



By email

Our ref: 12/06/jb/93

Peter Brewster

request-216284-6b3d325d@whatdotheyknow.com

3 July 2014

Dear Mr Brewster

Re: Hexafluorosilicic acid

Thank you for your email dated 13 June 30 April in which you asked a number of questions in relation to hexafluorosilicic acid.

Since your request was submitted via the whatdotheyknow website, it has been assumed that you submitted it as a statutory request for information. Because your request concerns water fluoridation, it has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR). In accordance with regulation 5(1) I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does hold some of the information you have requested. I have set out your questions and statements below and addressed each in turn.

1. Is this substance classified as industrial waste or medicine.

This is not a valid Environmental Information request because it does not ask for information held. You may find it helpful to know that the Water Industry Act 1991 permits the use of two chemical compounds to increase the fluoride content of water within an area subject to a fluoridation arrangement. These compounds are disodium hexafluorosilicate (Na_2SiF_6) and hexafluorosilicic acid (H_2SiF_6).

These compounds are classified neither as industrial waste nor medicine and are procured by water companies and must comply with relevant British Standards and Eurocodes.

2. If it is waste then we are being poisoned if it is medicine, then I am being medicated against my will, this is a breach of the law. We have the right to refuse medicine and I cant do that if it is in my water supply.

Since this is a statement of your opinion, it is not a valid Environmental Information request because it does not ask for information held.

3. Do Anglian Water hold a licence to dispense medicine?

This is not a valid Environmental Information request because it does not ask for information held. Hexafluorosilicic Acid is not classed as a medicine; please see the response to Q. 1.

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Aboutus/Freedomofinformationanddataprotection/index.htm>

4. Will you take action on our behalf and stop this poisoning, as hexafluorosilicic acid is a neurotoxin and there is plenty of evidence to this fact, if you require it I will supply research papers on this matter.

This is not a valid Environmental Information request because it does not ask for information held. The responsibility for decision making around water fluoridation rests with upper tier and unitary Local Authorities.

5. Do you accept responsibility for allowing this? or will you take action to stop it

This is not a valid Environmental Information request because it does not ask for information held. The responsibility for decision making around water fluoridation rests with upper tier and unitary Local Authorities.

6. Failing to take action once you know, to stop a poisoning or forced medication makes you severally liable for this crime.

This is not a valid Environmental Information request because it does not ask for information held.

7. At what date did you become first aware that hexafluorosilicic acid was a poisonous NeuroToxin?

In accordance with regulation 5(1) I can confirm that PHE does not hold this information.

That concludes PHE's response to your questions. However I hope you will find the following helpful to help your understanding about the facts of water fluoridation:

After 50 years' experience of water fluoridation in the UK and nearly 70 years' experience in the United States, there have been no credible scientific studies to indicate that water fluoridation has caused harm to health.

There have been a number of reviews of the safety of this public health measure. These include a review by the University of York in 2000, and the reports of the Medical Research Council in 2002 and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council in 2007.

Evaluations by various experts groups do not suggest that neurotoxicity is likely to occur following exposure to fluoride concentrations present in the UK Public water

supply (e.g. University of York 2000, Medical Research Council in 2002, World Health Organization 2004, International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS 2002), European Food Safety Authority (EFSA 2005) and the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER 2011).

There is only limited evidence for the neurotoxicity of fluoride in experimental animals and only following levels of exposure much higher than the amount of fluoride humans are exposed to in drinking water. Other animal studies have not shown neurological effects (SCHER 2011).

More recently, a paper in the Lancet (Grandjean and Landrigan 2014) claimed fluoride to be a 'newly identified' neurotoxicant. Their claim was based solely on a previously published review of earlier studies exploring possible associations between fluoride in drinking water and developmental neurotoxicity (Choi and Grandjean, 2012).

This review included studies with important limitations and looked at naturally occurring fluoride levels – mainly in rural areas of China – that were generally much higher than those found in areas served by water fluoridation schemes in the UK, the United States and other countries. Significantly, two of the authors of the Choi and Grandjean review have stated publicly that their analysis did not allow them to make any judgement about possible levels of risk at levels of fluoride typically seen in water supplies in the US where the level of fluoride is adjusted.

A recent study in New Zealand found no association between fluoridated water and developmental neurotoxicity, as measured by IQ scores. Whilst this study also has some limitations – in that it looked at exposures of populations rather than individuals – it nevertheless compared populations living in areas with and without fluoridation schemes and therefore may be considered more relevant to the UK than the studies reviewed by Choi et al.

While any substance can cause toxic effects if consumed at high enough concentrations or in high enough amounts, the overall available evidence does not support the conclusion that fluoride at the levels permitted in UK drinking water causes a neurotoxic effect.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them to me in the first instance. Under Regulation 11 of the EIR you have the right to make representations to PHE in respect of this response. Requests for internal reviews should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the above address, alternatively contact us by email at: Internalreview@phe.gov.uk

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

Jonathan Bennett
Freedom of Information Officer