

[Report 1963] / Medical Officer of Health, Brecknock R.D.C.

Contributors

Brecon (Wales). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1963

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cqwg45mr>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

11

Brecknock Rural District Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1963

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 2884. D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector..W.J.Rees,
Sanitary Inspector's

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's
Examination Joint Board;Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute.Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public
Health and Hygiene.

Additional Public Health Inspector.....R.Taylor,

Sanitary Inspector's

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's
Examination Joint Board;Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute.Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public
Health and Hygiene.

1907

Department of Health

Report

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1907

1907

Sanitary Inspector, ...
London, ...

Chief Sanitary Inspector, ...

Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...

Sanitary Inspector, ...

Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...
Sanitary Inspector, ...

Brecknock Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1963

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecknock Rural District during the year 1963.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility with regard to public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all matters specifically requested in Circular 1/64(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....189,532 acres.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931.....	8302.
	Census 1951.....	7430.
	Census 1961.....	8696.
	Estimated Mid-summer 1963.....	6950.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years are shown below.

<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1963.</u>
7480.	7490.	7440.	7430.	7410.	7410.	7380.	7920.	6960.	6950.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 2293 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.0

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	67.	59.	126.	
Illegitimate	1.	2.	3.	
	68.	61.	129.	18.5

The corrected birthrate was 25.5

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.2

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and very much higher than the district deathrate, which was a very satisfactory feature.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	57.	55.	112.	16.1

The corrected deathrate was 16.4

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.2

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average but lower than the district birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Live & Still Births</u>
	1.	0.	1.	7.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.3

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Infant Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total Mortality Rate.....0.
The infantile mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20.9
The district infantile mortality rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Maternal Mortality. No deaths could be attributed to childbirth during the year which was extremely satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	13.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....57. Females.....55.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.	2.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.	1.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	6.	2.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	13.	8.
Coronary disease.....	9.	7.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	4.	4.
Other heart disease.....	9.	14.
Other circulatory disease.....	4.	1.
Influenza.....	0.	1.
Pneumonia.....	1.	3.
Bronchitis.....	4.	0.
Other diseases, respiratory system.....	1.	0.
Gastritis.....	0.	2.
Nephritis.....	0.	2.
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.	0.
Congenital malformations.....	0.	1.
Other defined causes.....	2.	2.
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1.	2.
Other accidents.....	1.	2.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. W. J. Rees remained as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. R. Taylor as your Additional Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including the milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing Facilities. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. Due to the elevation approximately 80% of the properties in the Rural Area are supplied with treated water by means of gravitation from the mains of the South-East Breconshire Water Board.

Owing to the higher elevations of the majority of the remainder of the properties it would be necessary to provide small booster pumps to pump the water. However, many of the owners of such properties are constructing their own supplies - grant aided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - and are drawing water direct from the "eye" of the springs.

Before this water can be used a satisfactory standard must be obtained and to this end samples of the water are taken by the Public Health Inspectors and forwarded to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Advice is given on the precautions to be taken and the maintenance necessary to ensure a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes at all times. Unfortunately such supplies are untreated and once installed maintenance is forgotten in most cases until the water supply is suspected as being the cause of illness in the family.

The number of inspections of water supplies was.....33.

Thirty three samples of water were examined during the year. All Council samples were satisfactory, 16 of the private supplies were not.

The water supplied from the South-East Breconshire Water Board regional mains is derived from:

- a. The Trinant Stream above Cwmwysg in the West. This supply is plumbo solvent and lime and chlorine are added at the Treatment Works at Portis.
- b. The Newport Corporation's Waterworks at the Aber, Talybont, from where it is purchased in bulk. This supply is not plumbo solvent.

When contaminations are found:-

- a. With Private Supplies. The boiling of water is advised until remedial measures are carried out to obtain a wholesome supply.
- b. With the Regional Mains. The attention of the Engineer/Clerk of the South East Breconshire Water Board is drawn to the fact.

Drainage and Sewerage. The arrangements for sewerage disposal in the Rural Area are reasonably adequate.

The work on the sewage disposal schemes for the Villages of Bwlch and the Aber were completed and already a number of properties have been connected to the public sewers.

Properties connected to main drainage.

The response of owners to arrange for their properties to be connected to the Council's new sewers is fairly satisfactory. During the year the following number of properties were provided with main drainage.

Bwlch	11
Aber	2
Llangorse	2

These additional figures brought the total at the end of the year to:-

Bwlch	11
Aber	2
Llanfihangel Nantbran	10
Cray	19
Llanddew	27
Llanfrynach	51
Llangorse	65
Llan-Talyllyn	10
Pencelli	13
Pennorth & Sethrog	21
Sennybridge	273
Talybont on Usk	92
Trecastle	74
Llanfilo	8
Cradoc	14
Total	<u>690</u>

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors.....90.
 Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors to sewage works..40.
 Number of effluent samples taken.....Nil.

Public Cleansing.The refuse service is still being carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the year further applications were received for the removal of house refuse from other properties.

The refuse vehicle covered 18,177 miles and approximately 2,132 tons of refuse were collected.

Following a demonstration by Messrs Shelvoke & Drewry Ltd of one of their 35 cubic yard Pakamatic dustless loading refuse vehicles, the Council placed an order for delivery mid 1964.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. J. Rees, and the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. Taylor.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	53.
Number of complaints investigated.....	53.
Number of premises inspected.....	53.
Number of premises revisited.....	13.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	5.
for (a) Structural defects.....	4.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	1.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	0.

Offensive Trades.There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.There are no common lodging houses in the area.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors.....	29.
Number of defects found and remedied.....	0.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....	18.
---------------------------------	-----

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....	19.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very successful. No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr. D. I. G. Griffiths was employed by the Council during the year. However, he is not wholly employed on the work of rodent destruction. Details of the work carried out during the year is as follows:-

Number of premises inspected.....	25.
Number of premises found infested.....	25.
Number of agricultural premises inspected.....	7.
Number of agricultural premises found infested.....	7.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....	32.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	0.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested houses. The work of rodent destruction on farms in the rural district is now the responsibility of the Council.

These are classified as business premises and a charge is made for their treatment. Either a contract for 12 months can be made costing £5, or otherwise a charge is made for labour, travelling and materials used.

Section 4. Housing. The following details show the position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of houses built by the Council during the year.....	13.
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year.....	8.
Number of inspections under the Housing Act.....	69.
Number of notices served.....	11.
Number of houses in course of erection by the Council.....	4.

Improvement Grants (Discretionary) - Housing Act, 1949.

Twenty applications for discretionary improvement grants were made and all were approved and grants made. Amount paid was £8177.

This represented 26 completed schemes.

Improvement Grants (Standard) - House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959.

This is a new Act under which owners can obtain half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements in a house i.e. a bath, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system and a food store.

19 applications for Standard Grants have been received and approved during the year. The amount paid was ~~£2225~~ £2223.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.

The district is being inspected regularly and, as and when the occasion necessitates, representation is made to the Council with a view to:-

- (a) Serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or
- (b) The making of demolition or closing orders.

Demolition Orders made.....	0.
Undertakings accepted.....	2.
Properties demolished.....	3.
Closing Orders served.....	0.
Properties closed.....	0.

A comprehensive Survey was conducted during the year in connection with Housing and other Services.

Each householder was circulated with a Questionnaire relating to sinks, wash-hand basins, food stores, water closets, properties connected to sewers, earth closets, chemical closets, septic tanks, main water, private water supplies, water laid on to houses, main electricity.

Approximately 80% of the questionnaires were returned, the remainder were completed from the office.

Much valuable information was collected as a result of the Survey which cost approximately £80 to carry out.

The Survey indicated the progress that the Council has made in its many endeavours. However, much remains to be done.

The Survey Report was carefully considered and it was concluded that while much remains to be done, the Council's Progress has been a considerable one.

Concentrated attention should be given to the improvement of these houses, which if not improved and repaired in the near future, will become the slum properties of our time.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of food premises in the area was as follows:-

Clubs.....	1.
Retailers.....	16.
Ice Cream Retailers.....	22.
Cafes.....	6.
Hotels where meals are served.....	12.
Fish and Chip shops.....	1.

On the whole it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness observed was satisfactory. On no occasion has it been found necessary to serve a notice on any person engaged in the food trade.

There was no educational activity in connection with food in the district during the year but in the normal course of their duties the Public Health Inspectors, in their discussions with persons engaged in the food trade, emphasised the importance of the need for the highest standard of hygienic principle in the preparation and sale of foodstuffs to the public.

School Canteens. Visits were made to and inspections made of school canteens and dining rooms. The attention of the Breconshire Education Committee was drawn to those premises which did not come up to the required standard by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with a request that such improvements as were necessary be carried out.

Meat Inspection. The owner of the slaughterhouse had carried out the necessary alterations to bring the standard of the building up to the requirements of the regulations.

Number of various animals inspected.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
306	2980	4	427

Number of registered slaughterhouses in the area.....1.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	83	233	4	2980	427	-
Number inspected	83	233	4	2980	427	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part organ was condemned	-	19	1	89	17	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	8.5	25.0	2.9	4.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	-	-	0.4	-

Cysticerci. No cases were discovered.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....146.

As there are no facilities at the slaughterhouse at Llangorse for the sterilisation of condemned meat in accordance with the above Regulations all such meat is removed by the Inspectors and buried in one of the refuse disposal sites.

Meat condemned amounted to 665 lbs. No tinned food was condemned.

Milk.

Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected.....7.

Number of samples taken during the year.....10.

Number of samples satisfactory.....9.

Number of samples unsatisfactory.....1.

All of the above were examined for the presence of tuberculosis and brucelle abortus, one only giving a positive Brucelle test. The result of these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry at Brecon.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....30.

Number of samples taken.....30.

All these samples were reported as satisfactory.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops. One premises is registered in the area for the sale of fried fish. Fish sold retail from motor vans is frequently inspected.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The district experienced quite a severe outbreak of measles during the year with a total of 144 cases notified. This epidemic started in July and continued throughout the year with the peak period in October. No cases of measles were admitted to hospital and no deaths occurred as a result of these cases.

One case of paratyphoid was also notified, the cause of which was not ascertained.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	34.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed from register.	
(a) Deaths.....	0.
(b) Left district.....	2.
(c) Recovered.....	2.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....	30.

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below:-

<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1963.</u>
5.	13.	5.	7.	5.	9.	2.	2.	7.	0.

APPENDIX

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1963 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BRECKNOCK IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
		Inspect ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	
i. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	2	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	18	4	-	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There was no out-work done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health

Sanitary Conditions Report

2. - Cases in which defects were found (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Number of cases in which defects were found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Total	Cases in which defects were found on two, three or more separate occasions
	(1)	(2)	(3)		
0	0	0	0	0	
1	1	1	1	3	
2	0	0	0	0	
3	0	0	0	0	
4	0	0	0	0	
5	0	0	0	0	
6	0	0	0	0	
7	0	0	0	0	
8	0	0	0	0	
9	0	0	0	0	
10	0	0	0	0	
Total	1	1	1	3	

There was no out-work done in the district during the year.

Sanitary conditions at a certain number of premises were inspected during the year.

Number of premises inspected	Number of premises inspected	Number of premises inspected	Number of premises inspected
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10
Total	51	51	51