

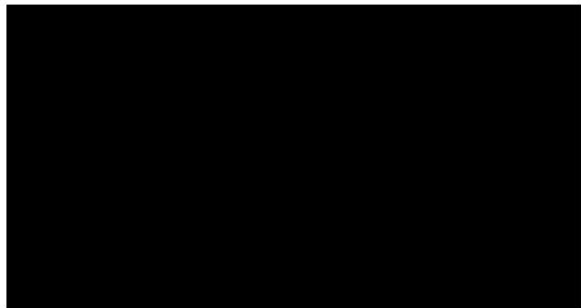


Ref: [REDACTED]

Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street
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12 December 2024

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST – FLUORIDATION

I refer to your official information request dated 9 December 2024 'LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information Act request)' regarding the fluoridation of the Nelson drinking water supply, which is reproduced below:

I am using the Local Government Official Information Act to request answers to the following questions.

- 1) *How much money has NCC paid, on top of what Central Government contributed - \$909,069.00, for the construction of the infrastructure to dose us with fluoride?*
- 2) *How is the supply of fluoride delivered to Nelson? How often is it delivered?*
- 3) *The following set of questions relate to monitoring fluoride levels .*
 - *How will NCC monitor the levels of fluoride put in our water supply?*
 - *Who has the contract to monitor these levels?*
 - *How much will it cost the ratepayer for this to be done?*
 - *How frequently will fluoride levels in the water be measured?*
 - *How will you share all regular testing results with the Nelson Residents in a timely and transparent manner?*
 - *What is your plan if/when the recommended fluoridate rating (0.7ppm) is exceeded?*

I am able to confirm the following in response to your queries:

- 1) Central Government is contributing a maximum of \$909,069.00 towards the construction of the infrastructure required to dose fluoride into the water supply. Council has not paid any money on top of this contribution for the construction of the infrastructure to dose fluoride.
- 2) The fluoride is delivered to Nelson in a commercial tanker. It is delivered as the treatment plant contractor requires it.
- 3) Monitoring fluoride levels:
 - Council will continuously monitor the level of fluoride introduced into the water as part of the dosing procedure.
 - The Water Treatment Plant contractor will monitor the fluoride dosing.
 - Costs are not yet available.

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

- There is no statutory requirement to test for fluoride in the reticulation. However in addition to testing carried out as part of the commissioning process Council is proposing to monitor fluoride levels in the reticulation on a weekly basis in the short-medium term.
- Council has no plans for publicising test results.
- The Direction from the Director general of health requires Council to dose fluoride in the range of 0.7mg/l – 1.0mg/l. The maximum acceptable value under the current legislation is 1.5mg/l. The dosing procedure has automatic alarms built in should the dosing fall below 0.7mg/l or go above 1.0mg/l.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Louverdis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alec Louverdis
Deputy Chief Executive / Group Manager Infrastructure

