



Cigireacht Fiaclóireachta
Seirbhís Aisióca Príomhchúraim
Bealach amach 5 an M50, Án Bóthar Thuaidh,
Fionnghlas, Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 PXT0

Dental Inspectorate
Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road,
Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 PXT0

31 August 2020

Dear Dr Johnson,

Thank you for your letter. In answer to the queries raised the following is the situation:

1. Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) is mandatory for all public water supplies in Ireland under the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act 1960 and subsequent national secondary legislation. This is detailed by the Health Service Executive (the national health authority in Ireland) at:
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/environ/fluoridation---faqs-1-.pdf>
2. The relevant legal regulations may be found at the following links:
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1960/act/46/enacted/en/html>
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2007/si/42/made/en/print>
3. Legal responsibility for CWF lies with the Minister and the Department of Health.
4. Authority for operational control of national water supplies passed from the local authorities to a new national statutory body, Irish Water, set up in 2013. It has responsibility for the implementation of CWF in public water supplies
5. Local Authorities, such as County Councils, have no legal authority regarding CWF. No local authority has the freedom to secede from national law (including CWF).
6. A number of politicians have succeeded in passing resolutions critical of CWF at local authority board meetings, but these resolutions have no status and have not changed the provision of CWF at any local authority.

I hope this clarifies matters. Please feel free to contact me again if you require further information.

Yours Sincerely,

Joe Mullen BDS, BA, BSc, MA, MDPH
Príomh Chigire Fiaclóireachta / Chief Dental Inspector