

OIR: 2526/344

9 April 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of 26/03/26 regarding the availability of fluoride free drinking water and the Paekākāriki town supply. You have requested the following information:

I understand your council has the availability of fluoride free drinking water and am interested for you to send me the approx. cost of what the supply set up at your Paekakariki Town Supply was and when it was installed. It appears to be a simple tap arrangement attached to the town information board. Does it include UV filtration?

Currently, Council does not fluoridate the water in Paekākāriki or Ōtaki. Council provided the non-fluoridated taps for citizens who may live in the Waikanae/Paraparaumu/Raumati (WPR) catchment who do not want fluoride in their drinking water. The WPR Supply is fluoridated.

Council does not provide any additional treatment at the non-fluoride tap as the water comes from the Paekākāriki Water Treatment Plant. The plant produces high quality water (from two shallow bores) with treatment processes including sand and cartridge filtration, UV disinfection, and chlorination. No additional treatment is therefore needed. As this water comes directly from the Paekākāriki Water Treatment Plant, there is no additional cost for the provision of this non-fluoridated water supply.

It may be helpful to highlight that each drinking water supply is unique, and treatment processes are designed specifically for the source water quality, volume of water required, public health risks, and resource consenting and regulatory requirements applicable to that supply. As a result, treatment systems and costs are not directly comparable between towns or councils.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

The feasibility and cost of installing or removing a fluoridation system depends on several factors, including:

- The existing treatment infrastructure at the plant
- Available physical space for additional equipment
- The type of fluoride dosing system proposed
- Operational and compliance requirements under the Water Services Act and Drinking Water Standards

Because of these variables, providing installation or set-up costs from one location to be used as a comparison for another council would be misleading and is unlikely to be helpful in an informed decision-making process. Any proposal to alter fluoridation for a supply would require site specific engineering assessment, public health input, and regulatory approval.

We recommend that any discussion with Council focus on the specific characteristics of New Plymouth's water sources and treatment plants, rather than assumed similarities with small standalone facilities elsewhere.

I trust this helps clarify the situation.

Ngā mihi,



Sean Mallon

Group Manager Infrastructure and Asset Management
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Anga me te Whakahaere Rawa