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I  
URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON



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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the


**Medical Officer of Health**

and the

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

for the Year

**1972**



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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector for 1972.

Population The population again fell - from 25,300 to 25,030 (Registrar General's estimate).

Births The number of registered live births was 424 giving a crude birth rate of 16.9 per 1,000 population. (In 1971 there were 510 live births and a birth rate of 20.1 per 1,000 population). (E. & W. 14.8). The adjusted birth rate was 17.4 per 1,000 estimated population.

Deaths There were 350 deaths during the year - an increase of 26 over 1971 giving a crude death rate of 13.9 per 1,000 population and an adjusted rate of 14.3 per 1,000 estimated population. (E. & W. 12.1).

There were 5 deaths of infants under one year - indeed they were all under 1 week. This is a great improvement on 1971 when there were 11 infant deaths. The infant, neonatal and early neonatal mortality rates were 11.4 per 1,000 live births (E. & W. 17)

### Infectious Disease

There were 161 notifications of infectious disease during 1972. Of these, 150 were measles. There were five cases of food poisoning notified - three single isolated cases where infection was thought to have occurred outside the district and an outbreak of two cases where no organism was demonstrated and the source was not identified.

There were four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified - two over 65 years.

There was one case of meningococcal infection and one case of infectious hepatitis.

The chief cause of death was due to disease of the cardiac and circulatory systems - with cancer second. Twenty-three persons died from cancer of the lung - three of these were females.

There is no doubt that this cause of death is increasing and there is no doubt that the female deaths due to lung cancer will increase as well. One could say that these deaths were self inflicted. Smoking is the main cause of the disease and smoking is a personal bad habit which can be broken.

Cont./

There still remains a shortage of one and two bedroom ground floor accommodation. The demand will increase - 70% of the deaths occurred in persons over 65 years.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the interest they have shown and to the officers in other Council departments for their co-operation at all times.

The work of a health department is unspectacular and largely goes unnoticed. I would like to thank the staff of the department for their enthusiasm during the year and the efforts each has contributed towards the health and welfare of the district.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. DONALDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee - Councillor J.W.C. Greener

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	ALEXANDER DONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.	
Chief Public Health Inspector	S. MUSK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	
Public Health Inspector	S. GREEN M.A.P.H.I.	
Public Health Inspector	I.L. RICHARDSON M.A.P.H.I.	
Offices of the Medical Officer	Station Villa, Ashington.	
Offices of the Public Health Inspector	Station Villa, Ashington.	
Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector	Mrs. M. Hay	
Telephone	Ashington 814444	

Area in acres.....	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population Mid 1972 .....	25,030
Rateable Value .....	£825,950
One Penny Rate Produces .....	£7,730
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1972) .....	9,251
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority in district .....	3,130

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births ..... 11.4 (17)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 week per 1,000

live births) ..... 11.4 (18)

Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) ..... 11.4 (18)

Perinatal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) ..... 27.8 (22)

...of the Public Health Commission...  
...of the Public Health Commission...

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
...of the Public Health Commission...  
...of the Public Health Commission...

Public Health Inspector  
Public Health Inspector  
Office of the Medical Officer  
Office of the Public Health Inspector  
Station Villa, Asington  
Station Villa, Asington  
Mr. X. Day  
Asington Villa  
Telephone

Area in acres.....  
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1925.....  
Rateable Value.....  
One penny rate product.....  
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1925).....  
Total number of houses owned by local authority in district.....

VITAL STATISTICS

The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales

BIRTHS

Comparability Factor 1.03

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	398	205	193
Illegitimate	26	13	13
	<u>424</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>206</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .....16.9 (14.8)  
 Adjusted Birth Rate .....17.4 (14.8)  
 Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate .....1.13  
 Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births ..... 5.9 (8)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	2	5
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births .....16.2 (9)			

DEATHS

Comparability Factor 1.03

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
211	139	350

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population .....13.9 (12.1)  
 Adjusted Death Rate .....14.3 (12.1)  
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..NIL  
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .NIL

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births .....11.4 (17)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .....11.4 (12)  
 Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) .....11.4 (10)  
 Perinatal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) .....27.8 (22)



## CAUSES OF DEATH 1972

Code No.	INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION	M.	F.	Total
038.9	Septicaemia	1	-	1
142	Malignant Neoplasm of Salivary Gland	-	1	1
150	" " " Oesophagus	2	1	3
151	" " " Stomach	5	6	11
153	" " " Large Bowel	1	2	3
154	" " " Rectum	4	2	6
157	" " " Pancreas	3	1	4
162	" " " Bronchus and Lung	20	-	23
173.7	Sarcoma of Shoulder	-	1	1
174	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	-	5	5
182	" " " Uterus	-	1	1
183	" " " Ovary	-	3	3
185	" " " Prostate	3	-	3
188	" " " Bladder	1	1	2
189	" " " Kidney	-	1	1
199	" " " Site Unspecified	3	1	4
207.1	Chronic Leukaemia	1	-	1
238.1	Cerebral Tumour	-	1	1
250	Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
281	Pernicious Anaemia	-	1	1
287.1	Thrombocytopenia	-	1	1
340	Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	1
342	Paralysis Abitans	-	1	1
345	Epilepsy	1	-	1
398	Rheumatic Myocarditis	1	-	1
402	Hypertensive Heart Disease	-	1	1
410	Coronary Thrombosis	63	34	97
423	Pericarditis	2	-	2
427	Congestive Heart Failure	7	15	22
427.1	Left Ventricular Failure	2	1	3
428	Myocardial Degeneration	12	7	19
430	Sub Arachnoid Haemorrhage	-	2	2
431	Cerebral Haemorrhage	16	9	25
433	Cerebral Thrombosis	6	4	10
440	Arteriosclerosis	2	2	4
441	Aortic Aneurysm	-	1	1
441.2	Abdominal Aneurysm	1	-	1
444	Embolism of Abdominal Aorta	1	-	1
444.1	Embolism of Thoracic Aorta	1	-	1
444.2	Mesenteric Thrombosis	1	1	2
450	Pulmonary Embolism	5	1	6
484	Acute Pneumonia	1	1	2
485	Bronchopneumonia	3	2	5
486	Pneumonia Unspecified	1	1	2
491	Chronic Bronchitis	19	3	22
492	Emphysema	1	-	1
514	Hypostatic Pneumonia	2	3	5
518	Bronchiectasis	1	-	1
527.2	Suppurating Parotitis	-	1	1
530	Cardiospasm	1	-	1
531	Gastric Ulcer	-	1	1
532	Duodenal Ulcer	1	-	1
560	Intestinal Obstruction	1	-	1
560.1	Paralytic Ileus	-	1	1
562	Diverticulitis	1	2	3
571	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2	3
590	Chronic Pyelonephritis	-	1	1
593.2	Chronic Nephritis	1	-	1
741	Spina Bifida	-	1	1

Code No.	INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION	M.	F.	Total
746	Congenital Heart Disease	2	1	3
772	Cerebral Birth Injury	1	-	1
777	Prematurity	1	-	1
792	Uraemia	-	1	1
794	Senility	2	1	3
E812	Motor Vehicle Accident	1	-	1
E814	Motor Vehicle Accident with Pedestrian	1	-	1
E899	Unspecified Burns	-	1	1
N803	Fracture of Skull	1	1	2
N809	Multiple Fractures	1	-	1
N860	Traumatic Haemothorax	-	1	1
N863	Gastro Intestinal Injury	1	-	1
N933	Foreign Body in Pharynx	-	1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		211	139	350
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deaths over 65 years:		136	105	241

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
 THAT ARE CONSIDERED AS SERIOUS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1975									
Disease	New Cases		Deaths		Total		Notes		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	1	2	3
Respiratory tuberculosis	1	100	1	100	2	100			
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Other infectious diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Non-infectious diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>			

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

Causes	Total No. 1971	Total No. 1972	% of Total deaths 1971	% of Total deaths 1972
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	135	161	46	41.3
Malignant Neoplasm	60	73	18.3	18.3
Cerebrovascular Disease	48	37	10.5	14.8
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	46	37	14.1	14.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>88.5</b>

INFANT DEATHS

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Death
Congenital Heart Disease	Male	3 days	Hospital
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	Male	50 min.	"
Bronchiolitis	Male	4 days	"
Congenital Heart Disease	Male	2 days	"
Meningomyelocele	Female	1 day	"

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1972.

Four new cases were notified. No deaths occurred from tuberculosis in 1972.

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington NIL

Death rate from other forms of tuberculosis in Ashington NIL

STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Infant Deaths Under 1yr.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1916	25,974	27.73	15	109	151.38
1926	31,810	23.22	11.90	81	107.9
1936	30,020	17.52	10.95	41	77.94
1946	28,460	21.5	10.7	30	49.9
1956	28,360	16.61	11.6	17	26.09
1957	28,370	15.83	9.799	15	33.41
1958	28,340	15.49	10.76	11	24.83
1959	28,210	16.16	10.17	12	26.32
1960	28,150	16.23	11.15	15	30.93
1961	27,380	15.70	11.47	9	20.98
1962	27,170	16.636	12.44	8	17.69
1963	26,920	16.86	11.6	7	15.42
1964	26,600	16.43	10.86	14	32.04
1965	26,480	15.52	13.22	9	21.89
1966	26,360	14.68	11.49	5	12.92
1967	26,320	16.6	11.2	7	15.9
1968	26,080	17	12.9	6	14.0
1969	25,830	16.1	13.2	9	22
1970	25,390	18.2	14.1	15	32
1971	25,300	20.1	12.8	11	21.5
1972	25,030	16.9	13.9	5	11.4

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	over 65 years	TOTAL
Measles	12	49	43	44	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	150
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	12	49	43	45	-	3	4	-	2	1	2	161

CANCER DEATHS 1972 - SITE AND AGE DISTRIBUTION

Site of Disease	MALE						FEMALE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
	0-25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total	0-25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
Malignant Neoplasm of:															Salivary Glands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Stomach	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	Large Bowel	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	Bronchus & Lung	-	-	-	2	7	11	20	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	Sarcoma of Shoulder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Malignant Neoplasm of:															Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	5	Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	Site Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Chronic Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cerebral Tumour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	<b>TOTALS</b>	-	1	-	4	11	27	43	1	1	2	2	7	17	30
Salivary Glands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Stomach	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	Large Bowel	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	Bronchus & Lung	-	-	-	2	7	11	20	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	Sarcoma of Shoulder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Malignant Neoplasm of:															Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	5	Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	Site Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Chronic Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cerebral Tumour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	<b>TOTALS</b>	-	1	-	4	11	27	43	1	1	2	2	7	17	30															
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Stomach	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	Large Bowel	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	Bronchus & Lung	-	-	-	2	7	11	20	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	Sarcoma of Shoulder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Malignant Neoplasm of:															Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	5	Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	Site Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Chronic Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cerebral Tumour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	<b>TOTALS</b>	-	1	-	4	11	27	43	1	1	2	2	7	17	30																														
Stomach	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	Large Bowel	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	Bronchus & Lung	-	-	-	2	7	11	20	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	Sarcoma of Shoulder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Malignant Neoplasm of:															Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	5	Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	Site Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Chronic Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cerebral Tumour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	<b>TOTALS</b>	-	1	-	4	11	27	43	1	1	2	2	7	17	30																																													
Large Bowel	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	Bronchus & Lung	-	-	-	2	7	11	20	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	Sarcoma of Shoulder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Malignant Neoplasm of:															Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	5	Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	Site Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Chronic Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cerebral Tumour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	<b>TOTALS</b>	-	1	-	4	11	27	43	1	1	2	2	7	17	30																																																												
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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended 31st December, 1972.

	No. of inspections during year	No. of defects or contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	Defects remedied under Improvement Grant procedure.	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied by Statutory Action	Legal Proceedings
<u>Housing</u>								
Structural Defects	)	3927	74	74	3301	-	-	-
Defective Food Store	2781)	10	-	-	10	-	-	-
Dampness	)	999	23	17	840	-	-	-
Overcrowding	)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-----								
<u>Water Supply</u>								
Insufficient	61)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	31	12	11	16	-	-	-
-----								
<u>Drainage</u>								
Insufficient	159)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	41	20	21	9	5	5	-
-----								
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>								
Insufficient	16)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	69	17	20	20	5	5	-
-----								
<u>General</u>								
Food Premises	612	166	166	160	-	-	-	-
Dairies	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	291	11	-	11	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	66	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	51	11	-	11	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	42	13	-	13	-	-	-	-
Clean Air Acts	34	9	-	9	-	-	-	-
Civic Amenities Act	111	23	-	23	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection & Disposal	523	41	-	41	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces	23	5	5	5	-	-	-	-
Offices and Shops	167	82	82	75	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rodent Control & Disinfestation	383	7	-	7	-	-	-	-
Noise Nuisances	15	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5425</b>	<b>5450</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>4196</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

General

The abatement of nuisance was as usual achieved mainly by informal action, and in respect of only five premises was it necessary to serve Statutory Notices.

Inspections were carried out in connection with all Improvement Grant applications and necessary repairs were carried out before the grants were approved. These repairs have been included in the tables.

A total of 279 houses were improved during the year, of which 175 were by Discretionary Grant, 9 by Standard Grant and 95 were Council houses.

One General Improvement Area, consisting of 98 houses (the Council owned 'Rivers' houses) was declared, and the systematic area improvement by the National Coal Board in co-operation with the Council was still proceeding.

Under the Housing Act 1969, and Housing Finance Act 1972, five qualification certificates were granted and three certificates of provisional approval were granted.

No applications for certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act 1957 were made during the year.

The table below summarises the notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or written Notices	Defects Remedied
Insufficient, choked or defective drainage	18	15
Defective W.C. Basins	29	20
Defective W.C. Cisterns & service pipes	40	25
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply	8	7
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply	23	20
Defective or missing ashbins	-	-
Defective roofs	255	229
Damp walls	370	309
Defective spouts	374	319
Defective wallplaster	152	123
Defective ceilings	984	865
Defective doors, windows and floors	641	543
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers	48	34
Defective chimney flues	121	104
Defective paving and yard surfaces	375	314
Defective food stores	10	10
Defective brickwork and pointing	405	362
Defective baths and wash basins	121	121
Defective electrical wiring	1067	900
Offensive accumulations	-	-
Other defects	13	9



### Water Supply

The water supply to the area is provided by Tynemouth Corporation from Fontburn and Tosson to Hebron Reservoir, and by gravity main to Ashington, with an additional supply provided by the Coquet Water Board.

No alterations or additions to the distribution system were necessary during the year.

The storage tank at Bothal Village was by-passed throughout the year by a temporary direct mains connection.

Forty-two water samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were reported to be satisfactory.

### Sewerage

A scheme is being prepared for the installation of a pumping main to discharge sewage from Sheepwash into the Bedlington Urban District Sewerage System thereby eliminating the need for septic tanks etc., in the area.

### Swimming Baths

The swimming baths closed in February and remained closed all year, while extensive modernisation was carried out. A new filtration plant is to be installed during the coming year as the baths become part of the new Sports Complex.

One bacteriological sample was taken in January and was reported to be satisfactory.

### Cinemas and Public Buildings

Routine inspection of such buildings was carried out during the year.

### Atmospheric Pollution

The installation of room heaters in Council houses, abandoned in favour of fan-assisted open fires when a shortage of Sunbrite threatened, has not yet been resumed. Although the question of heating appliances in Council property was discussed in June, unfortunately, from a public health point of view, it was decided to adhere to the present policy. It is hoped that the development of smokeless coal burning domestic appliances will be successful, so that smoke control may at last become possible in this area.

The joint operation with Alcan Ltd., of monitoring equipment has continued, so that a useful comparison of 'before and after' measured when the plant is fully operative, will be assured.

### Fouling of Footways by Dogs.

Complaints regarding dogs fouling paths, verges and grassed areas have if anything increased, although a dog warden is employed and there appear to be fewer strays running round. No doubt they will continue to increase as more amenity areas are provided. Unfortunately complainants are rarely prepared to identify offending dogs and owners and consequently we have not been able to take proceedings.

Rodent Control

Although the number of complaints was below the average for the last few years, the number of actual infestations was slightly higher. There were no major infestations and little evidence of a seasonal influx towards the end of the year when rats tend to move towards the more populated areas because of lack of food. This was probably due to the mild winter.

Because the rodent operative is employed for only 50% of his time on rodent control it has been necessary to employ the services of Rentokil to deal with the treatment of the refuse tip. The arrangement appears to be working well with Rentokil using some 300lbs. of bait on eleven visits during the year.

We again carried out surveys of areas likely to harbour rats, resulting in the early treatment and elimination of many infestations.

The following table summarises the work done:-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of Properties in district	11,480	30
Total number of properties inspected following notification	119	-
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	70 35	- -
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	380	12
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	9 -	2 -

Disinfestation

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses	Private Houses
Clovermite	22	-
Beetles	19	12
Bugs	6	1
Silver Fish	4	1
Snails	-	1
Flies	2	1
Wasps	2	2
Fleas	2	1
Bees	2	1
Spider Beetles	1	-
Woodworm	-	1
Earwigs	1	-

No charge is made for the treatment of Council Houses, though private occupiers pay for Disinfestor's time and for the insecticide used.

The measures taken to combat clovermite infestation by forming a rough turned barrier of soil at the base of the house walls, followed by a general application of insecticide has proved very effective.

It may be necessary to maintain the soil barrier round the houses for a number of years in order to clear this problem completely.

#### Pet Animals Act

Two licences to sell Pet Animals were granted, one to a stall holder in the closed market, and the other to the owner of a pet shop.

#### Riding Establishments Act 1964 and 1970.

There is one riding establishment in the area. Following the Veterinary Surgeons report the Council refused to renew the licence in January, until the premises were brought up to standard. The proprietor was later prosecuted and fined for operating without a licence, and eventually, when the necessary work had been carried out, the licence was granted.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The revised bonus incentive scheme which came into operation on 17th January worked so well that schedules were completed in record time and a very satisfactory service is now established. The demand for domestic bulk collections has risen considerably during the year and we dealt with 1,147 requests (compared with 798 last year) for the removal of furniture, cookers, cycles etc., all of which were collected free of charge.

The removal of derelict and abandoned vehicles was secured, mainly by informal action, once the owners were traced.

The Refuse Pulverising Plant, dealing with both Ashington and Newbiggin refuse, operated satisfactorily for most of the year but in December the input conveyor began to show signs of wear and an engineer's inspection was awaited.

The remainder of the 22 acres held under the pre-1969 lease was handed back in January for agricultural use, leaving less than 7 acres in current use. 523 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with refuse collection and disposal

Statistics and costs for the year 1971-1972 were as follows:-

#### OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Total refuse collected	9,930 tons
Percentage of refuse weighed	7%
Weight (Cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	21.74
No. of premises from which refuse is collected	9,904
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly.	100%
Average haul, single journey to disposal point	2.5 miles
Trade Refuse Income	£2,768

COSTS

	Collection	Disposal	Total
Gross Expenditure	£49,680	£15,049	£64,729
Gross cost/ton - Labour only	£2.54	£0.61	£3.15
Gross cost/ton - Transport only	£1.37	£0.16	£1.53
Nett cost (all expenditure) per ton	£4.73	£1.01	£5.74
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£1,875	£401	£2,276
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	£4,737	£1,015	£5,752

NB. Collection costs include £10,359 revenue contribution to Revopaks.

Refuse Disposal Vehicles and Staff.

<u>Vehicle Reg.</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>First Registered</u>
KNL 155E	Shelvoke & Drewry	Fore & Aft Tipper	6.1.67.
MJR 890F	" " "	Pakamatic	1.8.67.
UTY 767H	" " "	"	22.5.70.
YJR 463J	" " "	Revopak	14.5.71.
YJR 775J	" " "	"	14.5.71.
VNL 851H	Austin	6 Cwt. Van	3.7.70.
WTY 998J	Ford	5000 Tractor/Dozer	1.3.71.

(In service December 1970).

MJR 890F is the normal spare vehicle. KNL 155E was being held temporarily, until we can assess what effect the plate testing will have in the availability of the spare. It is now being used for bulk furniture collection to avoid unnecessary damage to the Revopaks.

Staff consists of:-

1 Forman, 3 Drivers, 3 Plant Operators, 2 Driver/Lifters and 10 Bin Lifters

FACTORIES ACT 1961

There are 77 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	4	3	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	67	14	5	-
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (Excl. outworkers' premises).	6	6	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M.	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	1	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers on August 1st required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases in default in sending lists the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Altering wearing apparel	1	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial Flowers	55	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Although eight premises were registered during the year, there was a decrease of five in the total number of registered premises, due to the thirteen premises which no longer came within the scope of the Act, either by closing down or ceasing to employ persons.

Of the 276 premises registered under the Act 101, received one or more general inspections during the year.

167 visits and inspections under the Act were carried out for various purposes.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS			
	Number of Premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year.
Offices	1	59	1
Retail Shops	6	203	92
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	1	3	2
Catering establishments open to the Public - canteens	-	8	5
Fuel storage depots	-	3	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>101</b>

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED  
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	849
Retail Shops	1278
Wholesale departments, warehouses	23
Catering establishments open to the public	73
Canteens	2
Fuel Storage Depots	19
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2244</b>
Total Males	902
Total Females	1342

No applications for exemption in respect of temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

One exemption from the first aid provision is in force in view of the Medical Centre which is available to the employees concerned.

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	3
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	7
7	Ventilation	-
8	Lighting	-
9	Sanitary Conveniences	15
10	Washing Facilities	5
11	Supply of Drinking Water	-
12	Clothing Accommodation	-
13	Sitting facilities	-
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15	Eating Facilities	-
16	Floors, passages and stairs	4
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	1
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid - General Provisions	15
	Other Matters	32
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>82</b>

11 accidents were notified during the year, details of these were submitted to the Department of Employment and Productivity in the quarterly returns.

Details of accidents notified were as follows:-

Type of Premises	Nature of Accident
1. Retail Shop	Fell from a chair while storing goods.
2. Office	Caught leg on open desk drawer, causing lacerations.
3. Hotel	Slipped on wet floor, bruising ankle.
4. Retail Shop	Stumbled and fell when carrying a case of goods.
5. Office	Inflamation of eye while working with fibre glass.
6. Retail Shop	Fell downstairs, bruising arm and leg.
7. Office	Sprained side when alighting from a lift which stopped above the floor level.
8. Retail Shop	Sprain and bruising when standing on a box which collapsed.
9. Office	Jammed thumb between door and frame, causing fracture.
10. Retail Shop	Fracture to hand while dismantling bailing machine.
11. Office	Slipped on steps, injuring knees.

Investigations were carried out in the case of accidents 4 and 10 but no further action was found necessary.

Formal investigation is only required if the accident was of a serious nature, or it appears that there are unusual circumstances, or the possibility of safety regulations having been broken. In fact, we visit the premises of every accident notification, if only to impress the management that notification is not merely a formality, but that the purpose is to find means to prevent accidents.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1972.

Houses completed within the district during the year:

- a) By Local Authority -
- b) By any other Housing Authority -
- c) By Private Persons -

Closing and Demolition

- 1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas -
- 2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Area -
- 3. Houses closed, not demolished 3
- 4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above. -

Repairs

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts

- 5. By informal action 53
- 6. By owners, following statutory notice 4
- 7. By Local Authority in default of owners -
- 8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction -







Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises (cont'd)

The number of food premises by type, together with an analysis of washing equipment fitted is as follows:-

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash hand basins).	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies (Sinks etc.)	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Confectionery	20	20	12	12
Grocers & General	74	74	74	74
Butchers	24	24	24	24
Greengrocery	12	12	12	12
Bakery	14	14	14	14
Ice Cream Parlours etc.	9	9	9	9
Fish Wet	3	3	3	3
Fried Fish	12	12	12	12
Cafes, Canteens etc.	18	18	18	18
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Clubs	23	23	23	23
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>209</b>

Food Complaints

Food complaints were received and investigated during the year as follows:-

	<u>Prosecuted</u>	<u>Plea</u>	<u>Result</u>
1. Crystals in Mars Bar	-	-	-
2. Indian Meal Moth in Walnuts	Yes	Guilty	Fined £10
3. Stone in Fruit Cake	Yes	Not Guilty	Fined £20
4. Glass splinter in bottle of Shandy	-	-	-
5. Vegetable Oil in loaf	-	-	-
6. Mould in loaf	-	-	-
7. Mould in Cheese Slices	Yes	Guilty	Absolute Discharge
8. Mould in Sausage Rolls	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5
9. Mould in Soft Margarine	-	-	-

In five cases the Clerk did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify proceedings being taken, and the complaints were brought to the notice of the manufacturers and other persons concerned.

Food and Drugs

Regular sampling of milk and other foods is carried out in the district by the Northumberland County Council.

Details of this work have been kindly provided by Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 14 milk samples and 90 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All samples were found to be genuine.

Meat and Other Foods

The three slaughterhouses continued to operate and licence renewals during the year were as follows:-

Slaughterhouse	Occupier	Licence Expires
Back Lintonville Terrace	W.J. Burgess & Sons Ltd.	31st July, 1973.
Wellhead Terrace	J. Wheatley	31st July, 1973.
Back 197, Alexandra Road	T. Davidson	31st July, 1973.

Hygiene standards remained generally good and though minor defects appeared from time to time, these were quickly remedied. All three slaughterhouses were inspected during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 100% Meat Inspection has been maintained, and the statutory procedure laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, detailing methods of examination and stamping has been followed.

No charge is made for meat inspection.

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

Number of Animals slaughtered during the year

	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Normal Kill	54	205	-	-	-	902	-
Casualties	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL:	54	205	-	-	-	903	-

Meat and Other Organs, Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed for Tuberculosis NIL

For Other Defined Diseases

Bovine

Lungs ..... Pleurisy 1; Abscesses 1.  
 Livers ..... Abscesses 4.  
 Hearts ..... Pericarditis 1.

Sheep

Lungs ..... Pleurisy 2; Pneumonia 1.  
 Livers ..... Perihepatitis 2; Parasites 2; Cirrhosis 1.  
 Heart ..... Pericarditis 1.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed and Inspected	259	-	-	903	-
<u>All Disease except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some part of organ was condemned	5	-	-	7	-
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.	1.93	-	-	0.77	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u> Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised & totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
1. Meat at Slaughterhouses	-	-	76
2. Meat at Retail Shops	-	-	8
3. Cooked Meat & Meat Products	-	-	-
4. Canned Meat	-	-	36
5. Other Canned Foods	-	-	38
6. Fish (Fresh)	-	-	-
7. Fruit & Vegetables (Fresh)	-	-	-
8. Frozen Foods	1	5	92
9. Other Foods	-	-	93
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	8	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD RECORDS  
FOR THE MONTH OF \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Quantity	Weight	Value
1. Meat of all kinds			
2. Poultry			
3. Fish (fresh)			
4. Eggs			
5. Butter			
6. Lard			
7. Oil			
8. Milk			
9. Cream			
10. Sugar			
11. Flour			
12. Bread			
13. Cereals			
14. Vegetables			
15. Fruits			
16. Nuts			
17. Spices			
18. Beverages			
19. Miscellaneous			
<b>Total</b>			

Item	Quantity	Weight	Value
1. Meat of all kinds			
2. Poultry			
3. Fish (fresh)			
4. Eggs			
5. Butter			
6. Lard			
7. Oil			
8. Milk			
9. Cream			
10. Sugar			
11. Flour			
12. Bread			
13. Cereals			
14. Vegetables			
15. Fruits			
16. Nuts			
17. Spices			
18. Beverages			
19. Miscellaneous			
<b>Total</b>			





