



By email

Our ref: 30/06/lh/122

15 July 2014

Re: Water fluoridation in Southampton

Thank you for your email of 30 June 30 April in which you asked a number of questions in relation to water fluoridation in Southampton.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR). In accordance with regulation 5(1) I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does hold some of the information you have requested. The statement below sets out PHE's current position and addresses the points you raised.

The fluoridation scheme which would serve parts of Southampton and south-west Hampshire was proposed by the former South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA). The area proposed for fluoridation was set out in an SHA consultation paper, as required by statute. Following a public consultation the SHA decided to proceed with the scheme. That decision was upheld in a subsequent judicial review. In accordance with the legislation then in effect, the SHA made a formal request to the responsible water undertaker to enter into arrangements for the scheme. That request has not been withdrawn. PHE is the body now legally responsible for making fluoridation arrangements, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.

If PHE (on behalf of the Secretary of State) was minded to proceed with this proposed fluoridation scheme to cover parts of Southampton and South West Hampshire, it could do so on the basis of the power that the Secretary of State has, by virtue of s.87(1) of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("WIA") and Article 7(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Commencement No.4, Transitional, Savings and Transitory Provisions) Order 2013, to enter into arrangements with Southern Water PLC to implement the fluoridation scheme.

PHE is mindful of the enduring public health case for this scheme, reinforced by the findings of its recent published report "Water fluoridation: Health monitoring report for England 2014", and is giving full and careful consideration to next steps for this proposed scheme in discussion with the relevant local authorities.

Given that no decision as to whether or not to proceed has been made, PHE has not progressed the formal request to the water company to enter into arrangements.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them to me in the first instance. Under Regulation 11 of the EIR you have the right to make representations to PHE in respect of this response. Requests for internal reviews should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the above address, alternatively contact us by email at: Internalreview@phe.gov.uk

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer