



By email

Our ref: 06/08/jb/276

Jo Warren
request-171885-bf4b582b@whatdotheyknow.com

27 August 2013

Dear Ms Warren

Re: Fluoridation

Thank you for your email of 6 August received via whatdotheyknow.com in which you asked about fluoridation.

Your email has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does hold some the information requested. I have answered each of your questions in turn below.

- 1. The name of the Government Department responsible for paying YARA UK for supplying hexafluorosilicic acid to UK fluoridating water companies: a) prior to April 2013, and b) after April 2013.**

Prior to April 2013 payments to suppliers of hexafluorosilicic acid for use in water fluoridation schemes in England were made by water companies.

From 1st April 2013 payments to suppliers of hexafluorosilicic acid for use in water fluoridation schemes in England will be made by water companies.

- 2. a) If, since April 2013, the responsible body or bodies are not government departments, please state which body or bodies will be paying YARA's invoice/s.**

See answer to Q1 above.

- 2. b) It is highly likely that fluoridating water companies are paying YARA UK direct for the fluoridating acid. If this is the case, please confirm that the responsible governmental department or local authorities are prepared to reimburse the fluoridating water companies.**

In accordance with legislation, water companies are reimbursed for the costs of fluoridation, including the cost of chemicals.

- 3. a) Are there any current contracts between YARA UK and a governmental/local governmental body or bodies in the UK? and;
b) If so, please specify the names of the contracting bodies to each contract and the expiry date of each contract.**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that PHE does not hold the information requested. You may wish to direct your request directly to local authorities and public bodies.

- 4. Please provide the national expenditure spent on hexafluorosilicic acid during F/Y 2011/2012 and F/Y 2012/2013. Note that the Department of Health states that it does not hold this information.**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that PHE does not hold the information requested. In the years specified the responsibility for reimbursement of the running costs of water fluoridation was the responsibility of local NHS bodies.

- 5. a) Please provide the total national expenditure on fluoridation equipment during F/Y 2011/2012 and F/Y 2012/2013.**

Please see answer to question 4 above.

- 5. b) Please provide a breakdown according to water companies of the expenditure on fluoridation equipment for F/Y 2011/2012 and F/Y 2012/2013.**

Please see answer to question 4 above.

- 5. c) If Anglian Water has been reimbursed during the past 12 months, in respect of which fluoridation scheme in its area was the money paid?**

Please see answer to question 4 above.

- 6. With reference to questions 4 and 5, if it's too soon to provide figures for 2012/2013, please provide expenditure for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 for purchase of the acid and for purchase of fluoridation equipment.**

Please see answer to question 4 above.

- 7. Is YARA UK the only provider of hexafluorosilicic acid in the UK? If not, please provide the name of the other company or companies.**

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that PHE does not hold the information requested. You may want to direct your request to the individual water companies.

PHE is a new executive agency of the Department of Health which took up its full responsibilities on 1 April 2013. PHE works with national and local government, industry and the NHS to protect and improve the nation's health and support healthier choices and address inequalities by focusing on removing barriers to good health.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them to me in the first instance. If you are dissatisfied with this response and would like a copy of the PHE complaints procedure then please contact Mr George Stafford, Complaints Manager at the address above.

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

Nicholas Brooks
Freedom of Information Coordinator