



Putting Ireland First

Ag Cur Éireann Chun Chinn

Liadh **NÍ RIADA**

South Constituency



Liadh Ní Riada MEP
20 Bóthar an Choimín,
An Linn Dubh,
Corcaigh.

An tUas. Seán O'Callaghan,
Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach,
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí,
Halla an Chontae,
Corcaigh.



Dé Luain, 12 Eanáir 2015

Seán, a chara.

I refer to your correspondence of 26th November 2014 regarding my consideration of the referred motion calling for the immediate cessation of fluoridation of the public water supply.

I must begin by apologising for my delay in replying to this correspondence, and express my thanks to the members of the Council for seeking my opinion on this matter.

As Councillors will know, the fluoridation of our water started in 1964 after the introduction of the Fluoridation of Water Supplies Act 1960, ostensibly as a form of mass medication in an effort to improve dental health. There has been widespread opposition to fluoridation since Gladys Ryan took her case to the High Court in 1984 on the basis that citizens had no choice but to drink medicated water.

There is much evidence to suggest that the fluoridation of water is an inefficient, ineffective, and unnecessary form of medicating for dental health. The European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers has stated that 'people do not need fluoride for normal growth and development.' The European Court of Justice has defined fluoridation as a form of medication and has refused to sanction its implementation. Ireland is one of only four EU states that supports fluoridation. Switzerland became the latest European Country to end fluoridation a decade and a half ago in 2000.

Medication of the public water supply is a cumbersome, expensive and inaccurate method of providing potential health benefits. The informed consent of the patient is an important principle in healthcare. Similarly the dispensing of medicine should be determined by the specific needs of the patient, and medicines should be administered in controlled quantities and subject to regular review by a medical professional. Fluoridation of the public water supply fails on all these counts.

Fluoride is easily and cheaply available in most toothpastes. This form of administration allows citizen's to make an informed choice to use this medicine, and control and monitor its intake. The medication of the public water supply on the other hand, removes this element of choice.

Sinn Féin has published a Bill in the Oireachtas, which if passed would bring an end to the fluoridation of the public water supply. I have enclosed a copy for your perusal.

I support the motion calling for the immediate cessation of fluoridation of the public water supply, and I would urge the members of Cork County Council to adopt it.

Is mise le meas,


Liadh Ní Riada MEP

Member Budgets Committee of the European Parliament.
Member Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament.
Substitute Culture and Education Committee of the European Parliament.
Member Delegation of the European Parliament to the Peoples' Republic of China.
