

7 June 2023



Mary Byrne

By email: mbyrne64@yahoo.co.nz

Tēnā koe Mary

INFORMATION REQUEST – Communication about fluoridation.

We write in response to your email dated 10 May 2023 in which you requested the following information:

Please provide the following information dated from 1 January 2022 until today:

- 1. all communication between the mayor and anyone else that discusses the subject of fluoridation/fluoride anywhere within the communication, Please note fluoridation and fluoride are often mis-spelt flouridation and flouride so please include these misspelled words in your search.**
- 2. All policy papers and/or advice prepared for the mayor and/or councillors about fluoridation**

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (“**LGOIMA**”) and respond as follows:

- 1. all communication between the mayor and anyone else that discusses the subject of fluoridation/fluoride anywhere within the communication, Please note fluoridation and fluoride are often mis-spelt flouridation and flouride so please include these misspelled words in your search.**

We attach a copy of the communication between the Tauranga City Council Commissioners and others discussing fluoride and fluoridation – see Attachment 1. We have redacted details that would identify the correspondents under section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA *withholding is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons including that of deceased natural persons.*

We also include an extract from an email of 27 July 2022 from the Chief Executive to the Commissioners which included the following information in relation to the fluoridation of water. It also attached a letter from the Director General of Health to the Chief Executive which is included as Attachment 2.

Ministry of Health – direction to fluoridate the city’s water supply – Today we received a letter from Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield to begin fluoridating the city’s water supply by 31 July 2024. This follows correspondence in both directions in recent months, in which we indicated that the capital cost of introducing fluoridation at our three water treatment plants would be close to \$3.6 million, with ongoing operating costs of \$175,000 a year.

Capital expenditure funding will be available to assist with the establishment cost and we expect to receive information about the application process in the next week or two.

The Ministry’s letter is attached, including an appendix summarising the scientific information its decision is based on.

2. All policy papers and/or advice prepared for the mayor and/or councillors about fluoridation

We attach links to the 1 May 2023 Tauranga City Council Meeting Agenda and minutes. See Agenda Item 11.5.

https://infocouncil.tauranga.govt.nz/Open/2023/05/CO_20230501_AGN_2555_AT.PDF

https://infocouncil.tauranga.govt.nz/Open/2023/05/CO_20230501_MIN_2555.PDF

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.

We may publish this response on our website as your request may be of interest to others. All personal information will be removed and only the question and answers will be seen.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the writer.

Ngā mihi



Kath Norris
Team Leader
Democracy Services