Fluoride scheme gets green light

Judicial Review of fluoridation decision in Hampshire says process was not illegal

The High Court has ruled that a health authority was not acting unlawfully in seeking to add fluoride to Southampton’s tap water.

The proposal by South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) to increase the level of fluoride in water to one part per million, was given the go-ahead in February 2009 after a recent judicial review of the move.

The judge expressed sympathy for people who disagreed with fluoridation but said there was no illegality in the decision-making process.

“It is not the law that fluoridation can only occur when a majority of the local population agree. Parliament has firmly entrusted area-specific decision making to the relevant SHA. This SHA have not acted unlawfully and no court can interfere with their decision.”

During the hearing, Mrs Milner’s counsel David Wolfe had argued that residents would have “no choice” but to drink fluoridated water. Campaign groups, which backed the non-flouridated campaign, were backed by 62% of the voters in a recent referendum.

However, the British Dental Association (BDA) also welcomed the decision. BDA Scientific Adviser Professor Damien Walsmey said: “The BDA is pleased with the result because it is likely to encourage consultation on similar schemes in other parts of the country where fluoride could help address the poor dental health of the population.

“A recent European summary of the latest scientific evidence reiterated the view that water fluoridation is a safe and effective method of reducing oral health inequalities.”

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**Clinical**

Michael Sultan discusses root canal treatment

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**Events**

B2A celebrates success

Hope Dental Centre in sixth year