



Minutes of proceedings of the Plenary Meeting (Zoom) of the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health held on Monday 14th December 2020 @3pm

Chairperson:	Professor Suresh Pillai
Present	Dr Brett Duane (Vice Chairperson), Dr Máiréad Harding, Mr Ray Parle, Professor Blanaid Daly, Dr Therese Montgomery, Dr Patrick Quinn, Mr Michael Madden
Quorum:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
In Attendance (From Secretariat):	Ms Orlaith Kennedy, Ms Etain Kett
EB Minute 34/20 Apologies:	Dr Úna Fallon, Dr Gerard Colleran

EB Minute 35/20 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of [6th October 2020]:

The minutes from the meeting of October 6th 2020 were agreed.

EB Minute 36/20 Matters arising:

It was noted that the list of conferences for 2021 for attendance by Expert Body members may include the International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment (ICLCA) 2021 in March and EOROTOX 2021 in September (Federation of European Toxicologists and European Societies of Toxicology).

It was noted that a paper from University College Cork regarding the economics of community water fluoridation has been accepted for publication and will be circulated to the members once it has been published.

It was noted that the European Parliament formally adopted the revised Drinking Water Directive, 16th December 2020. The Directive entered in force on 12th January 2021, and Member States will have two years to transpose it into national legislation. It was further noted that there is no change in the parametric values for fluoride in drinking water.

It was noted that Dr. Therese Montgomery attended an online public information forum of the National Toxicology Programme (US) and that a revised Monograph will be published in 2021, based on comments from the National Academy of Science.

It was noted that the Expert Body will continue to carefully monitor any new and emerging evidence and will advise the Minister for Health if there is any change to the Expert Body advice regarding water fluoridation in Ireland.

It was noted that Irish Water has detailed information concerning drinking water quality results for water supply zones publicly available on its website.

It was noted that Irish Water acts as agents for the Health Service Executive, in respect of fluoridation of public water supplies and that it refers queries concerning water fluoridation to the Department of Health.

It was noted that Dr. Gary Moran had accepted the invitation to join the NEI Health Sub-Committee as a co-opted member with expertise in the microbiome area.

Declarations of conflicts of interest:

It was noted that Dr. Brett Duane declared his interest regarding a piece of research which includes the life cycle system of water fluoridation.

It was noted that Athlone Institute of Technology is funding research concerning systemic fluoride concentrations in the Irish population, including in pregnant women.



Report on activities:	
EB Minute 37/20: Correspondence	
Correspondence for October 2020 – December 2020 was noted.	
EB Minute 38/20: Expert Body Progress Report 2020	
<p>The final draft Progress Report was approved for submission to the Department of Health. It was agreed to highlight to the Department of Health that new and emerging issues evolve and develop regarding community water fluoridation and that where there are any gaps in evidence that the Expert Body may suggest that additional research be commissioned.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Orlaith Kennedy, Ms Etain Kett and the members of the Expert Body for all the work in preparing the Progress Report.</p>	
EB Minute 39/20: Department of Health	
It was noted that the Expressions of Interest for membership of the Expert Body have been received by the Department of Health with expertise in Ecotoxicity/Ecotoxicology and in Applied Epidemiology as requested. It was further noted that the Department of Health has requested regular updates regarding the work of the Expert Body.	
EB Minute 40/20: AOB	
<p>1. It was noted that a paper has been submitted to the <i>Journal of Dental Research</i> as part of the Fluoride And Caring for Children's Teeth (FACCT) study and that it will be circulated to the Expert Body when it is published.</p> <p>2. It was noted that a liaison meeting was held between the Environmental Protection Agency EPA/ NEI Environment Sub-Committee to discuss issues of mutual relevance, including drinking water and fluoridation and naturally occurring fluoride in groundwater drinking water sources.</p>	

EB Minute 41/20: Date of Next Meeting	
Date:	The chairperson thanked those all for attending and thanked everyone for the work carried out during the year. The meeting was declared closed at 16:20pm. It was suggested that the next meeting take place in February 2021 and that a doodle poll will be circulated by the Secretariat.

Actions Arising From This Meeting:			
Item No.	Action	Person Applicable	Timeframe
36/20	A paper from University College Cork regarding the economics of community	Secretariat	When published



An Corpán Oilte Éireannach
um Fluairídí agus Sláinte

The Irish Expert Body
on Fluorides and Health

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	water fluoridation to be circulated		
38/20	Progress Report to be submitted to the Department of Health	Chairman	December 2020
40/20	A paper submitted to the <i>Journal of Dental Research</i> as part of the Fluoride And Caring for Children's Teeth (FACCT) study to circulated	Secretariat	When published
Chairperson's signature and date			
Chairperson's name (printed) and date			