

17 April 2024

Chris Johnston

By email: fyi-request-24923-c7713c16@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2024037872

Tēnā koe Chris

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 18 March 2024 as a follow up to information provided to you under previous responses (H2024034795 and H2024036288 refers). You requested:

This OIA is asking you to establish whether Health NZ holds this document in your Records, and/or whether the officials in relevant roles have reviewed it. It is a very simple process to ask by email and to assess (eg via voting buttons or emailed replies) whether anyone has indeed downloaded, reviewed it or stored it.

I repeat thee question below:

“8. Can the MoH Public Health team specifically answer whether this draft report - NTP Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopmental and Cognitive Health Effects: A Systematic Review has been:

- 1 - Downloaded and viewed by anyone in the team*
- 2 - Critiqued by anyone in the team or sent out for review as part of due diligence and a duty of care*
- 3 - Filed in the MoH or Health NZ archives as a Record under the Public Records Act*
- 4 - Confirm that at least (1) and (3) has been done in answering this OIA, and the location / meta data of its storage (eg SharePoint library and tags).*

I refer to the information provided to you under previous responses. The Ministry has nothing further to add. Please note also that repeated requests for the same information may be considered vexatious and refused under section 18(h) of the Act.

Question: Can Health NZ please confirm that it is aware that the study referred to is a "meta analysis" and has been the result of input from a team of relevant and qualified people? That is, it is a serious careful academic review of a substantial amount of the literature/science?

The answer that has been provided seems to indicate a danger that Health NZ has not grasped the breadth of the analysis that this paper represents. It is not just "a single study or opinion" as your OIA response characterises it."

The Ministry of Health can confirm it is aware that the National Toxicology Programme Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopmental and Cognitive Health Effects is a systematic review and not an individual study or opinion.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JU' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Tagaloa Dr Junior Ulu
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui