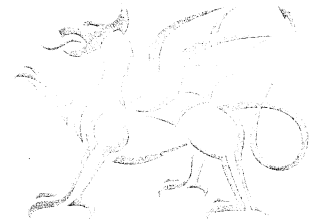
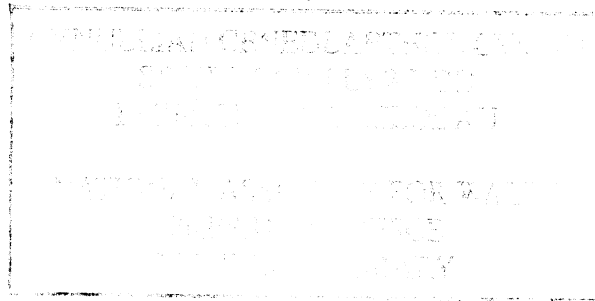


**Jane Hutt AM**  
**Minister for Health and Social Services**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

DP 439 / 03 - 07



Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: WAQ 29116

Jonathan Morgan AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

6<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Dear Jonathan,

You recently asked me in WAQ 29116 whether I believe fluoridation of water is safe?

I promised to write to you and am now in a position to give you the following answer.

In October 2000, a major systematic review of the evidence of health effects of fluoridation conducted for the Department of Health in England was published by the University of York. Last September, the Medical Research Council published a further report on research making recommendations on how to strengthen the evidence base further. Neither the University of York nor the Medical Research Council found evidence of harm to overall health where the fluoride level of drinking water is adjusted to an optimum level of 1 part per million. Both reports confirmed that water fluoridation is an important and effective method of protecting the population from tooth decay.

The Welsh Assembly Government has no current plans to fluoridate water supplies in Wales. Were this to change in the future, then policy development would have to take into account the full range of factors which are relevant in the Welsh context. Any proposal to introduce fluoridation would be subject to wide public consultation.

Yours sincerely



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE