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1

ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO



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Abingdon and Faringdon Districts Joint Public Health Committee

Members 1972 - 73

ABINGDON BOROUGH

Dr. J. G. H. Norris, J.P., 16 Norman Avenue, Abingdon.

E. R. Soame, Esq., 115 Radley Road, Abingdon.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

S. Farrant, Esq., M.B.E., Manor Farm, Eaton, Appleton, nr.
Abingdon.

C. E. Hart, Esq., 102 Cumnor Hill, Oxford.

J. T. Hogg, Esq., 125 Kennington Road, Kennington, Oxford.

W. T. Palmer, Esq. (Chairman), 4 Cumnor Rise Road, Cumnor Hill,
Oxford.

J. G. Talboys, Esq., J.P., 89 Foxborough Road, Radley, Abingdon.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

P. A. Charters, Esq., Alyn House, Ashbury, Nr. Swindon.

Dr. A. H. G. Gillespie, 8 Church Close, Longcot, Faringdon.

COUNTY COUNCIL

E. F. C. Bond, Esq., "Dean", Woolstone, Faringdon.

C. W. Phillips, Esq., Fairmead, 6 Vicarage Road, Steventon.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

J. L. Davies, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.,
66 Bath Street, Abingdon, Berks. (Tel: Abingdon 361)

Public Health Inspectors

ABINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Public Health Inspector: Gifford Saffin, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.,
The Abbey House, Abingdon, Berks. (Tel: Abingdon 851)

Deputy Public Health Inspector: D. M. Faulkner, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector: K. Smith, M.A.P.H.I.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chief Public Health Inspector: T. G. Evans, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.,
66 Bath Street, Abingdon, Berks. (Tel. Abingdon 361)

Deputy Public Health Inspector: D. H. Ratcliff, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector: N. M. Newton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

General Assistant: S. G. Burt.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Inspector: H. E. Tolman, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Council Offices, 28 Market Place, Faringdon, Berks. (Tel: Faringdon 20296)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1972, including the statutory information required by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The estimated mid-year population of the Combined Districts increased by 1,330 to 71,470, that of Abingdon Borough by 650 to 19,740, Abingdon Rural by 580 to 37,170 and Faringdon Rural by 100 to 14,380. Twenty years ago in 1952 the population of the Combined Districts was 48,700. Abingdon Borough was 11,230, Abingdon Rural 23,820 and Faringdon Rural 13,650. Thus Abingdon Rural has the greatest increase in population over this period of 13,350, Abingdon Borough is next with 8,240, though it has the highest growth rate, and Faringdon Rural increased by 1,180.

The birth rate fell to 15.0 per thousand population compared with 15.1 in 1971, whilst that of England and Wales for 1972 was 14.8, the lowest figure for many years; the figure for 1971 being 16.0. The death rate for the Combined Districts was 10.1 per thousand population compared with 9.2 in 1971; for England and Wales the figures were 12.1 and 11.6 respectively. The pattern of the causes of death showed little change: ischaemic heart disease (coronary thrombosis) was responsible for 164 deaths compared with 132 in 1971, and cancer of the lung also rose slightly from 29 to 32. There were 31 deaths from pneumonia and 25 from bronchitis compared with 23 and 31 in 1971.

Notifications of infectious diseases decreased from 269 in 1971 to 111 in 1972. Most of this reduction was accounted for by the fall in measles notifications from 225 in 1971 to 60 in 1972.

I should like to thank the members of the Joint Public Health Committee and of the three District Councils and also the public health inspectors, whose constant efforts are reflected in the high standard of environmental health in the area.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN L. DAVIES,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

AREA AND POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid 1972	Inc. or Dec. on 1971	Persons per Acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	19,470	+ 650	11.1
Abingdon Rural	41,185	37,170	+ 580	0.9
Faringdon Rural	55,726	14,830	+ 100	0.3
Total	98,665	71,470	+ 1330	0.7

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

District	Live Births	Live Births 1971	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Deaths	Deaths 1971	Death Rate per 1,000 pop.
Abingdon Borough	365	355	17.2	167	138	11.3
Abingdon Rural	481	508	13.2	283	245	9.9
Faringdon Rural	249	243	16.6	128	152	8.9
Total	1,095	1,106	15.0	578	535	10.1
England and Wales	725,405	783,165	14.8	591,907	567,345	12.1

The birth and death rates recorded in the tables are the corrected rates per 1,000 population which allow for differences between the age and sex structure of the local population and that of England and Wales.

This allows for comparison with the rates for other local authorities as well as with the national rates.

The area comparability factors by which the local rates are multiplied to give the corrected rates are as follows for the year 1972:

	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural District	Faringdon Rural District
Births	0.92	1.02	0.99
Deaths	1.31	1.30	1.04

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	Per cent of Total Live Births
Abingdon Borough	9	5	14	4
Abingdon Rural	10	14	24	5
Faringdon Rural	7	9	16	6
Combined Districts	26	28	54	5
England and Wales	—	—	—	9

INFANT MORTALITY

(1971 figures in brackets)

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
Abingdon Borough	4 (8)	365 (355)	11 (23)
Abingdon Rural	4 (9)	481 (508)	8 (18)
Faringdon Rural	3 (2)	249 (243)	12 (8)
Total	11 (19)	1,095 (1,106)	10 (19)
England and Wales	12,494	725,405	17 (18)

STILL BIRTHS

(1972 figures in brackets)

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1,000 Total Births
Abingdon Borough	5 (5)	— (—)	5 (5)	14 (14)
Abingdon Rural	2 (6)	— (—)	2 (6)	4 (12)
Faringdon Rural	— (6)	— (—)	— (6)	— (24)
Total	7 (17)	— (—)	7 (17)	6 (17)
England and Wales	7,846	948	8,794	12 (12)

MATERNAL MORTALITY

(including abortion)

There were no maternal deaths in any of the three districts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1972 (with the 1971 figures in brackets).

Diseases	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	17 (45)	43 (127)	— (53)	60 (225)
Scarlet Fever	2 (2)	2 (4)	2 (—)	6 (6)
Infective Jaundice	3 (1)	7 (4)	2 (—)	12 (5)
T.B. (Pulm.)	9 (4)	10 (4)	— (1)	19 (9)
T.B. (Non-Pulm.)	3 (—)	2 (1)	1 (—)	6 (1)
Whooping Cough	— (5)	3 (4)	— (—)	3 (9)
Dysentery	— (3)	— (—)	— (1)	— (4)
Food Poisoning	2 (1)	1 (3)	— (5)	3 (9)
Meningitis	1 (—)	— (—)	— (1)	1 (1)
Leptospirosis	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Ophth. Neonatorium	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Malaria	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Totals	37 (61)	69 (147)	6 (61)	111 (269)

CAUSES OF DEATH

	ABINGDON BOROUGH			ABINGDON RURAL		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	2	—	2	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	—	1	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	4	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2	3	2	8	10
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7	18	4	22
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	5	—	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	—	1	1	—	1
Leukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant neoplasms	6	6	12	8	8	16
Diabetes mellitus	1	1	2	—	1	1
Anaemias	—	—	—	—	2	2
Other diseases of blood	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mental disorders	—	—	—	2	—	2
Diseases of nervous system	1	2	3	1	—	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1	2	2	2	4
Ischaemic heart disease	25	21	46	50	27	77
Other forms of heart disease	5	7	12	3	6	9
Cerebrovascular disease	9	10	19	11	24	35
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	5	9	10	12	22
Influenza	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	11	13	6	7	13
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	—	5	9	4	13
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4	3	—	3
Peptic ulcer	1	1	2	1	1	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1	2	1	5	6
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1	1	—	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	1	2	1	1	2
Congenital anomalies	1	—	1	1	—	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2	2	—	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	—	—	—	1	—	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	—	—	—	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1	5	4	9
All other accidents	2	4	6	3	4	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	—	—	—	—	2	2
All other external causes	—	1	1	—	1	1
TOTAL all causes	80	87	167	151	132	283

CAUSES OF DEATH

	FARINGDON RURAL			COMBINED DISTRICTS		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Meningococcal infection	1	—	1	1	—	1
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	—	3	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	—	—	—	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	—	—	—	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1	5	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	—	2	2	3	12	15
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3	26	6	32
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	5	—	14	14
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	—	—	—	2	—	2
Leukaemia	—	2	2	—	2	2
Other malignant neoplasms	1	5	6	15	19	34
Diabetes mellitus	—	1	1	1	3	4
Anaemias	—	—	—	—	2	2
Other diseases of blood	—	—	—	—	1	1
Mental disorders	—	—	—	2	—	2
Diseases of nervous system	—	1	1	2	3	5
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	1	1	—	2	2
Hypertensive disease	1	1	1	4	4	8
Ischaemic heart disease	18	23	41	93	71	164
Other forms of heart disease	2	5	7	10	18	28
Cerebrovascular disease	7	9	16	27	43	70
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	5	8	17	22	39
Influenza	1	—	1	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	3	5	10	21	31
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	2	7	19	6	25
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1	6	2	8
Peptic ulcer	—	1	1	2	3	5
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	—	1	1	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system	—	1	1	2	7	9
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	—	2	2	2	4	6
Congenital anomalies	2	—	2	4	—	4
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	—	1	1	3	2	5
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	—	1	2	—	2
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	—	—	—	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	6	4	10
All other accidents	2	—	2	7	8	15
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	—	1	1	2	3
All other external causes	—	1	1	—	3	3
TOTAL all causes	55	73	128	286	292	578

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

There were no Council houses built during 1972. The Council built 583 dwellings before 1939 and 2,003 have been built since 1945, making a total of 2,586 Council dwellings. There are 1,887 dwellings available for letting purposes, the remainder having been sold.

The rent of pre-war houses, including rates, ranged from £3.45 to £4.57 with an approximate average of £4.09 per week for a 48-week year. Rents for post-war houses ranged from £3.01 for a bedsitter to £5.67 for a 4-bedroom house with an average of £4.84.

The number of applicants on the housing waiting list at 31st December, 1972, was 376; this was 16 more than at the end of 1971.

HOUSING

1. Houses which on inspection were considered unfit for human habitation.	Nil
2. Houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action.	5
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:	
(a) serving notices requesting execution of works	Nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	Nil
4. Informal notices requesting execution of works	3
5. Houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
6. Number of demolition and closing orders made	Nil
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking not to re-let was given	Nil
8. Number of houses demolished	2

MEAT INSPECTION

The following table gives the details of slaughtered animals inspected and the number of carcasses, parts and offal found to be unfit for human consumption at Caldecot Farm Abattoir.

	No. Inspected	No. found to be infected				Whole carcasses	
		T.B.	% of total	Other Conditions	% of total	T.B.	Other Conditions
Cattle	2,736	—	—	595	22	—	5
Calves	118	—	—	—	—	—	10
Sheep	8,194	—	—	135	1.6	—	24
Pigs	33,069	35	.1	6,430	20	—	71
Totals	44,117	35	.08	7,160	16	—	110
1971	39,314	121	—	8,223	—	4	118

Analysis of Principal Causes of Condemnation of Carcases

Disease	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Emaciation (Pathological)	4	2	8	15	29
Moribund	—	1	—	3	4
Pyæmia including Multiple Abscess	—	3	1	12	16
Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	4
Oedema	—	—	1	6	7
Immaturity	—	1	—	1	2
Septic conditions inc. Toxaemia	—	—	7	26	33
Extensive Severe Bruising	—	2	4	—	6
Other conditions	—	—	2	7	9
Totals	5	10	24	71	110

Meat and Offal Rejected as Unfit for Human Consumption

	Tons	cwt.	lb.
Carcases	3	19	61
Parts of Carcases	1	2	4
Offal	9	14	12
Totals	14	15	77

UN SOUND FOOD

The following quantities of food (other than meat inspected at the Abattoir) were condemned during 1972:

Dairy Products	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	633 lb.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	48 lb.
Frozen Food	...	...	...	...	...	1,944 lb.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Items	...	...	...	...	...	138 lb.

FOOD PREMISES

The number and various types of premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 are as shown below, and 86 visits were paid in connection with the Regulations.

Category of Trade	Number of Premises	Prem fitted to comply with Reg. 18	Prem. to which Reg. 21 applies	Prem. comply- ing with Reg. 21
Grocery and Provisions	19	19	19	19
Licensed Premises	33	32	33	33
Catering Premises	16	16	16	16
Butchers	11	11	11	11
Sale of Ice Cream	26	25	26	26
Sale or manufacture of Preserved Foods	7	7	7	7
Fish Fryers	4	4	4	4
Fishmongers	1	1	1	1
Milk Distributors	2	1	2	1
Sausage and Other Meat Products Factory	1	1	1	1
Total	120	117	120	119

MILK

During the year 9 samples of milk were taken and submitted for statutory tests. The results were as follows:

	No. Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	5	4	1
Untreated	4	4	—

ICE CREAM

Three samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for examination: All three were placed in Provisional Grade I.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

There was a further increase in applications for Improvement Grants during the year, 46 being approved against 30 in 1971. No applications for standard grants were received during the course of the year.

Completed improvements included:

Hot water system	15	Water closets	9
Hand wash basins	5	Improvements to kitchens	13
Baths	Nil	New bathrooms	22

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES Nil

REFUSE COLLECTION

No special problems arose during the year. The amount of refuse to be collected continue to rise with the growth of the town and the increasing business activities.

The bulk bin system is proving popular and 65 bins are now in regular use.

Special collections are made from houses in the Borough when requested and increasing use is being made of the dumping area provided under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, at Wilsham Road, not only by residents of the town for self-help building refuse and bulky household items, but by many people from the surrounding area. Increasing supervision has become necessary because of "picking" and the risk of fires.

General refuse disposal continues at Corporation Farm, and is carefully controlled in accordance with recommended standards. Clay tanking of the tipping area prevents pollution of watercourses in the area by percolate which is collected in specially constructed pits and removed by tanker for treatment at the Council's sewage works.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A close watch continues to be kept on the effluent from the the Abingdon Sewage Disposal Works to comply with the Royal Commission standard and to satisfy Thames Conservancy requirements.

The population increase necessitates steps being taken to enlarge and improve the works and the work is scheduled to commence in 1973.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Oxfordshire and District Water Board are responsible for water supplies in the Borough. Three samples were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

In addition, four samples of water from swimming pools were submitted for bacteriological examination:

three were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

MORTUARY

There were 202 admissions to the Mortuary in 1972, 200 involving post-mortem examination. The figures for 1971 were 169 and 167 respectively.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1964

	No. of New Registrations in 1972	Total No. of Reg. Premises	No. of Persons Employed	No. of Inspections
Offices	1	55	418	11
Retail Shops	5	110	771	12
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	—	1	3	—
Catering Establishments and Canteens	—	12	88	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	2	1
Totals	6	179	1,282	24

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	No.	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	1	1	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	68	10	—	—
Building Sites	10	1	—	—
Total	79	12	—	—

PETROLEUM

Thirty-one installations for the storage of petroleum spirit are licensed in the Borough.

All were visited at least once during the year.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS FOR 1972

Public Health and General Sanitation

Miscellaneous	27
Refuse Collection and Disposal	150
Accumulations and Deposits	8
Drainage and Sewerage	11
Public Conveniences	9
Offensive Trades	3
Infectious Diseases	9
Mortuary	206
Filthy or Verminous Premises	17
Pest Destruction	11
Watercourses, Ditches, etc.	1
Swimming Pools	11
Litter	5
Schools	1
Caravans	1
Street Sweeping	12

Clean Air Act

Miscellaneous	5
Smoke Observations	6
Installations	2

Housing

Miscellaneous	25
Housing Inspections	9
Improvement Grants	146
Houses in Multiple Occupation	3
Slum Clearance	3

Food and Drugs

Miscellaneous	4
Meat Inspections	783
Other Food Inspection	25
Food Complaints	21
Food Poisoning	7
Bakers	11
Butchers	30
Fishmongers	2
Confectioners	1
Greengrocers	4
Grocers	13
Ice Cream Premises	4
Catering Establishments	9
Licensed Premises	9
Market Stalls	178
Food Preparation Premises	2
Slaughterhouse	22
Dairies	1
Sampling Miscellaneous	1
„ Milk	22
„ Ice Cream	4
„ Water	9
„ Swimming Pools	3
„ Dairy Cream	1

Offices, Shops & Railways Act, 1963

Miscellaneous	10
Offices	9
Shops	22
Catering Establishments	1
Accidents	1

Petroleum Acts

Miscellaneous	50
Tank Testings	3

Factories Act

Miscellaneous	5
Factories (Power)	10
Factories (Non-Power)	1
Building Sites	1

Noise Abatement Act

Miscellaneous	7
---------------------	---

Miscellaneous	4
---------------------	---

Welfare	3
---------------	---

Civic Amenities Act

Miscellaneous	31
Vehicles	1
Other Refuse	1

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

PART 'A' HOUSING

CONSTRUCTION

The total number of new houses completed during 1972 was 59. Fifty-two were built by private construction, 7 by the Council.

Eighty-eight were under construction at the end of the year, none of which were Council houses.

The following table shows their distribution:

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under construction 31.12.72	Completed	Under construction 31.12.72
Appleford	—	—	—	—
Appleton	—	—	1	5
Cumnor	—	—	2	2
Drayton	—	—	2	1
Fyfield & Tubney	—	—	—	1
Garford & Lyford	—	—	1	4
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor	—	—	19	10
Kennington	—	—	10	30
Marcham	—	—	—	4
Milton	7	—	—	2
North Hinksey	—	—	1	2
Radley	—	—	8	7
South Hinksey	—	—	1	3
Steventon	—	—	—	—
St. Helen Without	—	—	—	3
Sunningwell	—	—	3	1
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	2	7
Wootton	—	—	2	5
Wytham	—	—	—	1
Totals	7	—	52	88

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

The 16 bungalows at Tubney are still in use and continue to serve a useful purpose.

IMPROVEMENTS

Following the surge of approvals in 1971, grant applications dropped to a level consistent with previous years. The following tables outline the situation in 1972:

Table 'A'

	No. approved 1972 ('71)		Total No. approved since	Amount paid 1972	Total amount paid
Standard Grants	21	(18)	1959—352	£1,581	£43,698
Discretionary Grants	26	(45)	1952—460	£19,325	£164,042

Table 'B' (i) No. of properties modernised with aid of Discretionary Grants.

Parish	Conversion	Improvements
Appleford	—	1
Appleton	2	3
Cumnor	—	2
Drayton	1	1
Frilford	1	—
Kennington	1	—
Kingston Bagpuize	—	1
Marcham	1	—
Milton	1	—
North Hinksey	2	7
Sutton Courtenay	—	1
Steventon	1	2
Tubney	—	1
Wootton	—	1
Totals	10	20

(ii) Amenities provided with aid of Standard Grants.

Parish	Bath/ showers	Hot water systems	L/bs.	Sinks	W.C.'s
Appleford	—	—	—	—	1
Kennington	—	1	—	—	—
Kingston Bagpuize	2	2	1	—	1
North Hinksey	1	2	1	—	2
St. Helen Without	—	2	1	—	—
Sutton Courtenay	1	2	1	1	1
Wootton	1	2	2	—	1
Totals	5	11	6	1	6

HOUSING ACT, 1969**Qualification Certificates****(a) Improvement Cases**

No. of applications received	4
No. of Certificates of provisional approval issued	Nil
No. of Qualification Certificates issued	Nil

(b) Standard amenities already provided

No. of applications received	8
No. of Qualification Certificates issued	7

HOUSING ACT, 1957**(a) Houses represented to Local Authority with a view to:**

(i) Serving notices requiring execution of works	Nil
(ii) The making of Demolition Orders	Nil
(iii) The making of Closing Orders	Nil
(b) Number of Closing Orders made	Nil
(c) Number of Demolition Orders made	Nil
(d) Number of Demolition Orders revoked	Nil
(e) Number of Closing Orders revoked	2

CARAVANS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

207 inspections were made during the year concerning caravan control as follows:

Miscellaneous	9	Exempted sites	7
Council sites	38	Unauthorised caravans	34
Private licensed sites	119		

25 applications for planning permission and site licence were considered during the year. Three out of 10 new applications and 12 renewals were approved.

The distribution of caravans in the district was as follows:

(a) Council-owned sites

Pebble Hill Caravan Park, Radley	100 Caravans
Woodland Caravan Park, Radley	108 Caravans

The demand for sites on the Council's Parks remains heavy and the necessity for waiting lists continued throughout the year.

(b) Licensed private sites

Distribution of private sites in the District was as follows:

Parish	No. of sites		No. of caravans	
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
Cumnor	6	1	15	1
Draycott Moor and Kingston Bagpuize	2	1	10	1
Drayton	—	3	—	18
Kennington	2	1	2	1
Marcham	—	1	—	1
Milton	—	1	—	1
North Hinksey	—	1	—	1
Radley	2	—	86	—
St. Helen Without	—	1	—	1
South Hinksey	1	—	1	—
Sunningwell	1	1	17	1
Steventon	—	2	—	13
Sutton Courtenay	1	—	1	—
Wootton	1	3	2	3
Totals	16	16	134	42

(c) Exempted Sites

There were 10 exempted sites in the area at the end of the year. Rigid enforcement of the Act has continued to prevent the proliferation of caravans in rear gardens, etc.

(d) Unauthorised sites

It was necessary for 34 visits to be made under this heading to prevent the setting up of unauthorised sites. The number of itinerant caravans visiting the area continues to remain relatively small, but the few who do appear require much attention.

PART 'B' ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Quantity

All Parishes in the rural district are supplied with mains water, but a few shallow wells are still in use. These rarely give trouble so far as quantity of water is concerned.

The following table gives the information required concerning supplies of the two Water Boards serving the area.

OXFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied with mains water	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by standpipe
Appleton	280	255	—
Besselsleigh	22	20	—
Cumnor	1397	1317	—
Draycott Moor and Kingston Bagpuize	464	423	—
Frilford	78	64	—
Fyfield and Tubney	191	150	—
Garford	41	40	—
Kennington	1272	1209	—
Marcham	551	547	—
North Hinksey	1476	1476	—
Radley	496	450	—
St. Helen Without	1104	1002	—
South Hinksey	114	114	—
Sunningwell	297	277	—
Wootton	877	860	—
Wytham	70	42	—
Totals	8730	8246	—

The Oxfordshire and District Water Board report that no restrictions of any kind took place during 1972.

THAMES VALLEY WATER BOARD

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied with mains water	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by standpipe
Appleford	134	127	—
Drayton	703	681	12
Lyford	32	32	—
Milton	263	261	1
Steventon	435	420	10
Sutton Courtenay	782	780	1
Totals	2349	2301	24

(b) Quality

The quality of the mains supply continues to be highly satisfactory and the following table shows the results of all samples taken by the Department for bacteriological examination.

	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory	Total
Wells	4	—	2	8	14
Boreholes	6	—	1	1	8
Swimming Pools	1	—	—	—	1
Watercourses	—	—	—	5	5
Mains	7	—	—	—	7
Totals	18	—	3	14	35

All wells sampled are of the shallow type and the above results show that they must be regarded with suspicion. In all cases where unsatisfactory results have been obtained, occupiers have been advised to boil water intended for domestic purposes. In addition, owners are encouraged to connect to a main supply or carry out purification.

The Oxfordshire and District Water Board report that bacteriological samples were taken regularly, and in almost every case proved satisfactory.

The Thames Valley Water Board report that routine samples taken from the pumping stations, storage reservoirs and distribution system indicated that the supply was of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Fluoride determinations carried out on the water showed that less than 0.1 mgm/litre was present.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection

The kerbside system of refuse collection continued throughout 1972 and the fleet of vehicles remains the same as last year: 3-50 cu. yd. Pakamatic and 2-35 cu. yd. vehicles. In addition, a four-ton lorry is used for special collections. The labour force consists of 9 loaders, 5 drivers and a foreman.

(b) Refuse Disposal

All refuse is disposed of on a rigidly controlled tip at Marcham. It is fairly centrally placed to serve the District and is a dry disused stone quarry. It is ideal in other respects as no dwellings are affected by the tipping operations and ample covering material is available on the site.

Two crawler loaders are used for the tip work and refuse from Wantage Rural District Council and Wantage Urban District Council is also disposed of at this tip.

(c) Litter

Approximately 150 litter bins, which are regularly emptied, are sited throughout the District.

(d) Civic Amenities Act, 1967

560 special collections were made during the year. These are carried out free of charge, usually following requests from householders. In addition, 6 bulk litter containers (6 cu. yd.) are sited throughout the District in locations agreed, and at the request of the appropriate Parish Council. This

facility is grossly abused, and although fulfilling a need, it undoubtedly creates many problems, not the least of which is the amount of rubbish deposited on the ground around the containers.

Abandoned or unwanted cars are disposed of on behalf of the Council, free of charge, by a local car breaker. During the year 93 cars were dealt with in this way and the arrangement is quite satisfactory.

The Contractor operates a yard at Sutton Wick on a temporary planning consent reviewed each year, and it is important that facilities are available in the area for the reception and disposal of abandoned cars.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Appleton Sludge Pressing Plant

Construction of the Sludge Pressing Plant at Appleton progressed throughout the year and completion with full operation of the works is programmed for mid-1973. On completion of the works, liquid sludge will be transported by tanker from the sewage disposal works at Gozzards Ford for mechanical drying. This should overcome the problem of excessive odours which emanate from these works.

Dry Sandford, The Field

The length of sewer to serve 7 properties at The Field, Dry Sandford, was satisfactorily completed during the year.

Main Drainage of Other Areas

Due to staff shortage it was considered that the following schemes could more quickly be prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Howard Humphreys and Son, of Epsom.

1. Chawley Lane, Cumnor Hill West and East. Total number of properties 43.
2. Rowstock. Total number of properties 26.
3. Lincombe Lane - Boars Hill. Total number of properties 41.
Construction works programmed for Autumn 1973.
4. Besselsleigh and Garford. Total number of properties 86.
Construction works programmed for Spring 1974.
5. Harcourt Hill, North Hinksey. Total number of properties 46.
6. Hids Copse Road, Kingston Bagpuize (part). Total number of properties 42.

On completion of the above schemes the District will be fully sewered with the exception of a few isolated properties.

DRAINAGE

157 visits were made during the year, mainly in connection with unsatisfactory septic tank systems. The number of these installations is gradually decreasing with the availability of main drainage, but those that remain continue to give rise to complaint.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE CONTROL

No notifications were received under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, for the installation of new furnaces, and there were no serious difficulties during the year concerning this aspect of work. The total number of routine visits was 47.

DISINFESTATIONS

It was necessary for only 9 visits to be made by Public Health Inspectors to premises concerning complaints of vermin.

RODENT CONTROL

This work continues to be carried out by a Rodent Officer and an operator engaged jointly by the R.D.C. and Abingdon Borough.

During the year 2,450 visits to premises in the District were made, of which 150 were agricultural. 570 premises were found to be infested.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

14 scrap metal dealers were registered at the end of the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Arrangements whereby a local veterinary surgeon carries out inspections on behalf of the Council of premises used for boarding dogs and cats continues, and at the end of the year 3 licences were in force.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No serious difficulties were encountered concerning sanitary conveniences on farms.

64 visits were made and it was not necessary to serve any notices.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

Three premises are licensed under the provisions of the above Order and during the year 17 visits were made and satisfactory conditions were maintained.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

7 complaints of noise were received during the year, resulting in 36 visits.

Main source of nuisance were generator at traffic lights, deep freeze compressor, engineering works and revving of motor cycles.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

A total of 62 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum, all of which were visited at least once during the year.

170 inspections were made to enforce the various provisions of the above Acts and no serious difficulties occurred.

HAIRDRESSERS

14 premises were registered under Section 129 of the Berkshire County Council Act, 1963, as barbers and hairdressers. In enforcing Byelaws made under the Act, 13 visits were made.

PART 'C' OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The total number of registered premises at the end of the year was 172. The distribution of these premises was as follows:

Offices	56	Catering establishments open	
Retail shops	83	to the public and canteens	21
Wholesale shops and		Fuel storage depots	2
warehouses	10		

All registered premises had received a general inspection by the end of the year and 155 general inspections were made during 1972. The total

number of visits of all kinds was 242 and 57 contraventions were noted as follows:

Temperature	14	First Aid	22
Washing facilities	2	Protection of young persons	
Fencing exposed parts		from dangerous machinery	1
machinery	1	Other matters	17

All were dealt with informally and satisfactorily remedied. Four accidents were reported during the year.

PART 'D' FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the nature of the 196 food premises in the District to which 750 inspections were made:

Premises	No.	Complying with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Complying with Reg. 19
Grocery and general stores	54	54	50	50
Public Houses	46	46	35	35
Confectionery	12	12	12	12
Butchers	13	13	13	13
Kitchens (schools, canteens, etc.)	47	47	47	47
Greengrocery	8	8	8	8
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Cafés	3	3	3	3
Off Licences	7	7	1	1
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Food factories	1	1	1	1
Chemist	1	1	—	1

Note: Reg. 16 relates to the provision of wash hand-basins and Reg. 19 concerns the provision of sinks, where necessary.

74 premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:

Storage and sale of ice cream	63
Manufacture of sausages	5
Cooking of hams	4
Others	2

FOOD HAWKERS

The following 21 businesses were registered under Section 122 of the Berkshire County Council Act, 1953, permitting the selling of food to be carried out within the District:

Butcher 1, Bakers 5, Ice Cream 3, Caterers 4, General Provisions 4, Potatoes 2, Fish 1, Fish and Chips 1.

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1966

There are no market stalls as such within the rural district, but mobile shops and delivery vehicles were the subject of 10 inspections. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Berkshire County Council is the licensing Authority for retailers of milk and 20 premises were licensed at the end of the year. However, regard is paid to hygiene requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations when shops are visited for other purposes.

Bacteriological sampling is carried out by the Department, and during the year 39 samples were procured—18 from schools and 21 from dealers. All were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

123 samples of ice cream were procured during the year from 60 different premises, including at least one from every premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

Results were as follows:

Provisional Grade 1	68
Provisional Grade 2	42
Provisional Grade 3	12
Provisional Grade 4	1

KNACKERS YARD

The beagle kennels attached to a local public school are licensed under section 62 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, by virtue of the fact that dead animals are collected from farms, flayed, dressed and processed prior to feeding to the dogs. The premises were the subject of two visits and continue to be satisfactory.

UN SOUND FOOD

The following food was voluntarily surrendered or condemned:

	tons	cwts.	lb.
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown	0	9	63
Canned meat	0	2	53
Other canned foods	2	14	91
Total	3	6	95

All condemned and surrendered food was disposed of in the Council's refuse tip.

22 complaints of unsatisfactory food were received during the year. One complaint resulted in a Dairy being fined £30 plus £20 costs for selling a bottle of milk containing a piece of glass.

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS 1968

Two premises in the District received unopened containers which were dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the above Regulations.

At the end of the year, 20 containers were inspected, and samples of food submitted for bacteriological examination and analysis as necessary.

PART 'E' FACTORIES

REGISTERED PREMISES

The total number of premises registered as factories was 66 as follows :

(i) Factories without power :

Joinery	4
Dressmaking	1

(ii) Factories with power :

Motor vehicle repairs	19	Oar manufacture	1
Agricultural engineering	5	Plastics	1
Light engineering	4	Waterworks	1
Bakehouses	3	Plant repairs	1
Sawmills	2	Asphalt	1
Electrical engineering	3	Joinery works	3
Laundry	2	Electrical repairs	2
Tyre remoulding	2	Concrete columns	1
Radio repairs	2	Assembly of sheet steel ducting	1
Electrical vehicle sales and service	1	Refrigerator repairs	2
Dry Cleaners	1	Manufacture of industrial space heaters	1
Carpentry	1	Box manufacturers	1

BUILDING SITES, ETC.

Four building and engineering sites in the District were subject to the requirements relating to sanitary accommodation.

	No.	Inspections	Written notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	5	—	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	61	19	—	—
Other premises	4	13	—	—
Totals	70	32	—	—

15 outworkers, all of whom are engaged in the wearing apparel industry, were subject to 7 inspections. All the premises proved to be satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK 1971

Number of visits made	3292
„ „ complaints received	56

Matters in relation to which visits were made:

Housing

Housing Inspections	362
Improvement Grants	253
Others	70
Qualification Certificates	18

Public Health

Refuse collection	36
Refuse disposal	94
Litter	44
Accumulations and deposits	19
Filthy premises	34
Verminous premises	4
Animals	2
Housing defects	6
Drainage	85
Cesspools/septic tanks	72
Sanitary accommodation at refreshment houses	41
Hairdressers	13
Swimming baths	5
Water supplies — wells	41
Water supplies—mains	17
Water courses	63
Miscellaneous	188

Caravans

Council sites	38
Private licensed	119
Exempted	7
Unauthorised	34
Miscellaneous	9

Food and Drugs

Grocers	127
Kitchens (schools, canteens, etc.)	109
Food complaints	72
Butchers	41
Food inspection	29
Street vendors, vans and stalls	13
Bakers	3
Confectioners	25
Greengrocers	10
Licensed houses	79
Fishmongers	4
Ice Cream Premises	135
Milk retailers	21
Imported food regulations	59
Knackers Yard	2
Cafés and Restaurants	12
Miscellaneous	5

Civic Amenities	
Abandoned cars	280
Miscellaneous	9
Noise Abatement	36
Petroleum	170
Diseases of Animals (Waste Food)	17
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	6
Offices and Shops	
Retail shops	122
Offices	53
Catering establishments open to the public	29
Wholesale shops and warehouses	28
Accidents	3
Miscellaneous	3
Factories	
Factories and workshops	16
Outworkers	7
Laundries	4
Bakehouses	5
Air Pollution	
Miscellaneous	33
Smoke observations	10
Installations	4
Farms (Sanitary Accommodation)	64
Samples	
Ice Cream	119
Water — wells	16
mains	5
swimming bath	1
Milk	36
Miscellaneous	7

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings	Council Houses
Ashbury	5609	187	44
Baulking	1580	39	—
Bourton	1260	90	12
Buckland	4505	193	—
Buscot	2887	72	—
Charney Bassett	1209	94	—
Coleshill	2014	74	—
Compton Beauchamp	1812	38	—
Eaton Hastings	1570	36	—
Faringdon	3547	1299	400
Fernham	1016	65	20
Great Coxwell	1435	113	12
Hatford	993	34	—
Hinton Waldrist	2016	98	23
Kingston Lisle	2040	79	12
Little Coxwell	887	71	—
Littleworth	2350	79	—
Longcot	1894	148 (a)	34
Longworth	2291	246	56
Pusey	1040	32	—
Shellingford	1761	68	2
Shrivenham	2695	714 (b)	97
Stanford-in-the Vale	2927	487	96
Watchfield	1517	508 (c)	70
Woolstone	1942	50	—
Totals	55726	5154	966

(a) Includes 11 Military Quarters

(b) Includes 82 Military Quarters

(c) Includes 347 Military Quarters

RENTS

Maximum rents are based on the gross value for rating purposes, and are now calculated on a 50-week basis.

They range in the case of pre-war houses from £2.70p to £2.84p and for post-war houses from £2.90p to £4.73p. Under the provisions of the Housing Finance Act, 1972, a low-income tenant could have the whole of his rent rebated.

Rents for the 22 flats in the Council's aged persons amenity block is £3.93p inclusive of central heating, hot water and rates. There is a resident warden and residents have the use of certain communal facilities.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 42, all of which were private enterprise.

A further 187 properties were under construction as at 31.12.72, 104 private enterprise and 83 Council properties.

The distribution of the private houses are shown by the following table:

Parish	Private Enterprise	
	Completed 31.12.72	Under Construction
Watchfield	—	4
Hatford	—	2
Ashbury	4	3
Kingston Lisle	—	2
Faringdon	24	70
Great Coxwell	1	1
Longcot	3	5
Longworth	1	—
Shrivenham	3	2
Stanford-in-the-Vale	—	1
Uffington	1	2
Buckland	1	2
Woolstone	3	1
Hinton Waldrist	1	7
Charney Bassett	—	1
Buscot	—	1
Totals	42	104
Totals for 1971	38	39

HOUSING

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	4
Number of Closing Orders made	Nil
Number of Closing Orders determined	Nil
Number of Demolition Orders	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Thirty-four applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, were approved by the Council. Altogether, work under the Scheme was completed to twenty-two properties during the year.

Twenty-one applications for Standard Grants were approved by the Council, and altogether work was completed to eleven properties during the year.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1969

One site for 40 caravans and five individual caravans were licensed during the year. The table below shows the distribution.

Parish	Sites	Caravans
Shellingford	1	1
Stanford-in-the-Vale	1	1
Longworth	1	1
Faringdon	1	40
Faringdon	1	1
Uffington	1	1

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection service was maintained throughout the year and is weekly throughout the district and from the kerb-side.

A special trade waste collection is carried out for which a charge is made. Bulky items of household refuse are collected free of charge on notification.

Disposal is by tipping at Stanford-in-the-Vale, which facilities are shared by Wantage Rural District Council, who use the site to dispose of part of their refuse. Mechanical plant is used for levelling and covering, one man being employed full-time.

The labour force on collection consists of four drivers and three loaders. One 35 cu. yd. and one 38 cu. yd. Pakamatics are in regular use with one 35 cu. yd. Pakamatic vehicle as a spare.

No problems were experienced during the year in the disposal of abandoned cars. Very few are reported, and these were removed by arrangement with a local scrap dealer without cost.

WATER SUPPLY

The Oxfordshire and District Water Board supply water throughout the area excepting the parish of Kingston Lisle, which is supplied by the Thames Valley Water Board. The quantity and quality was satisfactory during the year and routine sampling is carried out by the Water Authority.

DETAILS OF DWELLINGS RECEIVING WATER FROM PIPED SUPPLIES EITHER PUBLIC OR OTHER SOURCE

Parish	Dwellings	Inside the House	Standpipes
Ashbury	187	187	—
Baulking	39	39	—
Bourton	90	89	1
Buckland	193	193	—
Buscot	72	72	—
Charney Bassett	94	94	—
Coleshill	74	74	—
Compton Beauchamp	38	38	—
Eaton Eastings	36	36	—
Faringdon	1299	1298	1
Fernham	65	64	1
Great Coxwell	113	113	—
Hatford	34	34	—
Hinton Waldrist	98	98	—
Kingston Lisle	79	79	—
Little Coxwell	71	70	1
Littleworth	79	79	—
Longcot	148 (a)	148 (a)	—
Longworth	246	246	—
Pusey	32	31	1
Shellingford	68	68	—
Shrivenham	714 (b)	714	—
Stanford-in-the-Vale	487	486	1
Uffington	240	240	—
Watchfield	508 (c)	508	—
Woolstone	50	50	—
Totals	5154	5148	6

(a) Includes 11 Military Quarters

(b) Includes 82 Military Quarters

(c) Includes 347 Military Quarters

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year work was completed on the construction of the Shellingford Sewerage Scheme and work commenced on the Hatford Sewerage Scheme, which involved the pumping of sewerage to the Stanford sewage disposal works.

Design work continued on the Shrivenham Sewerage Scheme, Phase (1) and also on the renewal of the sewers at Uffington.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent Control is part of the duties of the Council's Chargehand.

A free service is provided for all domestic properties and business premises are treated on repayment.

No problems were experienced during the year and Warfarin is the main poison used and produces satisfactory results.

Alphachloralose is proving successful for dealing with certain mouse infestation.

MEAT

The only slaughterhouse in the district is in Faringdon, and this has continued to operate during the year. It supplies local retail trade.

The following is a list of carcasses inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption:

	Steers and Heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs
No. Inspected	436	1	431
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	91	—	31
Percentage of the number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	20.9	—	5.8
Tuberculosis only	No meat was found to be infected with T.B.		

OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption.

249 lb. of Frozen Food (due to freezer breakdown)

38½ lb. of Fresh Fit

306 lb. of Fresh Meat

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

There is one dairy and eight distributors registered in the district and all licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation Regulations) are the responsibility of the Berkshire County Council.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the district is set out in the following table. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

Category of Trade	Number or Premises	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Licensed Premises	47	47	42	42
Grocers and General Stores	41	41	39	39
Butchers	6	6	6	6
Confectioners	7	7	—	—
Cafés	5	5	5	5
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Greengrocers	2	2	2	2
Fish-frying Establishments	3	3	3	3
Fishmongers	1	1	1	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, SECTION 16

Forty-seven premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream and one for the manufacture and sale thereof.

Two premises are registered for the cooking of hams.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspection made	No. of written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	1	—	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	41	20	—	—
	42	20	—	—

Cases in which defects were found: Two.
One outworker was notified during the year.

SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING 1972

Number of Visits made	987
,, ,, Complaints received	186
,, ,, Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
,, ,, Prosecutions	Nil
Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made:	
Council house applications	241
Refuse disposal	62
Refuse collection	132
Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	103
Petroleum Storage	50
Butchers' Shops	12
Cafés and Inns	20
Other Food Premises	54
Shops other than Food	30
Offices	8
Caravans	12
Water Supplies	32
Improvement Grants	31
Rodent Control	10
Factories and Workplaces	20
Milk Supplies	10
Water Courses	4
Schools	24
Water Samples	12
Housing Act	8
Nuisances	29
Swimming Baths	6
Food Stalls and Vehicles	8
Bakehouses	2
Dairies	3
Miscellaneous Visits	64

