

**[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Diss U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Diss (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1942

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xua8yuua>

**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>

ANNUAL REPORT AS TO THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

At 19 JAN 1944  
To the Chairman and Members of the  
DISS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Mrs. Holker and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 1942 which, in accordance with Ministry of health instructions, has been considerably curtailed.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. O'B. VINCENT,

Medical Officer of health,  
Diss Urban District.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... .. 3,628 (including water).

Population:-

These figures are not published this year on the grounds of national security, according to Ministry of health instructions.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to Rate Books ... 1,049

Rateable Value ... .. £16,173

Sum represented by a penny rate £64. 1. 11.

Social Conditions.

Any improvement in housing conditions is at present in abeyance. Overcrowding is fairly prevalent.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	54	32	22
	Illegitimate	2	2	-
Stillbirths	Legitimate	2	2	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths		50	22	28
Deaths of infants under one year of age		2	1	1
Deaths from puerperal causes		-	-	-
Deaths from cancer (all ages).		-	-	-
Deaths from measles (all ages)		-	-	-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	-

The Birth Rate is slightly in excess of the Death Rate and the general health of the community has been good.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

See report for the year 1940.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Closet Accommodation.

1. Number converted from Privy-Pail Closets to W.Cs	3
Number converted from Privy-Vault Closets to W.Cs	5
Total	<u>8</u>
2. Number of Closets of each type remaining at the end of Year.	
Number of Privy-Vault (fixed type)	67
Pail Closets, removeable receptacles (Number of above emptied weekly ...234)	291
Water Closets including houses, cottages, bungalows, shops and offices	726
Water Closets at schools and other public buildings.	63

Scavenging.

The work of scavenging has been rendered difficult during the year owing to the death of one of the men engaged by the contractor on this work, and the necessity for the Council to employ labour and the extreme difficulty in securing it.

Particulars of Work ... Year 1942.

	<u>No. emptied.</u>	<u>Loads removed.</u>
Pail Closets emptied weekly	234	328
Dustbins	636	972
Privy-Vault Closets	51	49
Dustbins (fixed type)	2	4
Accumulations of dry refuse	2	2
Total loads removed ...		<u>1355</u>

SUMMARY.

	<u>Loads.</u>
(a) Excreta	<u>377</u>
(b) Dry refuse	<u>978</u>
Total	<u>1355</u>

Number of Inspections made in respect of scavenging ...778

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

1. Number of Inspections and particulars:-

Housing	144
Scavenging	778
Drainage	120
Markets	182
Factories	153
Infectious Diseases	108
Slaughterhouses	387
Ditto with Medical Officer	6
Cowsheds	61
Dairies	45
Vans used for human habitation	12
Shops Act, 1934	324
Evacuees	<u>109</u>
Total number of inspections	<u>2429</u>

2. Notices:-

Number of Formal Preliminary Notices	28
Number of Informal Notices	6
Number of statutory notices	2
	<u>36</u>

3. Nuisances:-

Complaints received	8
Found on Inspection	<u>28</u>
	<u>36</u>
Number abated by Formal Notice	28
Number abated by Informal Notice	6
Number abated by Statutory Notice	2
	<u>36</u>

4. Defects other than Nuisances:-

Number found on inspection	7
Number remedied by Informal Notice	7

Shops and Stores.      Shops Act, 1934.

Number of Inspections during the year 1942	324
Number of Shops registered	90
Number of Offices in the District	17

The following defects were found during the year 1942:-

Insufficient Lighting	Nil
Cleansing of Premises	6
Insufficient Lavatory Accommodation	2
Inefficient Ventilation	1
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	3
Defective Heating Apparatus	1
	<u>13</u>

Number of Statutory Notices served during the Year	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.	1
Number of defects remedied upon the verbal request of the Inspector.	12

The Fuel and Lighting Registration and Distribution Order, 1942.  
(S.R. & O 1942 No. 1157)

Lighting. Under the above Order the replacing of electric lamps with those of a lower lighting power has been generally observed in most of the shops and stores.

Heating. A lower fuel consumption is practised generally by the daily earlier closing of shops and stores. Also greater economy is being exercised in the using of fuel and stricter attention given to the fuelling of central heating installations.

Camping Sites.

There are no sites available or used as camping sites in this area.

Vans used for human habitation.

During the year 12 vans were inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools provided for the public in this area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses found to be infested and dealt with are as follows:-

(a) Council Houses... Nil	(b) Other houses .....	1
---------------------------	------------------------	---

Disinfestation of Fleas.

Houses were dealt with as follows, following complaint.

(a) Council Houses.. Nil	(b) Other Houses .....	5
--------------------------	------------------------	---

Disinfection and Cleansing.

Number of visits in cases of infectious disease	108
Number of rooms disinfected	25
Number of Cottages cleansed before re-occupation	5

HOUSING.

1. <u>Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.</u>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	29
Number of inspections made for the purpose	144
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 - 1932 ... ..	6
Number of inspections made for the purpose	23
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	NIL
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	13
2. <u>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Formal Notices.</u>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer ...	13
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.</u>	
Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	26
Number of dwelling houses of which defects were remedied after notice - By the owners	26

---

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

1. Number of Dwelling-houses overcrowded 31st December, 1942.	1
2. Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	3
3. Number of cases relieved during the year	4
4. Number of persons concerned in such cases	33
5. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	NIL
6. Total number of dwelling-houses surveyed for the purposes of the housing Act, 1936, Part IV, to the 31st December 1942 ... ..	854

---

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of Inspections made of Dairies and Cowsheds	106
Number of Inspections with the Medical Officer.	2
Number of samples taken during the year for "Accredited" standard	16
Number of samples taken during the year for "T.T." test	6

(Three samples failed the Methylene Blue test.  
Repeat samples were in each case satisfactory)

Number of Producer Retailers	4
Number of Producer Wholesalers	<u>13</u>
	<u>17</u>

Number of Dairymen retailing milk in  
this district produced in outside areas. 5

Number of Dealers' Licences issued authorising the use  
of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ... .. 1

Meat.

Diss is a slaughtering centre under the provisions of  
Memoranda and Orders issued by the Ministry of Health and the  
Ministry of Food.

The duties of inspection are carried out by the Sanitary  
Inspector who holds the Membership Diploma of the Royal  
Sanitary Institute, (by examination); also Certificates of the  
Royal Sanitary Institute and the Institute of Hygiene (by  
examination).

Particulars of Inspections are as follows:-

Number of visits to slaughterhouse	387
Number of visits with Medical Officer of health	<u>6</u>
	<u>393</u>

Number of animals slaughtered:-						
	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
General	1498	296	1246	1	1140	4181
Casualties	48	3	17	2	114	184
Private	3	-	-	-	49	49
T.B. Order	3	-	-	-	-	3

Meat condemned as being unfit for food:-  
Cattle, Calves, Sheep, Lambs, Pigs, Total.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Lambs	Pigs	Total
1. All diseases except Tuberculosis:-						
(a) Whole Carcasses	4	1	2	1	4	12
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	175	8	2	-	24	209
2. Tuberculosis only:-						
(a) Whole Carcasses	15	1	-	-	4	19
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	70	-	-	-	3	73
3. Weights:-						
		Tons.	Cwts.	Stones.		Lbs.
(a) Diseases except tuberculosis	2	13	1			8
(b) Tuberculosis only		7	16	4		8½
Total:-		10.	9	6		2½

#### SECTION F.

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Whooping Cough occurred in a number of cases but on the whole there was little infectious disease.

Cases of scabies occurred sporadically.

These cases can be attributed to the temporary influx of population.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation was undertaken by local Medical Practitioners privately and at the schools.

From January 1st - December 31st 1942 the following children received a full course:-

	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 &amp; over but under 15.</u>
	36	96
Estimated population	252	525
Percentage immunised	21.31%	97.90%

Although the number of the higher age group immunised was satisfactory, the number under 5 was definitely low.



Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Total deaths.</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Measles	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	12	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-

An analysis of the Total Notified Cases.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>
0 -	-	-	-	1
1 -	-	-	-	2
2 -	-	-	-	2
3 -	-	-	-	-
4 -	-	-	-	2
5 -	-	-	1	4
10 -	-	-	-	1
15 -	-	-	-	-
20 -	1	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	-
65 & over.	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age periods.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTE:-

SECTIONS C, D & E are taken from the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

