

From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs



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To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for his assessment of the levels of naturally occurring fluoride in the water in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Fluorides are a group of naturally occurring compounds that are composed of the element fluorine and one or more other elements. Fluorides are present naturally in water and soil at varying levels.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate, a unit within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), has responsibility for ensuring that Northern Ireland Water Ltd. (NI Water) meets its regulatory duty under The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 (The Regulations). The regulatory limit for fluoride is 1.5mg/l at consumers' taps, which is the same as the WHO's Guideline Value.

NI Water must monitor the public water supply for all the parameters that are listed in the Regulations, of which one is fluoride. NI Water publish all the monitoring data from its regulatory monitoring programme for each Water Supply Zone on its website on an annual basis.



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I refer to Annex A for more detail on results over the past four years for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, however more historical information and specific detail is available from NI Water directly.

The level of naturally occurring fluoride in water is very low. In recent years, there have been no concerns raised relating to the level of fluoride in the drinking water supply and no regulatory contraventions have occurred. There is no minimum level specified in the drinking water quality regulations.

Any assessment on the impact of naturally occurring fluoride on human health would be a matter for the medical professionals.



EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



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**Water Quality Monitoring Results for fluoride in Causeway Coast and Glens
Borough Council Area (2019-2021)**

		2019 - 2021 (to date) mg/l			
		Minimum	Average	Median	Maximum
ZN0102	Ballinrees West Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.007	0.030	0.014	0.170
ZN0103	Ballinrees East Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.003	0.025	0.015	0.081
ZN0202	Altnahinch Bushmills Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.001	0.018	0.042	0.061
ZN0204	Rathlin Island Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.022	0.042	0.030	0.089
ZN0302	Dungonnell Glarryford Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.001	0.012	0.002	0.087
ZN0501	Moyola Magherafelt Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.004	0.027	0.017	0.100
ZN0601	Ballinrees Limavady Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.003	0.025	0.012	0.079
ZN0603	Carmoney Eglinton Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.005	0.021	0.015	0.073
ZN0604	Caugh Hill Dungiven Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.003	0.018	0.005	0.071
ZN0607	Corrody Derry Zone Audit Random Sample Point	0.003	0.023	0.012	0.100



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