

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Public Health: ethical issues* between May and September 2006. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

### National Register of Children with Dental Fluorosis

Ethical issues: consent is, in my opinion, paramount with one or two exceptions such as the screening of immigrants for infectious and life-threatening diseases. People should be free from state interference as far as possible. The Government have made decisions which completely negate health promotion e.g. the recent relaxing of licensing laws which promote alcohol consumption and all the attendant problems.

Vaccination and water fluoridation are examples where consent has virtually been removed. Parents should be able to choose a single vaccination because confidence in vaccination has been shaken. Equality, Doctors or Dentists, who choose to disagree with the "establishment" should not be harassed e.g. the doctors who choose to offer single vaccines.

**Closing date for responses: 15 September 2006**

Water Fluoridation: The "One in a Million" document is a thoroughly biased paper which does not address the huge problems presented on this issue, paramount is the fact that no consent is allowed when water is fluoridated.

Most of Europe doesn't fluoridate water, and people in Switzerland recently ceased to do so because the system was costly and didn't benefit teeth.

Ironically, it may be the water consumer will benefit, as in the Lincoln area, when the local Health Authority runs out of money and has to stop fluoridation schemes!

The recent York Review re-emphasises the problem of dental fluorosis which rises to 48% in fluoridated areas.

This is not just a cosmetic issue, it means years of misery for unpteen children. Dentists have yet to develop successful treatment. Skeletal fluorosis (brittle bone) is another internationally recognised problem with fluoride. And anyone who is allergic to fluoride truly lives a nightmare. M.C.