

Advice Sheet - Withholding Water Charges

by West Midlands Against Fluoridation

Severn Trent's drinking water is deliberately adulterated with heavy metals, a non-permitted Reportable Poison and a "presumed" developmental neurotoxin.

- **Heavy Metals: antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel** (BSEN 12175:2013, p.8)
- **Reportable poison and contaminant: Hydrofluoric acid** (Deregulation Act 2015, Schedule 21, Part 4; BSEN 12175:2013, p.7)
- **Non-permitted additive to drinking water: Hydrofluoric Acid** Water Industry Act, 1991, s.87
- **"Presumed" developmental neurotoxin: fluoride.** In this current legal climate, it can only be classified as a "**known**" developmental neurotoxin if researchers set out to **deliberately** give fluoride to pregnant volunteers and their fetus throughout pregnancy and to infants during the first 6 months of their lives and then prove that intelligence is reduced as a result of being exposed to fluoride. However, that would be medically unethical. "Presumed" is a nano-metre away from "known".

We are encouraged to use but not swallow fluoridated toothpaste, are not warned against drinking tea during pregnancy (tea being taken to mean the familiar "cuppa", *Camellia sinensis* which often grows in soils containing fluoride. Old less expensive tea leaves contain more fluoride than higher-priced young leaves.) They are also not advised to give infants bottled water to make up formula because it contains too many sulphates and too much sodium (both untrue by the way) and instead to opt for tap water in all cases, whether fluoridated or not. This advice is not considered by the establishment to be medically unethical because the government believes that "the science is settled" and that Water Fluoridation (WF) is not an experiment and is definitely not a medicine!

This latter excuse is "legal fiction". The definition of drinking water can be found in the Drinking Water Directive retained post Brexit and medicinal water (and bottled water) are excluded from its provisions. The definition of a medicine can be found in UK legislation, and fluoridated water is clearly a medicine according to the definition. (*The Medicine Act, 1968, s.130*). Medicinal (prophylactic) intent is admitted in BSEN 12175:2013, p.19: "Hexafluorosilicic acid is added to drinking water to increase the resistance of consumers to dental decay".

However, WF has never been clinically tested but since fluoridated water is a medicine, it should have a medicinal licence, which it doesn't. The Regulator (MHRA) refuses to licence fluoridated water as being a medicine and has attempted to prevent fluoridating water companies from explaining why fluoride is added to drinking water. If no official medicinal

claims are made for the addition of fluoride, then no-one can be accused of medicating drinking water. That begs the question : "if it is not a medicine and if it is not a water treatment chemical, why is it added to drinking water?" This causes a dilemma for the MHRA and fluoridating water companies. They think that they can get away with this contradiction by calling fluoridated water a "public health measure".

Although the concentrations of the **heavy metals** are less than the Water Quality Standard maximums allowed by law, fluoridated water is not water and the standards do not apply. Also, it is the act of deliberately adding heavy metals to drinking water which is unconscionable. There is also the issue of the "mixture" effect of different "chemical parameters" combining to increase their negative effect on our bodies.

The contaminant, **Hydrofluoric Acid (HF)**, is described as "free" in the British Standard meaning that once it reaches the stomach it remains as HF. This small concentration of HF (up to 1.5% of 6.3mg Hexafluorosilicic Acid/litre) is able to cause damage to the stomach lining. (Hexafluorosilicic Acid is a 20% solution of fluoride so at least 5mg of the Acid needs to be added to 1 litre of drinking water to achieve the target concentration of 1mg fluoride/litre if there is no background level of fluoride.) 6.3mg of the Acid/litre is recommended in the British Standard.

Severn Trent's customers are being sold an adulterated medicine and not treated drinking water. The Company hides behind the defence that it is ordered to fluoridate treated water by the UK Government. They freely quote The Water Industry Act 1991 as their authority to add an industrial waste to treated water and they have refused to answer our questions about the addition of the non-permitted Hydrofluoric Acid. They are not even concerned about the fact that they are adding a carcinogen and neurotoxin even though their industry's aim is to purify their drinking water. Because of the cowardice of fluoridating water companies, their customers should feel no pity.

We need to be seen to be acting reasonably so UKFFFA/FFAUK and WMAF advises that the costs of sewage, run-off and grey water disposal should be met. Water companies conveniently divide the annual bill into the drinking water and sewerage components.

If you have a water meter, you can only take action if you are told by Severn Trent the annual amount for sewerage charges. If you know your sewerage charges, then follow the advice below.

You need to be fluoridated or threatened with fluoridation imminently to take the following action.

If you are on benefits, Severn Trent may already be deducting a weekly sum for water charges from your benefits before they are deposited in your bank account so you cannot withhold water charges.

The Procedure for Withholding Drinking Water Charges

1. Ideally, action should be taken as soon as the Water Bill is received in February/March. Anytime between May and August will achieve your aim although it won't be as powerful.

Severn Trent take money for the whole amount for the financial year over 5 months, April - August. If you have a water meter, action can be taken at any time.

2. Cancel your Direct Debit for water charges.

3. Set up a Standing Order as a BACS transfer for **12 payments** (or less if you're taking this action in the middle of the year) for the coming calendar year for the Sewerage charge starting early in April. The rationale for 12 payments instead of 5 payments is that it seems counter-intuitive to pay for poisoned water in advance of receiving it. If you have a water meter and if the sewerage component varies month-by-month, then pay the sewerage component each month by cheque or as a BACS transfer.

4. Send STW a letter which briefly explains why you are withholding money for "drinking" water. We advise that you do not go to lengths - keep it brief. Aim at covering one side of a sheet of paper. Address the letter to Customer Services and include your Customer Number. The important information you need to give STW is that their drinking water is deliberately adulterated with several undesirable elements and that BSEN 12175:2013 confirms that this is indeed the case. You refuse to drink deliberately adulterated water which in any case appears to be an illegal product because Hydrofluoric Acid is added by the company at the Water Treatment Works and this acid is not permitted in the Water Industry Act 1991, s.87. Quoting their own Act might be hitting the Company below the belt, but so be it. In your letter, try to use your own phrasing if possible. Finally, because it is a prophylactic, their product is a medicine, and you can't be charged for the product because you want drinking water and the product is not drinking water.

5. Sit back and wait for a reminder, red letters, phone calls, threats of Court action and finally a referral to a debt collection agency. The Company may even threaten to damage your credit rating which we believe is illegal. (If you were to be taken to Court and if you lost the case, that's when your credit rating would be damaged, but not before.) Take no notice and do not reply to any letters from STW or from the Debt Collection Agency. Finally, the Debt Collectors will wash their hands of you and will return your case to STW and thereafter, peace will reign!

During one of STW's phone calls, should you decide to talk to them, you will be asked to reinstate the Direct Debit or to authorise a BACS transfer of "the debt". Do not be bullied into doing this. Believe that what you are doing is without risk.

You will not be taken to Court and Debt Collectors will not come knocking at your door - STW cannot afford the publicity. Your water cannot be cut off and nor can the pressure be reduced to a trickle. Water companies are not allowed to do either of these things.

When talking to Customer Services, quote the British Standard (BSEN 12175:2013, pp. 7-8) and ask the caller to quote the Company's legal authority to deliberately add heavy metals to their **medicinal product** (e.g. Mercury), a reportable poison (Hydrofluoric Acid), two neurotoxins (Lead and Fluoride) and a carcinogen (Arsenic) to your drinking water. You object to being sold a poisoned **medicinal product** when in good faith you had accepted for many years that their product was water and was potable.

Hold firm. No company has the right to sell adulterated drinking water as a poisonous medicinal product to its customers.

6. The next water charges' bill will include the debt from the previous year. Take no notice. Continue to pay by Standing Order for the new sewerage charge divided by 12.

With more people taking this action, we will finally be able to mount a "Class Action".

Please do not "go solo" and don't try to convey other reasons for not paying up to STW. For example, it would be futile to send them receipts for bottled water and filters and hope that they will be shamed into sending you some money. The Company will do no such thing. If STW agreed to offset the costs of bottled water and/or filtration equipment, that would be tantamount to admitting that their water is not potable. STW cannot admit that because this would bring the Water Regulator down on their heads. Also, STW's finance system does not allow for this kind of expense.

The law is on our side (non-permitted and poisonous Hydrofluoric Acid and the deliberate addition of Arsenic and Lead) if only we could get to Court. The favourable law has to be tested in Court before we can use it to our best advantage. The more of us who use the argument that the **drinking water is medicinal water and is adulterated**, the better, because that means we would have more plaintiffs "of standing". Judges need to hear from people and their little ones who have been affected by the toxin and they are the "plaintiffs with standing".

In the USA, during 2020-2022, Fluoride Action Network* has identified some mums whose infants had been given fluoridated medicinal water, not realising that they were causing harm to the intelligence of their children and a federal court case is proceeding. No-one had warned the mums to keep away from tea and from fluoridated water when pregnant and no-one had told them that fluoridated drinking water was not advisable when making up baby formula. The high-quality research on reduced intelligence exists and the Centers for Disease Control, Dental Health Division (CDC) in the USA is derelict in its duty to keep the American people out of harm's way.

* <https://fluoridealert.org/news/op-ed-it-is-time-to-protect-kids-developing-brains-from-fluoride/>

Please circulate this advice sheet freely

Requests for further information should be sent via **wmaf@live.co.uk**. **Also, please send us a copy of the letter which you sent to Severn Trent.**

Seven active websites against fluoridation in England are:

www.ukfffa.org.uk www.newfc.org.uk www.wmaf.org.uk
www.lakestay.co.uk/fluoridefreecumbria <https://ukagainstfluoride.blogspot.com/>
<https://fluoridefreelincolnshire.wordpress.com>
Telegram Channel for Fluoride Free Alliance UK

Rev: May 2022