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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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R. SCHOFIELD, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

R. ASPIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H., M.D.P.H.

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

J. MOORE, Esq. J.P. (Chairman Health Committee)

Vice-Chairman :

T. GRAY, Esq.

Councillors :

J. TABERNER, Esq.

J. HATTON, Esq.

H. LOWE, Esq.

T. GREEN, Esq.

WM. MAUNDERS, Esq.

A. SINGER, Esq., J.P.

Mrs. E. MATTHEWS, J.P.

Clerk :

PETER RYDER, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SCHOFIELD, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

E. ASPIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ASPULL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council

Mrs. Matthews and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1965.

The Report is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and I would also like to extend my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area : 1,906 acres.

Population (Census 1961) : 6,740.

Estimated mid-1965 (Registrar General) : 7,000.

Total Number of Houses : 2,357.

Rateable Value : £142,388.

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £575.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries : One Cotton Mill, One Modern Bakery and Three other Factories.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1964

			Males	Females	Total
Live Births :	Legitimate	... ..	58	61	119
	Illegitimate	... ..	2	—	2
Still Births :	Legitimate	... ..	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			1	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age			—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age			—	—	—
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :					
Total (all forms) :					
	Crude Rate	... ..	...	...	12·2
	Adjusted Rate	... ..	...	...	16·8
	Respiratory Tuberculosis	... ..	...	...	—
	Malignant neoplasm, etc.	... ..	...	...	2·72
Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population :					
	Crude Rate	... ..	...	...	17·3
	Adjusted Rate	... ..	...	...	17·0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births		... ..	...	...	24·2
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births		... ..	...	...	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		... ..	...	...	8·3
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births		... ..	...	...	—
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births		... ..	...	...	—
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births		... ..	...	...	24·2

CANCER

Nineteen deaths (11 males and 8 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

					No. of Deaths	
					1964	1965
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	9	13
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	12	11
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	16	10
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	15
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—
All other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	6	8
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	75	85

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. Chemical analyses of water samples are carried out at the City Analyst's Department at the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 48.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Free immunisation is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Clinic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1964.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of persons resident in Aspall who were immunised and vaccinated during the year :

	Pre-School Children		School Children		Adults	
	1964	1965	1964	1965	1964	1965
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria Whooping Cough and Tetanus)...	102	129	21	9	—	—
Combined Antigen (Diphtheria & Tetanus) :						
Primary ...	6	4	6	10	—	—
Re-inforcements ...	1	26	100	123	—	—
Diphtheria only :						
Re-inforcement ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis :						
Primary ...	113	197	3	88	4	—
Re-inforcements ...	2	4	87	346	—	—
Smallpox Vaccinations :						
Primary ...	55	92	—	—	1	—
Re-Vaccination ...	—	—	—	—	6	—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1965

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages									25 and over	Age Un- known
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	40	2	12	3	9	5	9	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	43										

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages						65 and over	Age Un- known
		0—	5—	15—	45—			
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis								
Respiratory	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other.....	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	5							

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year.

No deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred during 1965.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 2 bacteriological examinations and 9 chemical analyses of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory. The combined fluorine content varied between 0.10 and 0.35 parts per million.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

The County Borough of Bolton are the responsible Authority for the Supply and Maintenance of the water undertaking for the district.

No. of houses with supply direct from the public water main	2,357
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc.	Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 12 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

The district is faced with the problem of sewers being inadequate and overloaded if further development of the district is to take place. The foul sewer system from Hilton and Crawford Estates is functioning to capacity, any further development in the Scot Lane area will necessitate new sewerage provisions. The system from Scot Lane Settling Tank catering for the Bolton Road, Hall Lane and Top Lock areas is mainly the old system and requires investigation. Periodic cleansing is required on stretches of this sewer due to silting up. With the exception of a small area of the Urban District which is treated by the Hindley Urban District Council the district's sewerage system connects to the Wigan County Borough system who treat the effluent.

During the year 58 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	15
Number of houses affected	39

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was :

Number of Fresh Water Closets	2,334
Number of Pail Closets	6
Number of Privy Middens	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

One driver and five labourers are employed full time on refuse collection and a tractor and driver on the tip.

A five day collection is being maintained as far as possible in all parts of the district. On occasions, however, mainly due to the weather conditions and sickness this has not been possible.

The Council have in operation a scheme using Paper Sacks specially treated to withstand moisture and a certain degree of heat ; 500 houses are now equipped with Paper Sack Holders. All the schools in the local authority's area are also adapted to this method of collection. The scheme is operating smoothly and has proved successful.

Controlled tipping is enforced at the Toddington Railway Cutting refuse tip.

A dust bin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of dustbins is in operation in the district.

There are 6 pail closets, and approximately 25,00 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	125,000
Approximate number of pail closets emptied	300
Approximate weight of refuse removed (tons)	1,850

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects :—

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	72
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	45
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	66
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	31

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are two factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 11 houses infested with cockroaches and 3 ant infestations were treated with Pybuthrin. Nine other houses were disinfested of other insect pests either by spraying with liquid insecticide or by dusting with insecticidal powder. This type of treatment proved highly efficient.

RODENT CONTROL

155 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

549 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1965.

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Non-Agricultural All other (including business premises)	Total	Agri-cultural
Number of properties in District	8	2302	300	2610	25
Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	Nil	116	24	140	Nil
(b) Survey or otherwise	8	Nil	Nil	8	25
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	11	390	123	524	55
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
Rats :					
Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Minor	Nil	77	20	97	11
(b) Mice :					
Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor	Nil	34	11	45	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A....	Nil	111	31	142	13
Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	Nil	239	77	303	21
Number of " Block " control schemes carried out ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

13 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and four inspections were made under the Acts.

HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly those living in poor housing conditions. 43 new housing applications were received during the year, of which ten were applications for old people's bungalows.

Eighty-one houses were built by private enterprise during the year. The building of 10 shops at the Finger Post has been completed.

A further scheme for clearance of unfit dwellings during the next five years has been agreed by the Council and several houses have already been dealt with which are included in this programme.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :
Traditional permanent houses :

(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	81

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	133
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	364
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :					
(a) Number found during year	...	...	...	...	15
(b) Total number (or estimated number) existing at end of year	...	...	...	...	360
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	...	...	...	...	180

2.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS :

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	Nil	Nil Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	Nil	Nil Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil Nil

Not in Clearance Area :

(4) As a result of formal or informal pro- cedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	1	2	1
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil

3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	4	15	5
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	37	Nil
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	65	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957	2	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil

5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE :
(Housing Act, 1957)

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year :		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53... ..	Nil	Nil

6.—PURCHASE OF HOUSE BY AGREEMENT :

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	Nil	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

There has been no applications and a reduction in number of queries appertaining to the Rent Act, 1957. In our opinion this is mainly due to the fact that repairs are being dealt with more speedily by landlords who are in receipt of increased rents.

During the year the following applications and undertakings were dealt with in respect of repairs to houses where the rent had been increased.

PART I :

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1) Number of applications for Certificates	Nil
(2) Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue Certificates	Nil
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	Nil
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued	Nil

PART II :

APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates | Nil |
| (8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates | Nil |
| (9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection | Nil |
| (10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority | Nil |

Very little use is now being made of the disrepair procedure provided by the above Act.

7.—HOUSING ACTS : IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No applications were received for Improvements Grant during the year.

Three applications for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year. All applications dealt with owner-occupied premises.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Routine inspections of farms and dairies have been carried out and a good standard of cleanliness maintained.

Lancashire County Council are now the responsible Authority for the issuing of milk licences, and milk sampling.

No Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were found necessary during the year as a result of notifications of tuberculous milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no private slaughterhouses in the district.

Butchers obtain their supplies from surrounding abattoirs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples obtained in the Aspull Urban District under the provisions of the above Act, during 1965.

A total of 36 samples was obtained comprising 22 milks (2 of which were Channel Island milks) and 14 others as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 corned beef, opened can | 2 borax B.P. |
| 3 barley | 1 boric acid ointment B.P.C. |
| 1 aspirin tablets, B.P. | 1 sulphur tablets |
| 1 throat lozenges | 1 cod liver oil B.P. |
| 2 arrowroot | 1 saccharin tablets |

All the above samples were reported to be chemically genuine by the County Analyst with the exception of an opened can of corned beef which was found to contain 4 grammes of bovine skin and hair. The importers were cautioned and the complainant informed.

The following foods were condemned during the year :

Ravioli	...	...	...	...	7 lb.
Beefaroni	...	...	...	...	12 lb.
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	28 lb.
Polish ham	...	...	...	...	10 lb.

Food condemned is collected by the Authority and buried on the refuse tip or burned.

The following is a list of food premises within the district :

TYPE OF BUSINESS :

General grocers and provision dealers	...	...	...	...	32
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	...	...	...	...	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.)	...	...	...	...	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	...	...	...	...	9
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	7
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	...	...	...	...	8
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar establishments	...	...	...	...	27

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, was as follows :

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream	...	24
Preserved foods, etc., premises	...	4

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960

Routine Inspections have been made during the year to food premises and mobile shops under the above Regulations.

Although improvements are being made to food premises following informal action and letters requesting co-operation, there are still premises without the basic essentials of the Food Hygiene Regulations and it is becoming apparent that legal action will have to be resorted to in these cases.

Continued effort must be made on behalf of both the employer and the employees of food premises. The general public could also greatly help to facilitate the work of the Public Health Inspector by observing hygienic practices when in food premises and also by patronising shops that provide a clean and hygienic service for their customers.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947-52

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

At retailers' premises all ice-cream sold is pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C Line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	6	6	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	1	—	—
TOTAL		7	7	—	—

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the end of the year the following premises were registered under the above Act:

Offices	...	...	...	...	1
Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	6
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Catering Establishments, Canteens	...	...	...	...	9
Total	...	...	...	...	18

Eleven inspections were made to the registered premises during the year.

At retailers' premises all ice-cream sold is pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F. and two gauges which indicate working and temperature are provided. In the case of the 10 premises which are not pre-packed, the ice-cream is sold in pre-packed containers.

Particulars	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections	Written Notices Issued
(i) Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	1	1	0
(ii) Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority but not in (i)	1	1	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	1	1	0
(iv) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority	1	1	0
(v) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority but not in (iv)	1	1	0
(vi) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority and not in (v)	1	1	0
(vii) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority and not in (vi)	1	1	0
(viii) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority and not in (vii)	1	1	0
(ix) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority and not in (viii)	1	1	0
(x) Premises in which Section 7 is not enforced by Local Authority and not in (ix)	1	1	0

