

28 April 2018

Mr Bill Chisholm
via email: fyi-request-7579-e5e29db5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201802639

Dear Mr Chisholm

Thank you for your email of 8 April 2018 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. Your request was as follows:

'What is it that NZ knows that the majority of countries worldwide (including most of Western Europe) do not know regards the fluoridation of public water supplies?'

Community water fluoridation is practised in many countries around the world, while other countries add fluoride to table salt to achieve oral health benefits. In some parts of the world, naturally occurring fluoride is already present in water at or above the levels used for community water fluoridation (CWF) in New Zealand.

In August 2014, the report *Health Effects of Water Fluoridation: A Review of the Scientific Evidence*, was published on behalf of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. This report comprehensively reviewed the scientific evidence for and against the efficacy and safety of CWF. The report found that there are no significant adverse effects of CWF within the range of concentrations currently recommended by the Ministry of Health and used in New Zealand, and provides compelling evidence of dental health benefits for New Zealanders.

The report can be found on the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor's website (www.pmcsa.org.nz) by searching the title.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision on your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Lane
Director
Service Commissioning