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**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 study showed the move would significantly improve dental health. However, resident Ms Milner, who was backed by local anti-fluoride campaign groups, took legal action to challenge the decision, claiming that the SCSHA tried to illegally force the fluoridation of Southampton's water.

At a judicial review, Mr Justice Holman dismissed the legal challenge against the process. 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, Ms Milner's counsel David Wolfe had argued that residents would have "no choice" but to drink fluoridated water. Campaign groups, which backed the mother-of-three's case, said potential side effects range from bone cancer to thyroid problems and brown spots on the teeth.

However, the British Dental Association (BDA) also welcomed the decision. BDA Scientific Adviser Professor Damien Wulmsley 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."

**Lawsuit against Rangarajan**

A lawsuit against Mr V R Rangarajan for committing an act of criminal breach of trust by embezzlement of joint account funds of the Central Government for the year 2004-05 was filed at the District Court, Bangalore.

Mr Rangarajan, Deputy Director (SAI), Central Government, Bangalore, is accused of misappropriating Rs 1,71,84,400. A case was filed against him by the Government of India under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

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**SOME IMPORTANT FACTS**

- There are over 300 million people in the UK who suffer from tooth decay.
- Tooth decay can cause pain, infection, and loss of function.
- Fluoride helps to prevent tooth decay by making teeth stronger and more resistant to acid attacks.
- Regular check-ups and good oral hygiene habits are essential in preventing tooth decay.

**Contact Us**

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