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Our ref: FC4

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP
Suite 58
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Dear Dr Lucas

Thank you for your letter of 18 March on the issue of fluoridation. South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) is currently considering the feasibility of water fluoridation in the greater Southampton area. This work is being undertaken following a request by Southampton City PCT to the SHA to consider fluoridating the water supply.

There is concern about the poor state of dental health in some areas of Southampton and the PCT believes adjusting the level of fluoride would be an effective way of improving the dental health of the population it serves.

The Water Resources Act and the Water Industry Act 1991 (section 87) includes powers for SHAs to consider fluoridation of the water supply. The Act also sets out the responsibility of SHAs to carry out a full public consultation before any decision on fluoridating the water supply is made.

This SHA is in the early stages of such work and is currently reviewing a feasibility study looking at the technical aspects of fluoridation. Over the coming months the SHA will decide whether to proceed to a full and open public consultation on this issue.

It must be emphasised that no decisions on fluoridation will be made before a public consultation. Any such consultation would be widely advertised in the local press to ensure the views of all interested parties are taken in account.

Yours sincerely



Dr Geoffrey Harris
Chairman