatment Plants, which supplies water to Upper Hutt, Porirua, Wellington City, Stokes Valley and Manor Park.

In the meantime, in the absence of fluoride in the drinking water, there are some simple and easy things people can do to protect their teeth and oral health. This information can be found on the Regional Public Health website - <https://www.rph.org.nz/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/2022-03-17-water-fluoridation-in-wellington/>