

Minutes of proceedings of the Plenary Meeting (Zoom) of the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health held on Wednesday 7th July 2021 @ 11am

Chairperson:	Professor Suresh Pillai
Present	Dr Brett Duane (Vice Chairperson), Mr Ray Parle, Dr Therese Montgomery, Dr Patrick Quinn, Dr Gerard Colleran, Mr Michael Madden
Quorum:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In Attendance (From Secretariat):	Ms Orlaith Kennedy, Ms Etain Kett
EB Minute 01/21 Apologies:	Professor Máiréad Harding, Professor Blanaid Daly, Dr Úna Fallon

EB Minute 20/21: Approval of the minutes of the meeting of [7th May 2021]:
The minutes from the meeting of May 7 ^h , 2021 were agreed subject to minor amendments.
EB Minute 21/21: Conflicts of Interest:
There were no conflicts of interest reported.
EB Minute 22/21: Matters arising:
It was noted that Professor Máiréad Harding requested that the New and Emerging Issues (NEI) Health Sub-Committee review paper 'A cost-effectiveness analysis of community water fluoridation for schoolchildren', (Cronin <i>et al BMC Oral Health</i> , 2021, 21(1), pp.1-12.) and added as an author of the paper, she would not be included in reviewing.
It was noted that an additional paper will soon be published in the British Dental Journal regarding sustainability by Dr Brett Duane. The papers include mouthwash, toothbrushing programme, toothbrush distribution, fluoride varnish and fluoridated water.
It was noted that a request will be sent to the Health Research Board regarding a list of research proposals concerning fluorides.

Report on activities:
EB Minute 23/21: Governance Meeting
An update was given on a Governance Meeting with the Department of Health, and it was noted that Expert Body would respond to the Department as requested.
EB Minute 24/21: Membership
The Chair has announced the appointment of two new members to the Expert Body by the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D. These members are appointed in the area of epidemiology and ecotoxicology (Dr Lina Zgaga and Mr Mike Broderick).



It was further noted that they have been sent the required induction packs and will be notified of the next Plenary Meeting, which will take place after the next Governance Meeting in late September.

EB Minute 25/21: Expert Body Work Plan

Correspondence from Dr Dympna Kavanagh, Chief Dental Officer, Department of Health was noted with a request to review the Work Plan 2021.

It was agreed to request clarification from the Health Research Board (HRB) regarding the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the HRB update of the review of Health Effects of Water Fluoridation - an evidence review 2015' and the planned publication date.

It was further agreed to ask the HRB for a list of research proposals concerning fluorides.

It was noted that the Expert Body is reviewing areas of significance that may require further attention for consideration by the Department of Health and HRB.

It was noted that the Expert Body would include a note on its use of the GRADE evidence system.

It was agreed to highlight substantial work already carried out by the Expert Body concerning a draft search strategy.

EB Minute 26/21: Any other business (AOB)

It was noted that Irish Water is involved in corrective water treatment using orthophosphate to reduce the corrosion of lead pipes, with the aim of protecting public health. It was further noted that Irish Water, in consultation with the EPA and other environmental stakeholders, is in the process of developing a comprehensive environmental assessment methodology to assess any potential impacts and ensure that the necessary actions are undertaken to protect the natural environment.

It was suggested that looking at fluoride levels in ground water at the same time might be opportune and that funding for this is being examined by the Health Service Executive.

It was agreed by the Expert Body that this would be a very useful research activity to carry out regarding fluoride and the environment.

It was noted that Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will be regulated under the Drinking Water Directive but that these do not arise from the fluoridation process.

EB Minute 27/21: Next Meeting

Date:

The chairperson thanked those all for attending. The meeting was declared closed at 12:30pm and it was agreed that the next meeting would be held after the next Governance Meeting in October.



An Corpán Oilte Éireannach
um Fluairídí agus Sláinte

The Irish Expert Body
on Fluorides and Health

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Actions Arising from This Meeting:			
Item No.	Action	Person Applicable	Timeframe
22/21	Review of 'A cost-effectiveness analysis of community water fluoridation for schoolchildren', Cronin <i>et al</i> , <i>BMC Oral Health</i> , 2021, 21(1), pp.1-12..	NEI Health Sub-Committee	TBC by New and Emerging Issues Health Sub-Committee
23/21	Response Correspondence to the Chief Dental Officer.	Chair/Secretariat	July
25/21	Review of Expert Body Work Plan 2021	Expert Body	September
25/21	Correspondence to the HRB for a list of research proposals concerning fluorides.	Chair/Expert Body and Secretariat	July
25/21	Review areas of significance to be noted for consideration by the HRB.	NEI Health Sub-Committee Health/Expert Body	TBC
26/21	Follow-up with HSE regarding fluoride testing in groundwater.	Mr Ray Parle	TBC
Chairperson's signature and date			