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19 January 2024

Monique Davidson  
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Ref H2024034942

Tēnā koe Monique

**Re: Community water fluoridation – Levin drinking water supply**

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2023 regarding the compliance date for fluoridation of the Levin drinking water supply.

As you are aware, the High Court (the Court) released a preliminary finding in November 2023 that, in the process for making each 2022 direction to fluoridate, the Director-General of Health made an error of law by not expressly considering the limitations on rights affirmed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The Court did not quash the directions, and a second hearing is scheduled for February 2024 to decide on related matters.

The Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) will be in contact with affected local authorities when it has the Court's decision on the current directions. I am aware of the uncertainty this raises for local authorities, and my team will continue to support you where they can. The Ministry is continuing to provide funding for each local authority that is implementing a direction to fluoridate, and my team will be in touch regarding the funding for Levin.

If you have any questions or would like to contact the team, please continue to use the email address: [fluoride@health.govt.nz](mailto:fluoride@health.govt.nz). The team is happy to respond to any inquiries.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Diana Sarfati  
**Director-General of Health**  
**Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora**