

**[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Belford R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Belford (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1956

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/w2p77zbj>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

-9 AUG 58

18

ANNUAL REPORT.

Upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the  
BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT  
for the year ending 31st. December 1956.



STATISTICS.

- |    |   |                 |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Area.   | - 39,797 acres. |
| 2. | Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population 1956 (mid-year) | - 5,030         |
| 3. | Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Book.        | - 2,086         |
| 4. | Rateable Value.   | - £52391        |
| 5. | Sum represented by a penny rate   | - £202          |

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>
(Legitimate)	56	26	30	11.1 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.
(Illegitimate)	0	0	0	
	<u>56</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>30</u>	
<u>Still Births.</u>	0	0	0	
<u>Deaths.</u>	78	36	42	Death Rate. 15.5 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes              | - Nil.   |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age | - No. 2. <sup>Rate</sup> 35 per 1,000 live births. |
| Deaths from Cancer, all ages.             | - 13   |
| Deaths from Measles, all ages.            | - 0  |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages.     | - 0  |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)     | - 0  |

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part-time)

Dr. D. T. Mc. Donald, M.D., Ch.B. (Edin)  
South Bank, Belford.

SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

W. R. Kirk, M.S.A.I.,  
Sea Bank, Seahouses.





PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER  
DISEASE DURING 1956.

During the year under review 103 cases of infectious disease were notified in the Rural District:-

Chickenpox	...	58.	Scarlet Fever	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	30	Tuberculosis	...	3
Dysentery (sonni)	...	5	Erysipelas	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	1			

Chickenpox appeared among children in Bamburgh and Seahouses areas between February and August.

Whooping Cough, occurred among children in Belford and Chathill areas in January and February; and in Seahouses in September, October and November. There were no deaths from the disease.

Several cases of Sonni Dysentery occurred among children in Seahouses and Bamburgh during February.

The only case of Food Poisoning occurred in a visitor to the Camping Site at Beadnell. He was sent home and there were no further cases.

It will be noticed that there were 78 Deaths in the District and only 56 Births; showing a Death Rate of 15.5 per 1,000 and a Birth Rate of 11.1 per 1,000 of the resident population. It would appear that in this rural district as the years go by, the Death Rate tends slowly to rise and the Birth Rate to fall. This will inevitably lead to a population in the area of people of the older age groups.

It is interesting to look at the ages at Death in the Area:-

<u>Under 10 yrs.</u>	-	<u>20 yrs.</u>	-	<u>30 yrs.</u>	-	<u>40 yrs.</u>	-	<u>50 yrs.</u>	-	<u>60 yrs.</u>
2		0		0		0		1		6
		-	<u>70 yrs.</u>	-	<u>80 yrs.</u>	-	<u>90 yrs.</u>	-	<u>100 yrs.</u>	
		16		25		22		6		

There were therefore only three deaths of persons under 50 years of age and two of these were premature infants (twins); and 53 deaths in persons over 70 years of age representing 68% of all deaths.

The commoner causes of death were:-

Diseases of Heart & Blood Vessels	...	38
Cerebral Haemorrhage &c.	...	16
Cancer.	...	13

Three of these cases of cancer were cancer of the lung. This disease is showing a gradual increase in its incidence, and as a cause of death in all areas. There is a great deal of medical investigation being carried out at the present time in order to discover the cause of the increase of this disease. It is possible that pollution of the air we breathe is a causal factor. Whether this pollution is due to tobacco, exhaust fumes from mechanised vehicles, or smoke of various kinds from combustion in domestic, factory or other fires, is a subject which is being closely investigated. Results of these researches will be awaited with great interest.





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council owned supplies to the Townships of Belford, Seahouses, Beadnell and Bamburgh proved generally satisfactory during the year, though at times of peak demand during the summer months severe shortages were experienced at Beadnell and Bamburgh.

The shortage at Beadnell shows the need for a new and larger main from the reservoir, the existing 3" main from which the majority of the village is served is inadequate for this purpose.

The shortage at Bamburgh again draws attention to the need for a service reservoir to serve the village.

At Belford the borehole was again extensively used during the summer months, but this will no longer be necessary as the Warenton Dene supply was brought into use by the completion of the Scheme in December. This source is more than ample to meet the needs of the Village and in addition the now to be disused supply from Belford Moor is always available in an emergency.

At Seahouses the borehole pump was used from early in May to mid September to meet the normal demand of the holiday period, and to make up the loss caused by an undetected leak into the Harbour.

### County Water Scheme.

The Council have now agreed to adopt in principle the County Scheme for the supply of additional water to meet the needs of the District.

Water is supplied from the Council's mains to houses in the following Parishes:-

<u>PARISH.</u>	<u>Pipes into House.</u>	<u>By Standpipe.</u>	<u>Total No. Houses.</u>
North Sunderland.	591	63	654
Belford.	333	2	335
Beadnell,	189	28	217
Ellingham.	50	3	53
Adderstone with Lucker.	36	12	48
Bamburgh.	157	25	172
Totals.	1335	128	1463

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

### BEADNELL.

From fifteen inspections made throughout the year the flow was being swept well out to sea and there was no sign of any pollution of the beaches.

### NORTH SUNDERLAND.

That part of the Scheme which take the sewage from North Sunderland has been completed and is working satisfactorily. Already some improvement in the condition of the Annstead Burn is apparent. The remainder of the scheme should be completed early in the new year.





BELFORD

Samples of the effluent from the Sewage Works were again shown to be sub-standard. The increased flow, due to new building and the increased consumption of water generally, is now beyond the designed capacity for the works.

H O U S I N G .

The Council built no houses during the year but 16 other houses were built bringing the total number of houses in the District to 1974.

<u>Action with regard to Unfit Houses.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	4
3. Houses closed, not demolished.	-
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	-
Houses made fit by informal action under either Housing or Public Health Act	108

<u>Improvement Grants.</u>	<u>No of Separate Houses.</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year.	23
2. Applications rejected.	-
3. Applications approved.	23
4. Total Number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of Scheme.	108
Houses not included in above table approved during 1956 for grant under Hill Farming & Livestock Rearing Acts 1946-54	1

One Hundred and ten visits were made to houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The Council own 242 houses and the number of outstanding applications for Council houses on the list at the end of the year is 181.





## FOOD & DRUGS.

### Food Premises.

With the coming into force of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 an effort was made to visit as many of the food premises as the pressure of other work would permit. Circular letters accompanied by explanatory leaflets setting out the various requirements of the Regulations were sent to all premises where food was handled. These were followed by visits to those requiring detailed information.

The following is a list of food premises in the area:-

Dutchers	...	5
Bakers (with Bakeries attached)		5
Grocers & General Dealers.		18
Green grocers	...	4
Confectioners.	...	9
Fishmongers	...	1
do (with vans only)		3
Cafes.	...	5
Hotels.	...	17
Boarding Houses	...	6
Public Houses (excluding licensed hotels)		8
Kippering Sheds.	...	1
Crab Dressing	...	1

### Food Inspection.

9 visits were made to food premises for inspection of defective food, and the following were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

Meat	...	7 Tins;
Milk	...	4 Tins.
Canned Foods	...	30 Tins.

### Milk & Dairies.

The number of licences issued in respect of Special Designated Milk are as follows:-

Pasteurised	...	1
T.T.	...	2

In addition there are five producer/retailers of whom

2 sell T.T. Milk, and  
3 sell ungraded Milk.



Food Inspection.

With the coming into force of the Food & Drug Act 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 an effort was made to visit as many of the food premises as the progress of the work would permit. Circular letters accompanied by explanatory leaflets setting out the various requirements of the Regulations were sent to all premises where food was handled. These were followed by visits to those premises detailed in the following:-

The following is a list of food premises in the

order:-

1	...	...
2	...	...
3	...	...
4	...	...
5	...	...
6	...	...
7	...	...
8	...	...
9	...	...
10	...	...
11	...	...
12	...	...
13	...	...
14	...	...
15	...	...
16	...	...
17	...	...
18	...	...
19	...	...
20	...	...
21	...	...
22	...	...
23	...	...
24	...	...
25	...	...
26	...	...
27	...	...
28	...	...
29	...	...
30	...	...

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

Food Inspection.

3 visits were made to food premises in the inspection of defective food, but no further action was taken.

1	...	...
2	...	...
3	...	...
4	...	...
5	...	...
6	...	...
7	...	...
8	...	...
9	...	...
10	...	...
11	...	...
12	...	...
13	...	...
14	...	...
15	...	...
16	...	...
17	...	...
18	...	...
19	...	...
20	...	...
21	...	...
22	...	...
23	...	...
24	...	...
25	...	...
26	...	...
27	...	...
28	...	...
29	...	...
30	...	...

Milk & Dairies.

The number of dairies licensed in the district is as follows:-

1	...	...
2	...	...
3	...	...
4	...	...
5	...	...
6	...	...
7	...	...
8	...	...
9	...	...
10	...	...
11	...	...
12	...	...
13	...	...
14	...	...
15	...	...
16	...	...
17	...	...
18	...	...
19	...	...
20	...	...
21	...	...
22	...	...
23	...	...
24	...	...
25	...	...
26	...	...
27	...	...
28	...	...
29	...	...
30	...	...

In addition there are five processing dairies

### Ice-Cream.

There are two premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, one of which uses the cold-mix process.

15 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. All of these sell only pre-packed ice-cream.

### Slaughter Houses.

There are two privately owned Slaughter-houses. One at Belford is used by the butcher there, and one at Seahouses used by the three Seahouses butchers and the Bamburgh Butcher. Neither of these match up to modern standards and the Belford Slaughterhouse is not capable of being brought up to a reasonable standard by virtue of structural limitation and proximity to dwelling houses.

The Seahouses Slaughterhouse is not so limited and it is hoped that the owner will be prepared to do the necessary work to attain the requisite standard.

### Meat Inspection.

The following tables show the number of animals slaughtered and the carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	261	Nil.	2	536	102	Nil
Number Inspected.	243	Nil.	2	501	101	Nil.
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Car cases of which some part or organ was condemned.	115	-	-	26	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	47.3	-	-	5.2	2.0	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.6	-	-	-	1.0	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-





REFUSE REMOVAL.

The collection of refuse, still confined to the four main Villages of Belford, Bamburgh, Seahouses and Beadnell, is carried out by one Bedford 7 c.yd. vehicle manned by a driver/loader and an ashbinman.

The number of houses served is now 1170.

The Council's decision to acquire an additional vehicle and extend the service to the whole District is an excellent one. The present limited service can not provide a regular weekly collection in all cases despite the working of long hours of overtime.

The new service is expected to come into operation on 1st. April next.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACT.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notice</u>
(1) Factories in which section 1,2,3 4,5,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority,	6	6	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	24	28	-

Cases in which defects were found - 4. Remedied 4.

Section 34.

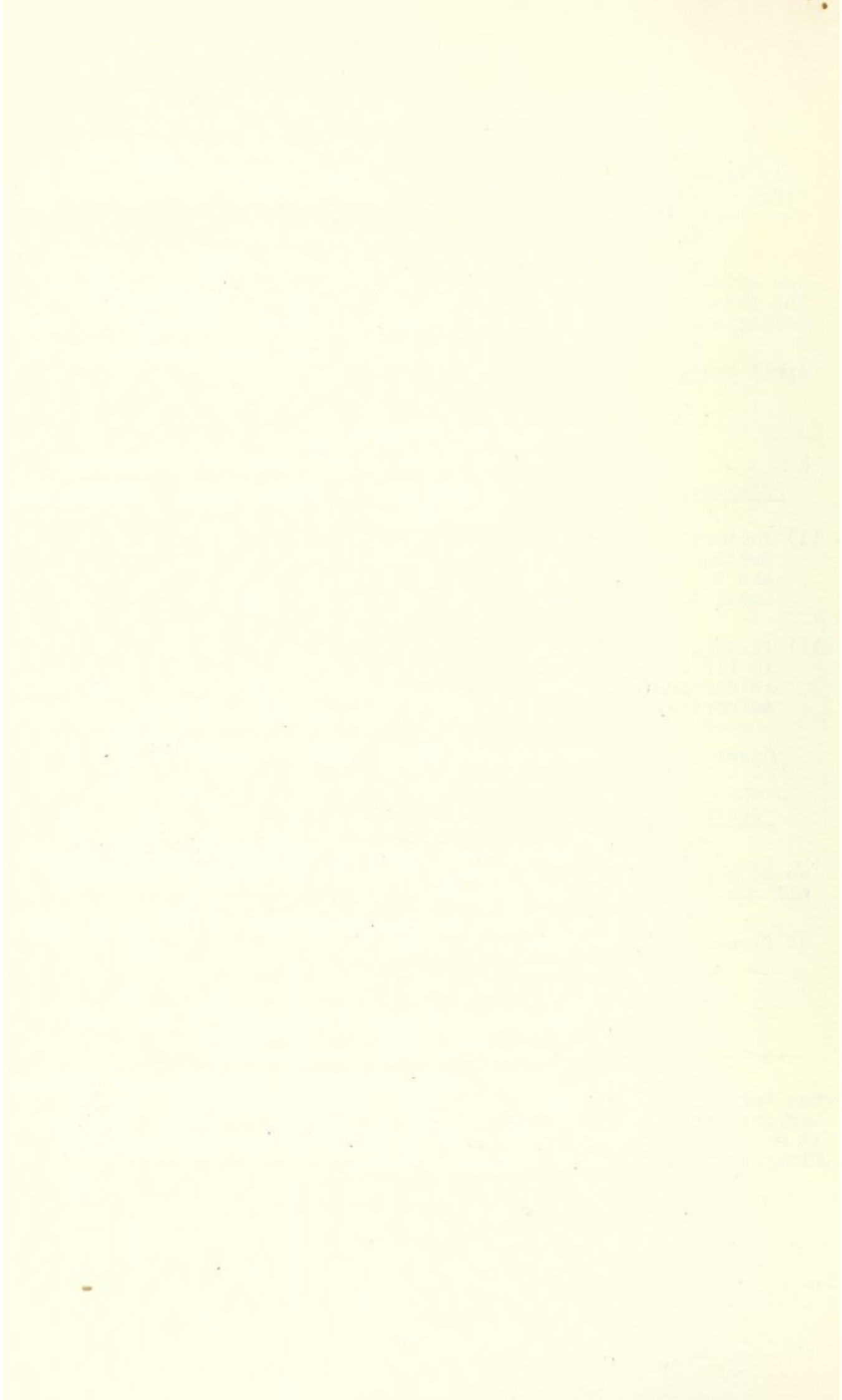
Attention having been drawn to the need for certificates as to means of escape in case of fire the 8 factories concerned, all small garages, were inspected.

In each case there was adequate means of escape in case of fire and certificates were issued.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS  
ACT, 1949.

Mr. Arris who is employed jointly with North & Islandshire has carried out his duties admirably, being responsible for all surveys, treatments and the keeping of records. Every endeavour is made to co-operate fully with the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.





PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	Type of Property.				(5) Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural.				
	(1) Local Authy.	(2) Dwellg. Houses (inc. Cncl. houses)	(3) All other includg. business premises.	(4) Total of Col.(1)(2), & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District, (Notes 1 & 2)	10	1974	415	2399	104
11. Number of properties infested as a result of:-					
(a) Notification		30	2	32	3
(b) Survey under the Act.	10	1890	204	2104	70
(c) Otherwise.	-	-	-	-	-
111. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	-	-	-	-	-
iv. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats           (Major.	3	2	-	5	4
(Minor.	1	115	3	119	21
(b) Mice         (Major	-	7	1	8	4
(Minor		166	10	176	20
v. Number of infested properties (in sec. iv) treated by L.A.	4	290	4	298	8
vi. Total treatments carried out - including re- treatments.	-	-	-	-	-

