

The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
London SW1A

16 June 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

Ref: UK Government's Water Fluoridation Policy (Health & Care Bill 2021), poses a serious threat to the developing brain.

We are writing to you following the recent public release of the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) review of fluoride toxicology, particularly concerning developmental toxicity in the fetus and infant. We also attach copies of two earlier letters sent to your predecessor, Boris Johnson, in 2021, concerning this topic. These letters were prompted because of two clauses in the Health and Care Bill 2022, allowing for water fluoridation ('WF') to be mandated by central government, without any local government intervention being permitted. The timing of this move to central government control of WF is, in our opinions, very unfortunate. The scientific information underpinning the basis of the US NTP review has been in the public domain from 2017 onwards. And yet, the recent UK Policy Paper on WF (a 4-yearly review) failed to take any of this into consideration, which is a serious and puzzling omission. The purpose of this letter is to bring this matter to the attention of the Prime Minister by two experienced scientists (one a medical doctor and one a chemist), who are predominantly interested in the wellbeing of UK children.

The US NTP Report.

There is now an urgent reason to hesitate the introduction of any further steps towards extending water fluoridation in the UK. We have described previously the findings of several high-quality US Government funded peer-reviewed studies, showing that exposure to fluoridated water during pregnancy and baby-bottle feeding leads to a substantial loss of IQ in the offspring (and also an associated increase in the incidence of ADHD). The NTP review, made by the leading toxicologists in the US, has confirmed that the loss of IQ seen in these studies is valid and real. The pro-fluoridation lobby both inside and outside of the US Government did its best over several years to dilute, delay and even suppress the NTP review's findings, for fear of its impact on the US fluoridation program, but eventually what was deemed the "final" version by the NTP science team was published on the NTP website on March 15, 2023. The NTP report was provided to the Judge in a TSCA hearing on April 11th 2023, following which he ordered that it should enter the public domain.

Comments by NASEM being used by UK Government respondents to attempt to nullify the NTP report.

We understand that the dental lobby supporting WF within the NHS has made claims, similar to those of the American Dental Association (ADA), in stating that that NASEM (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine) had noted that the NTP failed to provide adequate scientific evidence for its conclusions regarding fluoride's neurotoxicity. This is **totally incorrect**. What NASEM in fact did was to call on the NTP to explain its methodology and findings with greater clarity and transparency (a procedural matter) which is completely distinct from stating that the underlying science did not support the findings that fluoride is a neurotoxicant (a substantive matter).

Importantly, NASEM's committee explicitly stated that it did NOT independently evaluate the underlying scientific evidence and was not charged with reaching any conclusion regarding the hazard rating the NTP has given to fluoride's neurotoxicity. We would therefore ask that the UK's

Health Ministry retracts such irresponsible false claims and does not continue to perpetuate them in its responses to those questioning the Policy.

Note should be taken that in the documents released by the NTP on March 15, 2023, the NTP science team stated that: *"Several of the highest quality studies showing lower IQs in children were done in optimally fluoridated (0.7 mg/L) areas..."*

Additionally, the NTP also stated that there was *"no obvious threshold"* for these findings. They cited a graph in their report that showed *"a steep drop in IQ of about 7 points over a fluoride range from 0.2 to 1.5 mg/L."*

The CATFISH Study.

The recent CATFISH study in the North West of England, costing £1.6 million, has failed to show any real benefit in reducing children's dental inequality. Therefore, the whole basis of WF is undermined through lack of efficacy. More importantly, the UK has never conducted toxicological studies to the quality and magnitude of those conducted in the US and around the world, many of which were peer reviewed and the subject of the NTP's review. How, therefore, can the Health Ministry mandate a Policy which flies in the face of current, high quality scientific data which clearly and unequivocally demonstrates that fluoride is a developmental neuro-toxic substance? On public health grounds alone, this should lead to the cessation of water fluoridation altogether in the UK. Setting aside the enormous costs that would be associated with extending WF in the UK, public knowledge of this research is inevitably going to lead to pressure for complete cessation of the practice. No parent will be prepared to risk their child's intelligence, i.e. brain damage which is irreversible, in order to save a fraction of a filling, which is easily repairable.

Finally, Prime Minister, we sincerely hope that you will be able to devote some attention to this matter, affecting the future intellectual well-being of the UK's children. We also mention here the problems caused by fluoride to thyroid function and bone density, leading to hip fractures, mentioned in our 2nd letter to Boris Johnson. We hope to hear from your scientific advisors with a response which is up to date on the current scientific literature. This would need to include expertise in developmental neuro-toxicology.

We would be happy to meet and discuss these matters with you and your delegated experts. We would appreciate it if your Office could confirm that this letter and the two previous letters to Boris Johnson have been lodged with House of Commons Library.

Yours sincerely

Emeritus Professor C. Vyvyan Howard. MB. ChB. PhD. FRCPath.

Professor Paul Connett. MA. PhD.

CC: The Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP.