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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

CARL BURNS M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

AND

**SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

JOHN SNOWDON M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1966


<del>1. Dr. Didsbury</del>	<del>G.407</del>
<del>2. Mr. Morley Parry</del>	<del>A.429</del>
<del>3. Mr. Perry</del>	<del>A.405</del>





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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1966

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Vice-Chairman : Cllr. K.H. Bond, M.C.

Cllr. E. Ackroyd.

Cllr. Dr. A.B. Miller, M.B., M.R.C.P.

Cllr. A.W. Bath.

Cllr. A.M.H. Redmayne.

Cllr. C.W. Curl.

Cllr. V.E. Truss.

Cllr. I.J. Fulton.

Cllr. H.C. Williamson, M.B.E., J.P.

Cllr. E.F.E. Howard.

Cllr. J.B.A. Willis.

Cllr. A.W. Hunt.

Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn.

Cllr. Mrs. P.W. Jennery.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman : Cllr. C.W. Curl.

Cllr. A.W. Bath.

Cllr. Dr. A.B. Miller.

Cllr. E.F.E. Howard.

Cllr. A.M.H. Redmayne.

Cllr. A.W. Hunt.

Cllr. H.C. Williamson, M.B.E., J.P.

Cllr. Mrs. P.W. Jennery.

Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

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1966

G. Cust, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health. (Resigned 3.9.66.)
C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health. (Appointed 7.11.66.)
J. Snowdon, M.A.P.H.I.	Senior Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.
G.T. Chaplin, M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Housing Manager.
P.D. Wright.	Student Public Health Inspector.
R. Sturman.	Housing Assistant.
Miss M. Saunders.	Typist.
E.A.C. Faram.	Rodent Operative.



Divisional Health and Welfare Office,  
Bleak House,  
St. Albans,  
Herts.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector on the health of Harpenden for the year 1966.

This is my first Annual Report and as I did not take up my appointment until almost the end of the year my comments on it must necessarily be brief. I must, however, pay tribute to the work of my predecessor Dr. George Cust and in addition express my gratitude to all those members of the staff who did so much to ease my task in taking up my new duties.

I am very pleased to say that the health of the residents continues to be satisfactory. The major causes of death are those diseases which are common to all western urbanised societies, namely diseases of degeneration; cardiovascular diseases and the cancers.

The work of the Health Department involves many people and I would like to thank all those people on whose co-operation we rely, our medical colleagues, both in general practice and hospital services, our colleagues in local government and in the schools, central government departments and the public of Harpenden. I would like to record my thanks to the staff of the department, Dr. O'Reilly and the other Medical Officers, Mr. Snowdon and his staff in Harpenden and Mr. Jewell and the staff of the Divisional Health Office, for all their work and help throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for all the consideration you have given me and the members of my staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant

CARL BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	21,390
Area in Acres	3,157
Number of Inhabited houses on the rate books	
Dwelling Houses (including caravans)	7,100
Shops with living accommodation	58
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	25
Rateable Value	£1,224,055
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,210

Vital Statistics.

Live Births

Number	389
Rate per 1,000 population	18.2

Illegitimate Live Births

Number	16
Rate % of total live births	4.1

Stillbirths

Number	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	10.2

Total live and stillbirths

393

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)

Number	-
Rate per 1,000 live births	-

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Number	-
Rate per 1,000 total live births	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Number	-
Rate per 1,000 total live births	-

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	10.2

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

-

Deaths

Number of deaths	198
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	9.2

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar has supplied 'Comparability Factors' to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

<u>Crude Birth Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Birth Rate</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Death Rate</u>
18.2	18.6	9.2	10.0

Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Crude Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
1948	9.3	18.1	11.7
1949	10.4	15.7	17.5
1950	9.3	13.3	25.5
1951	11.7	13.0	16.0
1952	9.1	12.8	42.5
1953	10.7	13.8	29.6
1954	3.4	14.6	4.6
1955	10.5	15.5	12.7
1956	10.5	16.1	7.9
1957	10.1	16.0	19.5
1958	10.6	19.0	25.5
1959	9.3	19.8	17.6
1960	9.9	20.7	27.8
1961	8.8	16.1	27.1
1962	9.4	18.1	14.5
1963	9.9	17.3	14.6
1964	8.5	19.0	5.2
1965	9.4	17.2	11.1
1966	9.2	18.2	-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-Natal Mortality Rate</u>
1961	6.7	23.6
1962	17.1	25.7
1963	17.2	28.7
1964	12.8	17.9
1965	16.4	24.7
1966	10.2	10.2



Causes of Death :

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	1	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	6	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	10	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	1
16. Diabetes.	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	11	14
18. Coronary Disease, angina.	29	23
19. Hypertension.	-	3
20. Other heart disease.	11	13
21. Other circulatory disease.	2	2
22. Influenza.	1	-
23. Pneumonia.	6	5
24. Bronchitis.	6	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	3	2
34. All other accidents.	2	2
35. Suicide.	3	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100	98
	<hr/>	<hr/>



## Vital Statistics 1966 - England and Wales.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

### Births

* Live births (per 1,000 total population)	17.7
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	15.4

\* (Second year since 1955 that births have fallen compared with the previous year.)

### Deaths

All causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.7
* Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	19.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.3
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	12.9
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	26.3

\* (Lowest ever recorded in this country).

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

### Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1966.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year are as follows :-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate per million population</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1,559	531	2,090	67	22	43
Other Tuberculosis	119	144	263	5	6	5
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	23,606	4,413	27,019	966	179	562
Other Cancer	35,959	45,164	81,123	1,537	1,830	1,687

## Commentary on Vital Statistics

### Births:

There were 389 live births in the area during 1966, giving a birth rate of 18.2 per thousand. This compares with 359 births in 1965, a birth rate of 17.2 per thousand. In 1964 the birth rate was the highest for 4 years whereas in 1965 the birth rate dropped below the national birth rate of 18.0. In 1966, the birth rate was higher than the national rate. There were 4 stillbirths in 1966, giving a stillbirth rate of 10.2, compared with 6 stillbirths and a stillbirth rate of 16.4 in 1965. There were no infants who died under the age of 1 year.

### Table 1.

#### Infant Mortality.

There were no infant deaths in 1966 and the 4 stillbirths give a peri-natal mortality rate of 10.2, compared with 24.7 last year.

Overall, these figures for these vital statistics are very satisfactory when compared with the national figures. With such small figures the slight differences from year to year are so small that they are most likely due to chance, although the infant mortality rate of zero gives particular satisfaction.

### Deaths.

There is nothing special about the individual causes of death. Disease of the heart and arteries, and cancers are the two most common groups of diseases which caused death in Harpenden, as they did in the rest of England and Wales. The most common single cause of death was, once again, coronary artery disease, causing 52 deaths (29 in men and 23 in women). An analysis of these deaths is shown in the table following :-

Table 2.

<u>25-35</u>		<u>35-45</u>		<u>45-55</u>		<u>55-65</u>		<u>65-75</u>		<u>75 +</u>		<u>Total</u>	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	-	-	-	5	-	5	4	12	4	7	15	29	23

The present stage of medical research would lead us to believe that this is one of the preventable diseases. This disease causes death more commonly, and at an earlier age, in men than in women; in those who are obese and overeat; take insufficient exercise; smoke cigarettes and are subjected to mental stresses and strains.



Table 3.

Cancers.

42 people died of cancers, 19 men and 23 women. The ages of death for both men and women for the various sites of the cancers, compiled from local records, are shown in Table 3 set out below :-

<u>Site</u>		Under 34	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 +	Total
Oesophagus	Male	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Caecum	Male	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	Male	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
	Female	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Lung	Male	-	-	3	4	-	1	8
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	Female	1	-	3	-	1	1	6
Bladder	Male	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ovary	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	Male	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prostate	Male	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Uterus-Cervix	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pancreas	Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Others	Male	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
	Female	1	-	-	3	-	1	5

There was a decrease in the number of lung cancer deaths in 1966 as compared with 1965. I think everyone is now well aware of the links between this disease and cigarette smoking.

It is worth drawing your attention to the one death from cancer of the cervix, a subject about which there has been a great deal of publicity, as compared with the 6 deaths from cancer of the breast.



Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

	<u>No. of Cases.</u>
Scarlet Fever	13
Measles	126
Infective Hepatitis	9
Erysipelas	4
Food Poisoning	3
Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

Food Poisoning.

There were three cases of food poisoning notified during the year; these were three suspect cases, all in one family, and no cause was found.

Tuberculosis.

During 1966 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the Urban District :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 ..	-	1	-	-	-	1
45 - 64 ..	-	1	1	-	1	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	2	1	-	1	2

During the year there were 2 respiratory male cases transferred in and 8 cases (5 male and 3 female) were removed from the register. The state of the Tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1966, was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
67	19	6	11	103

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics :

The County Council Child Welfare Clinics are held at 40, Luton Road every Wednesday afternoon, the Doctors being in attendance at each session and at Batford Junior School on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons. An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held at the Methodist Church Hall, Southdown Road every Friday afternoon, with the Doctor in attendance on the second and fourth Fridays.

The Ophthalmic, Dental and Speech Therapy Clinics are held at 40, Luton Road, by appointment.

This arrangement is working very well. At Batford we are deeply indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. G. Rees, for his helpful co-operation.

The extensions and alterations to the main Health Centre at 40, Luton Road have now been completed.

Hospitals :

The Harpenden Memorial Hospital forms part of the Luton and Hitchin Group administered by the Management Committee under the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Four House Committees have been appointed by the Management Committee, one of which is concerned with this hospital, and for the purpose, the hospital is linked with Welwyn and Stevenage.

Statistics :                      Year ended 31st December, 1966.

Bed Complement	Geriatric	8	
	Surgical and Medical	9	
	Maternity	11	28

(The reduction in the bed complement is due to the hospital no longer having a Children's Ward.)

Average daily number of occupied beds			19.8
Admissions			703
Discharges			679
Deaths			35
Number of Births	Live	328	
	Stillbirths	-	
	Deaths	-	328

New Patients

Attendances

Physiotherapy Dept:

In-patients	411	855
Out-patients	554	5,998
Casualty Department:	1,132	1,201
Specialist Consultations:	988	2,141
Out-patients treated by General Practitioners	151	156



REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourteenth report on the work of the Public Health and Housing Department. During the year 1966, no major public health problems arose, although all normal routine work of the department was carried out.

I can now say that all the initial inspection work under the provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, has been completed and all occupiers of premises have been made fully aware of their responsibilities under the Act. One prosecution was taken under the Act and it did show the necessity for supervising and instructing a young person when using a machine liable to cause bodily injury.

In the field of Housing, I must comment on the total number of applicants; over 300; still seeking Council accommodation and there has been no falling off in the number of new applications received annually for many years. This, I think, shows the necessity for the Council to continue providing housing accommodation to satisfy a need which cannot apparently be met in any other way.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for the keen interest taken in the work of the Department and for their friendly and close support at all times.

In addition, I must thank the members of my staff for their assistance in preparing the statistical information for the Report and for their help in running the Department.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts	Primary Inspections	173
	Re-visits	190
	Visits to:-	
	Houses	265
	Moveable Dwellings	14
	Business Premises	53
	Other Premises	31
	Visits re:-	
	Repairs	93
	Drainage	78
	Infectious Diseases	54
	Disinfestations	22
	Smell Nuisances	42
	Other Nuisances	74
Housing Acts		121
Rent Acts		4
Rodent Control	(By Rodent Operative)	1,827
.. ..	(By P.H.I.)	5
Factories Act		97
Petroleum Acts		50
Pet Animals Act		2
Animal Boarding Establishment Act		1
Shops and Offices Act		327
Food Hygiene		217
	Visits to:-	
	Bakers and Confectioners	24
	Butchers	17
	Cafes and Canteens	67
	Chemists	5
	Dairies	3
	Fish Shops	6
	General Stores and Grocers	58
	Greengrocers	15
	Licensed Premises	22
		-----
		<u>3,014</u>
		=====



## GENERAL SANITATION

### Complaints :

During the year 486 complaints of all types were received and the majority were perfectly straight forward matters which could be successfully resolved without difficulty. For example, 301 complaints were regarding infestations by rats and mice and 122 concerned wasps' nests.

The number of complaints from occupiers of tenanted property continues to be very small indeed, since it seems that the more affluent tenant nowadays very seldom has reason to complain about the short-comings of his landlord. It is, of course, a fact that the number of privately rented properties in the district is still rapidly diminishing as more and more tenants are themselves able to realize the advantages of becoming property owners.

It is perhaps fortunate that no evidence has been found of multi-occupation of dwelling houses where conditions give rise to complaints from the tenants.

### Water Supply :

The water supply for the whole area is supplied by a private undertaking, the Colne Valley Water Company, whose headquarters are at Watford but the local office and pumping station have been retained under the control of an Area Engineer.

The supply of water, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, is obtained from two boreholes, one in Shakespeare Road and one at East Hyde, which is just outside the District. The raw supply at both boreholes is chlorinated as a precautionary measure and very few complaints are now received as to taste or contamination.

Samples taken during the year were as follows :-

Bacteriological - main supply .. .. 41

Results in all cases were satisfactory. The degree of hardness is in the region of 25 and is such that no difficulties arise from plumbo-solvent action. Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply, direct to the house.

### Sewerage :

The majority of properties in the district enjoy main drainage facilities and the sewage is treated at one main sewage works under the control of the Council's Surveyor.



In view of the rapid growth of the district in post war years, the sewage works has been extended from time to time in order to cope adequately with the increased load and the effluent, which is discharged into the River Lea, has continued to be found satisfactory. Now, however, it has become necessary to remodel the sewage works completely and Consultants were engaged to design modifications and large scale extensions to cater for the anticipated further growth of the district. Work commenced early in 1965 and when it is completed, in about a years time, the difficulties which have arisen from time to time with sludge treatment and disposal should be overcome.

The total quantity of sewage treated at the sewage works was 345,991,000 gallons compared with 308,841,000 gallons in 1965 and 272,045,000 gallons five years ago.

#### Drainage and Cesspools :

78 visits were made for the purposes of testing and checking existing drainage systems, including cesspools.

There are 49 cesspools in use which serve scattered small groups or single properties and although it may be possible to connect some of these properties to main drainage in due course, the majority will remain out of reach of the public sewers for some time. The arrangements whereby the St. Albans Rural District Council empty cesspools in the area were continued and during the year 35 emptyings were carried out. Difficulties do from time to time arise by the failure of property owners to appreciate that adequate notice must be given that a cesspool will require to be emptied. The Council bear the cost of one emptying of a cesspool each year for premises not within reach of the Council's sewers.

#### Common Lodging Houses :

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

#### Public Swimming Bath :

The Council's open air swimming pool in Rothamsted Park, which was opened in 1960, continues to be an outstanding amenity. The use made of the pool increases every year and by constant and adequate supervision no conditions detrimental to public health arose. The water, which circulates continuously, is treated by pressure sand filters followed by break-point chlorination, together with the requisite chemical dosing to maintain pH at the correct level. The installation of an electric heating system to maintain the water at about 68°F. has been very worthwhile.



Twice daily tests to ascertain the pH, free, residual and combined chlorine were carried out at the pool and in addition 27 bacteriological samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results in each case.

#### Paddling Pools:

A constant check was kept upon the Council's two paddling pools and 18 bacteriological samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories. It is extremely difficult to ensure that the water in the paddling pools is kept to a high standard of bacterial purity at all times, particularly in view of the excessive use, especially at weekends and public holidays during the summer months, and the impracticability of installing proper equipment to dose the water regularly.

The number of small children in and around the pool on a fine weekend has to be seen to be believed and, therefore, every effort is made to dose the pools regularly with a chlorinating agent and to remove stones, glass and other articles which could cause personal injury. Paddling pools may be a great attraction for small children but from a public health view point they present numerous problems.

#### Moveable Dwellings:

There are two caravan sites in the district; one is privately owned and licensed for sixteen caravans and the other is owned by the Council and provides accommodation for twelve caravans. Both sites are in situations where they do not impair local amenities and they do help to satisfy a local demand.

Both sites are provided with proper roadways, flush toilets, chemical closet disposal units, laundry facilities and electricity supplies to each caravan.

#### Notices:

The following notices were served during the year. Compliance was effected without the need for instituting legal proceedings.

+ Informal notices served during the year	97
Informal notices complied with by owners during the year	93
Formal notices served during the year	1
Formal notices complied with by owners during the year	Nil
+ Excluding notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.	

### Rodent Control :

The extermination of rats and mice is carried out as a free service to the occupiers of private premises. A charge is made in respect of business premises at an hourly rate to cover the cost of labour, materials and administration.

301 complaints concerning infestations by rats and mice were received and dealt with and treatment was carried out at 377 properties. For this purpose 1,832 visits were made and 101 dead rats were found.

The Council employ one Rodent Operative (Mr. E.A.C. Faram) for this work.

### Council Properties :

Careful supervision of the Council's Depots and Stores was maintained during the year and any infestation of the Sewage Works or Refuse Tip was dealt with by the Manager and the Rodent Operative. Improvements in the method of operating the refuse tip have assisted considerably in checking rodent infestations, and the situation should be considerably improved when the tip is completely out of use in the near future.

### Wasps' Nests :

122 complaints were received of wasps' nests and these were treated by the Rodent Operative.



FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act :-

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	2	2	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	59	95	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworker's premises):	42	4	Nil	Nil
	<u>101</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

2. Cases in which defects were found.

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



Part VIII of the Act

Home Work - Section 133.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers in August list required by S. 133 (1) (c).</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.</u>
<u>Wearing apparel.</u>			
Making etc.			
Cleaning and Washing.	9	Nil	Nil
All other types of home work	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Total:</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

All are employed by firms outside  
the district

Home Work - Section 134.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
All types of home work	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Total:</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

At the beginning of the year 254 premises were registered under the provisions of the Act and, of these, 115 were known to comply fully with all the requirements.

During the year 13 new registrations were made but 23 registrations lapsed for various reasons, leaving a total of 244 registered premises at the end of 1966. All these premises have now received an initial inspection and many have had subsequent general inspections. 153 full inspections were made during the year.

New registrations have been secured, where applicable, but the general public are not, as yet, aware of their obligations to register. It has, therefore, been necessary for the appointed inspectors to maintain vigilance and investigate changes of occupancy, changes of use and new business premises.

The most common contraventions found continued to be the lack of correct first aid boxes and thermometers. The other two common contraventions again proved to be lack of a constant supply of running hot water and no artificial lighting provided in the sanitary accommodation, but such contraventions were, of course, restricted to the few premises which had not previously had a general inspection. By December 1966 premises were known to comply fully with all the requirements of the Act.

A large number of 'follow up' visits were made and in only a very few cases was difficulty experienced in securing compliance. In some instances the Act expedited alterations or renovations which were previously contemplated by employers and several of the outstanding notices will be cleared when building work has been completed early in 1967. In no case has it yet been necessary to institute legal proceedings to secure compliance with the general provisions of the Act.

Measurements taken in each of the premises receiving a general inspection have shown standards of lighting to be reasonably adequate in rooms where persons are required to work. No cases of excessive glare were found.

### Notification of Accidents.

Three accidents were reported, all of which were non-fatal, and were as follows :-

Bruising	...	2
Cuts	...	1



The two accidents causing bruising did not appear to have been caused by any contraventions of the Act and no investigation was made in these cases. However, from the information received regarding the cut, it seemed probable that there had been a contravention of the Act and a full investigation was carried out. It was found that a female employee, aged seventeen years, on her first day of employment as a counter hand at a cooked meats counter of a Supermarket had cut the top and side of her thumb whilst using a power operated meat slicing machine four hours after commencing her duties. She subsequently required hospital treatment. It seemed apparent that the employee had not been properly supervised. Although a guard was provided on the machine the girl had failed to use it and had used her hand to press the meat which she was slicing up against the cutting blade of the machine.

Proceedings were, therefore, taken against her employers for permitting her to work at a machine to which Section 19 (2) of the Act applied without having complied with the requirements of Section 19 (1).

The Company pleaded guilty to the summons and were fined £20 with five guineas costs.

Further statistical information on the administration of this Act is given below :-

Table A.                      Registration and General Inspections.

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number of Premises Registered in year</u>	<u>Total Number of registered premises at 31.12.66.</u>	<u>General Inspections during year.</u>
Offices	4	71	31
Retail Shops	9	154	103
Wholesalers etc.	-	-	-
Caterers etc.	-	19	19
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	244	153

Table B.

Number of visits of all kinds  
by Inspectors to Registered Premises .. .. 298

Table C.

Analysis of Persons Employed  
in Registered Premises by Workplace.

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons Employed</u>
Offices	540
Retail Shops	694
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	13
Catering Establishments open to the Public	103
Canteens	12
Fuel Storage Depots	-
TOTAL	1,362
Total Males	523
Total Females	839

Table D.

Exemptions.

No applications for exemption certificates were received.

Table E.

Prosecutions.

1 prosecution was instituted.

Table F.

No. of Inspectors appointed - 2  
No. of other staff employed - Nil



## CONTROL OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### Meat Supply and Slaughtering Facilities :

No slaughterhouses have been used in the district since the war but adequate slaughtering facilities are available in surrounding districts. The demand from local butchers for such facilities is, however, very limited indeed and most retailers seem to rely on supplies of carcase meat from wholesale meat markets. A careful check has been kept on the vehicles used for transporting meat, together with the protective clothing worn by the meat handlers.

Arrangements are still in force whereby assistance in meat inspection duties would be given to the St. Albans Rural District Council should the necessity arise at any time.

The following meat and meat products were condemned during the year.

Calf	49 lb.
Poultry	84 lb.

### Food Inspections :

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and disposal by incineration or burying on the refuse tip was arranged in every case.

Tinned Fruit	4 lb.
Tinned Vegetables, Soup and Fish	6 lb.
Frozen Foods	532 lb.

The rather large quantity of frozen food surrendered is due to the breaking down of several cabinets in the district during the year.

### Poultry Inspection :

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

### Food Premises :

There are 150 food premises in the area which fall into the following general categories (in some cases there is more than one category in a single premises) :-

General Stores and Grocers	30
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	48
Bakers and Confectioners	29
Greengrocers	12
Butchers	12
Public houses, off licences etc.	31
Chemists	7
Fish Shops	6

15 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, preserved foods etc.

219 routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year with particular attention being paid to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

### Food Complaints :

17 complaints were received regarding food sold from shops in the district during the year. Each case was fully investigated and, where appropriate, written warnings were issued.

The number of food complaints still continues to increase from year to year but I feel this is due to higher standards rightly demanded by the public rather than any increase in the actual number of faulty or unsound products sold. In dealing with these complaints, however, one has to appreciate the difficulties of manufacturing and distributing large quantities of foodstuff and it is essential to maintain a fair balance between the interests of the consumer and the trader.

### Ice-Cream :

52 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and in each case the ice-cream is obtained from one of the well known large manufacturers. Practically all the ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-packed. No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.



The trend towards the sale of 'soft' ice-cream continues, particularly from mobile vehicles. Effective control of such vehicles continues to be exceedingly difficult since they mainly operate at weekends and holidays and are all based at premises outside the urban district.

51 visits were made to premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and 3 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for examination, with the results set out below :-

<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
Cone	1	1	1	-	3
	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	1	-	3
	=	=	=	=	=

#### Milk and Dairies :

There are in the district 15 registered distributors of milk and one registered dairy, although no milk is actually processed or bottled in Harpenden. Milk is supplied from three large plants in adjoining areas and only heat treated milk is now sold within the district.

#### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963 :

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been taken during the year.

HOUSING

Number of new houses and flats erected during the year :

(a)	By the Local Authority	..	..	54
(b)	By private enterprise	..	..	302
				356
				356

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(i)	a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	..	..	93
	b. Number of inspections made for the purpose = = =	..	..	247
(ii)	a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.	..	..	-
	b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	-
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	6
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	79

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	..	51
---	----	----	----



3. Action under Statutory Powers:

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. -

(ii) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :

(a) By Owners .. -

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. -

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 79

(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :

(a) By Owners .. -

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. -

Housing Act, 1957 :

During the year 28 families were rehoused from properties in or adjoining Clearance Areas and 12 properties were demolished. Since the programme for dealing with sub-standard property was commenced in 1955, 73 houses have actually been demolished, 35 of these since 1964, when a start was made on clearing the Heath Road area.

Rent Act, 1957 :

One application for the issue of a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year and this was approved.

Since the Act came into force, only 29 tenants of rent controlled property have applied for Certificates of Disrepair and it would appear that landlords, with the benefit of increased rents, have been able to carry out essential repairs with the result that tenants generally have not needed to seek the assistance of the local authority.

It is known that many tenants have been able to purchase their properties as sitting tenants and, with present day trends, the number of rented houses in the district continues to diminish, apart from those owned by the Local Authority.



## HOUSING MANAGEMENT

During the year a further 54 units of accommodation were provided, consisting of 6 houses and 3 old peoples' dwellings at Oakley Road, 44 flats on the Heath Road site and 1 additional house for a Council employee at the Sewage Works.

The total number of housing units owned by the Council is as follows :-

Houses	671
Flats	253
Old Peoples' Dwellings	56
	<hr/>
	980
	<hr/> <hr/>

It is encouraging that at last substantial progress was made in clearing sub-standard houses in the Heath Road area. This area was obviously 'ripe' for redevelopment, although the acquisition of property and resettling of the occupants elsewhere, presented many problems.

To many people who have lived in cottage type houses for some period of time, modern dwellings are at first an unattractive proposition, but it is surprising how quickly they accept a new environment once the effort of actually moving has been overcome.

It is to be hoped that completion of the redevelopment of the Heath Road area will not be long delayed and now that practically all the original occupants have been rehoused, all the remaining new dwellings to be built on the site will be available for general allocation to applicants on the waiting list.

The following visits and inspections were made in the performance of duties in connection with housing management :-

To Applicants	51
Maintenance	2,741
Administration	54
Tenancies	107

117

Summary of Housing Applicants.

<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Active List</u>	<u>Deferred List</u>	<u>Total</u>
Married Couples with children	90	35	125
Married Couples and Engaged Couples	53	35	88
Single Persons	26	11	37
Old Persons	68	-	68
	—	—	—
	<u>237</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>318</u>

The total number of housing applicants continues to exceed 300, although not every applicant can be said to be in dire need of accommodation. So many young people who marry in their 'teens can only look to the Council for a decent home in which to live, since house purchase is completely beyond their means.

The problem of under-occupation of existing Council properties is still far from solved and it is a problem which is now beginning to present itself in the immediate post-war houses, quite apart from the pre-war estates. Where a tenant will move to small flats it does, of course, release a house for a younger applicant with children, although the number of such tenants who will move is very small indeed.

There can be no doubt that there is every reason for the Council to continue building flats, houses and bungalows for people to live in, since even now it is unusual for an applicant to be rehoused in less than three years and often the waiting period is much in excess of this.

The system of allocating Council flats and houses solely on 'need' was continued successfully during the year and appears to be accepted by most applicants as being quite fair and reasonable.

During the year, in addition to the 54 new dwellings completed, a further 28 tenancies and 30 exchanges were arranged.



PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The provisions of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations are administered by the Department. 26 occupiers of filling stations, repair garages and other premises are licensed to store petroleum spirit and 50 visits were made to such premises during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. SNOWDON.

Senior Public Health  
Inspector

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE
1. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
2. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
3. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
4. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
5. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
6. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
7. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
8. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
9. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W
10. SWANSON, J.	30	M	W

The provisions of the Probation Act and Regulations are administered by the Department. 20 officers of filing stations, 100 officers of probation stations and other personnel are licensed to serve probation officers and 50 visits were made to each probation station during the period.

The Department is organized into three divisions: Administration, Investigation and Supervision. The Administration Division is responsible for the general management of the Department, including the preparation of reports and the maintenance of records. The Investigation Division is responsible for the investigation of cases and the preparation of reports. The Supervision Division is responsible for the supervision of probationers and the preparation of reports.

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