

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/04656/08

Your ref: PET-03-104

Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
English Enquiry Line: 0845 010 3300
Fax: 029 2089 8131
E-Mail: Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Linell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131
E-Bost: Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Raw Val

8th October 2008

Thank you for your letter of 25 June (which I received on 30 September) regarding the petition to stop the fluoridation of public water supplies in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government has no current plans to introduce fluoridation schemes in Wales. Any such proposal to introduce fluoridation would be subject to wide public consultation and we are sensitive to the fact that there is a certain amount of opposition in Wales to the fluoridation of water supplies.

On 14 March I launched a National Oral Health Action Plan to help tackle oral health inequalities in Wales. Central to the Plan is a Child Oral Health Improvement Programme which is being delivered through a strengthened public dentistry role for the Community Dental Service. The programme "Designed to Smile" has two main parts: a supervised tooth-brushing scheme, using fluoride toothpaste, for 3 to 5 year olds, and a promotional programme for 6 to 11 year olds. In the longer term we will look to develop a third component, promoting oral health from birth.

The objective of the "Designed to Smile" Programme is to target young children in areas of greatest need and will build on the foundation of the current Fissure Sealant Programme. It will initially be rolled out in two 'super pilot' areas and cover the North Wales region and a substantial part of South Wales. It is anticipated that the first phase of the programme will commence in October 2008.

[Signature]