

3 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-45

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2023 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

*“What is the reason for not having our water supply fluoridated?
When was this decision made?
When was this decision last reviewed?
When is this decision next going to be reviewed?”*

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

My response to your request is in the order of your request below.

What is the reason for not having our water supply fluoridated?

The decision not to fluoridate the water supply was a historic community and council decision. We are not aware of the reason this decision was made, or when it was originally made.

For the reason that the decision not to fluoridate the water supply was an historic decision, we will need to do substantial research to try to confirm when the decision was made. This may take some time and we may charge for the staff time in researching the information in line with our policy.

Please email:

lgoima@cdc.govt.nz if you would like us to proceed with this part of your request.

When was this decision made?

Please see the answer above.

When was this decision last reviewed?

Council has considered correspondence from the Director-General of Health dated June 2022 and November 2022 regarding fluoride treatment of the towns drinking water supply. The November 2022 correspondence confirms the Director-General of Health has not yet instructed Council to include fluoride in drinking water supplies.

When is this decision next going to be reviewed?

We do not have a plan to review the decision on fluoridating the town water supply. Council will likely wait for instruction from the Director-General of Health before introducing a fluoridation system to the town drinking water supplies.

On 15 December 2021, Council received a letter from the Ministry of Health (MOH) informing us of possible directive in the future to add fluoridation in our water supply. You can view the letter in our website: <https://cdc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-31-Response.pdf>

The Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill passed its final reading on 9 November 2021. This Bill gives the Director-General of Health the authority to direct local authority water suppliers to fluoridate public water supplies. The last correspondence from MOH was on the 3 November 2022 informing that CDC was not in the current round of directives.

We are waiting for further instructions from MOH.

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 of 22 July 2023. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

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LGOIMA ID: 2023-45