



An Corpán Oilte Éireannach
um Fluairídí agus Sláinte

The Irish Expert Body
on Fluorides and Health

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Minutes of proceedings of the Plenary Meeting (Zoom) of the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health held on Tuesday 14th December 2022 @ 12pm

Chairperson:	Mr Ray Parle
Present	Professor Máiréad Harding, Dr Therese Montgomery, Dr Gerard Colleran, Dr Lina Zgaga, Dr Patrick Quinn
Quorum:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In Attendance - Secretariat	Ms Orlaith Kennedy, Ms Etain Kett
EB Minute 29/22 Apologies:	Professor Blánaid Daly, Mr Michael Madden

EB Minute 30/22: Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

EB Minute 31/22: Approval of the minutes of the meeting of [26th October 2022]:

The Minutes were approved subject to minor amendments.

EB Minute 32/22: Matters Arising

It was noted that the 'Evaluation of water fluoridation scheme in Cumbria: the CATFISH prospective longitudinal cohort study', Goodwin et al 2022 has been recently published. The study questions the benefit of community water fluoridation (CWF) and the magnitude of its effect within the context of the United Kingdom. It was noted that the prevalence of caries was quite low before the study commenced and suggested that it would be useful to follow up with these cohorts for another few years. It was noted that an economic evaluation was undertaken and that the authors concluded that CWF may have a financial benefit.

It was further noted that it is an important, comprehensive, and well-designed study to be carefully considered and that it may inform future planning for oral health policy in Ireland.

EB Minute 33/22: Correspondence

It was noted that further correspondence was sent to the Department of Health 21st November and that no response had been received to date.

EB Minute 34/22: Winding up of the Expert Body

It was noted that the term of the office expires 31st December and that the Expert Body has not been informed of any succession plan.

It was noted that this is the last meeting of the Expert Body, and another will not be arranged due to work schedules/Christmas holidays of the members.

It was noted that the Expert Body is extremely disappointed with the lack of engagement by the Department of Health regarding succession planning.



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It was agreed that a letter would be sent from the Expert Body outlining its concerns, and to note the exceptional role of the Dental Health Foundation as Secretariat since 2004. The Chair thanked the members for their collegiality, dedication and considered approach to the Terms of Reference and for the many achievements of the Expert Body. It was noted that the wide range of academia and expertise was a strength of the Body. The Chair also acknowledged the former Chairs Dr Seamus O' Hickey and Professor Suresh Pillai and former members for their hard work.

EB Minute 35/22: Next Meeting

Date: The chairperson thanked those all for attending.
The meeting was declared closed at 13:40pm.

Actions Arising from This Meeting:

Item No.	Action	Person Applicable	Timeframe
34/22	Draft correspondence to the Department of Health	Mr Ray Parle/Expert Body Members	Immediately
Chairperson's signature and date			
<i>Ray Parle</i>		18th January 2023	