

4 April 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2022-19**

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2022 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) with the parallel study on the oral health benefits of fluoridation, attached as **Appendix One**.

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

My response to your request is provided in the number order below.

**1). Fluoridation status: list of the years the water supply has been fluoridated. If no fluoridation has ever occurred at that water supply, indicate no fluoridation and ignore requests 2-5.**

CDC water supply has not been fluoridated since the 1960s.

**Questions 2-5**

The information requested relating to '*fluoridation status, fluoridation chemicals, fluoridation data, and quantifiable fluoride results,*' are not held by the Council because the water supply has never been fluoridated since 1960s.

I am refusing questions 2-5 of your request under section 17(g)(i) of the Act, for the reason that the information requested is not held by the Council and the person dealing with the request has not grounds for believing that the information is held by another local authority.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

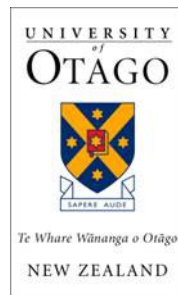
Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Geoff Hamilton**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Carterton District Council**

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA



## Investigating fluoride in drinking water

### Project Summary

#### Introduction

Community water fluoridation is beneficial for oral health (Lee, 2004; Spencer et al. 2018), however, current understanding is limited by several research gaps. First, there continues to be a reliance on old evidence prior to 2000. While some evidence has emerged there remains insufficient rigorous study on the ability of CWF to change disparities in caries across socioeconomic and ethnicity. Second, analyses have often relied on aggregated data or ecological studies that may mask the true impact of CWF on reducing oral health inequities. It is uncertain where current inequities exist in fluoridation status and fluoridation levels in water suppliers. These research gaps cannot be addressed without comprehensive national datasets on quantifiable fluoridation levels. Thus, **for each water supply** (using Ministry of Health drinking water compliance codes) managed by your council, we are requesting information on:

- 1) Fluoridation status:** list of the years the water supply has been fluoridated. If no fluoridation has ever occurred at that water supply, indicate no fluoridation and ignore requests 2-5.
- 2) Interruptions to fluoridation:** Identification of any time periods where fluoridation was interrupted for substantial time periods (eg, >3 months) for either technical issues (mechanic problems) or political decisions (cessation of water fluoridation). Please provide a date range
- 3) Fluoridation chemicals:** List of the fluoridation chemicals used at each site (e.g. sodium fluoride powder/crystals, sodium silicofluoride/fluosilicate, hydrofluosilicic/fluosilicic acid), the supplier of these chemicals, and example copy of the material safety data sheet for the product. Any records held with respect to any supplied fluoridation chemicals to have exceeded specific impurity limits, as set out in the Water New Zealand Good Practice Guide for supply of fluoride for use in water treatment.
- 4) Fluoride dosing system:** Type of feeder used (e.g. gravimetric dry feeder or volumetric dry feeder into a solution box or dissolver, or solution feeder). Type and number of fluoride analysers or metering system used in dosing system.
- 5) Quantifiable fluoride results:** Any quantifiable testing result for fluoride for your water supply. We are only interested in those water supplies **that are fluoridated**. Preferably data could be provided in a spreadsheet with the MoH compliance codes. We are seeking data as far back as records permit. If your council no longer stores this



information, could you please provide permission to us to **contact your commercial testing laboratory supplier** for any achieved results held by them.

Please provide the data to: [REDACTED]

### **Data Storage and Use**

The data will be used in the investigation of the fluoride in drinking water.

- The data will be stored securely by the University of Otago.
- The data will only be accessed by researchers involved in the study from the University of Otago.
- A copy of the results of the study will be provided to drinking water suppliers.
- The data sources will be acknowledged in any papers published.
- The data provided on each water supply may be used for future epidemiological studies by the University of Otago.