

[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Hexham U.D.C.

Contributors

Hexham (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1970

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 **The Urban District Council of Hexham**

ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

and

The Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1970

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

STAFF

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Medical Officer of Health

J. K. PATTERSON, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector

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Assistant Public Health Inspector

B. MAKEPEACE, S.M.A.P.H.I.
Student Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS, Clerk

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Hexham :*

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADY and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

There are a number of reasons why Annual Reports fail to arouse interest, some being personal to the writer and some to lack of material. When one looks back over the year much may have happened, but little of more than passing importance or worthy of comment. Another reason is the long delay between the end of the year and the appearance of the Report, due to the time that elapses before statistics are available from the central source. These statistics usually come to hand in May, but owing to the long postal strike interim figures appeared late, and the corrected figures were received only in July.

The ancient and historic town of Hexham is too well-known to require detailed description every year, and it has not changed to any appreciable degree since the last Annual Report. The town has managed to adapt itself to modern conditions without sacrificing its charm and dignity, much of which depend on the preservation of old buildings and on the abundance of open spaces.

The Report for 1969 went into detail about the duties and responsibilities of the Health Department, and these do not require repetition. The estimated mid-year population in 1970 showed a reduction of 70, but there were a few more births than deaths. The birth rate and death rate are both marginally below the national average, while the infant mortality rate is 14.1 per 1,000 live births compared with 18.0 per 1,000 for England and Wales. The main causes of death were degenerative diseases of the heart and nervous system, and this is reflected in the fact that about half the deaths were of people aged 75 and over.

The only infectious diseases notified were one case of scarlet fever and 119 cases of measles. The high incidence of measles is a disappointment now that it can be effectively prevented by vaccination, but during 1970 vaccine was in short supply owing to the withdrawal of the product of one manufacturer, and for a variety of reasons parents were less ready to accept the protection it offered than they have been to welcome other vaccines. Rubella vaccination, offered to

schoolgirls for the first time, was however more acceptable. Two cases of tuberculosis were notified, with no deaths.

In 1969 it was necessary to serve a notice under the Milk and Dairies Regulations requiring satisfactory heat treatment prior to sale in respect of one dairy herd. The herd has now been sold, and untreated milk is no longer available from this source. The other producer-retailer in Hexham has now an accredited herd under the brucellosis eradication scheme. Untreated milk is brought into the town from a producer in the country, and this has been subjected to monthly examination for *Brucella abortus* with negative results.

No houses were built by the Council during 1970, but work was begun on the sheltered accommodation at St. Cuthbert's Close. This will provide 41 flats for the frail elderly and handicapped, with the benefits of central heating and supervision by a warden, and will be a most useful addition to the housing needs of the elderly. It has been shown that the heating arrangements in bungalows for old people was inadequate, and central heating is being provided.

Mains water of satisfactory quality and quantity is supplied to almost the whole District, and while the water is of low plumbo-solvency it has a low content of natural fluoride. That part of the town served by the Gunnerton supply has water brought up to the recommended level of 1 part per million of fluoride. Regular water sampling is undertaken both by the Company and the Health Department, and any remedial action is taken promptly by the Company. Proposed and private supplies, which are few in number, remain the responsibility of the Health Department.

The recently built sewage treatment works are still not considered adequate, and a second firm of outside consultants are investigating the works and the sewerage system of the town. Their report has not yet been received.

The whole Council act as the Health Committee, and my thanks are due to them for their interest and support. I have to thank the Clerk and other officers for their co-operation, and the staff for another satisfactory year's work.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,932
Estimated Population	9,860

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	73	61	134
Illegitimate	3	4	7
			141

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			2

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.2
Total Live and Still Births	143
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.37
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	14.0
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. .	16.0
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births	13.0

DEATHS :

Total deaths	124
Total infant deaths	2
Infant deaths under four weeks	1
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants	2
Illegitimate infants	Nil
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	14.1
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	18.0
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 Legitimate births	14.9
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	Nil

Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	7.0
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births	7.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	20.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.9
Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	29
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages)	11.1
Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population (all causes and ages)	11.7

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

	Male	Female
0—1	1	1
1—4	—	—
5—14	—	—
15—24	—	—
25—34	—	—
35—44	—	1
45—54	5	5
55—64	13	8
65—74	23	8
75 and Over	19	40
	61	63

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm,—buccal cavity etc.	1	—
—stomach	3	—
—intestine	4	3
—lung, bronchus	2	1
—breast	—	3
—uterus	—	1
—leukaemia	—	1
Other malignant neoplasms	6	4
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Multiple sclerosis	—	1
Other diseases of nervous system	—	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	—
Hypertensive disease	1	—
Ischaemic heart disease	14	15
Other forms of heart disease	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	9	15
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Peptic ulcer	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	1
Other diseases of digestive system	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	—	1
Congenital anomalies	1	—
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	—
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1
All other accidents	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	—	1
All causes	61	63
TOTAL	124	

INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1970

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	Total Deaths Under 1 year
Birth injury, difficult labour ..	1	1
Pneumonia.. ..	—	1
	1	2

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1950	16.0	13.7	53.0
1951	14.1	13.6	38.2
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3
1959	15.8	12.06	40.6
1960	15.9	12.4	6.6
1961	13.7	13.9	15.3
1962	14.3	12.9	7.2
1963	13.9	12.2	22.2
1964	15.3	11.3	20.2
1965	14.4	11.5	21.4
1966	15.8	12.6	19.5
1967	17.8	11.7	—
1968	14.9	12.9	33.4
1969	11.9	13.5	54.0
1970	15.2	11.1	14.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1970

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upward	Age not known
Scarlet Fever ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	119	1	6	40	71	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	120	1	6	40	72	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1970:

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL**

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total Cases—Nil. Total Deaths— Nil.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks—Nil.. Total Cases—Nil. Total Deaths—Nil.

SINGLE CASES :

Agent identified—Nil. Unknown cause—Nil. Total—Nil.

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required owing to illness or confinement and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee.

4. Local Authority Clinics

The following Clinics are held in the district :

Child Welfare Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Friday, 9-30 a.m. — 12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Second and third Tuesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.
— 4 p.m.

First, second and third Wednesdays in every month,
1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Women's Advisory Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.
Fourth and fifth Wednesdays in each month, 2 p.m.
— 4 p.m.

Relaxation Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.
Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

(Mr. J. K. PATTERSON)

The following pages summarise the work of the public health inspectors in the health department.

As was said in the last annual report, much of the work carried out is of a routine but undoubtedly very necessary nature, and in many cases is not capable of receiving the recognition it deserves in a report such as this.

Once again a generally satisfactory picture obtains at the end of the year's working. Credit should be given to the many traders and others who have co-operated with the department's officials in the workings of the many and varied Acts and Regulations. Lectures were again given to groups of people on hygienic food handling. It is of interest to note the greatly increased interest and concern by the average housewife in this subject. Many individual calls for advice are received in the department and this is always readily given with follow-up investigations if required.

Leisure pursuits are always in the news and again the need for these has been felt by the department in another caravan site application, which being for some one hundred caravans, will, if granted, bring the total site availability to some four hundred which represents a population of 1,600, being approximately 17% of the total population of the town. This increase in the numbers enjoying and using the facilities provided is a welcome addition to the life of the community, several traders having passed comment on the fact that these additional customers contribute in no small measure to the business community in general.

The Council's abattoir continues to be well used by the trade and is responsible for supplying the major proportion of the meat for the town and surrounding district.

The use of mufflers on pneumatic drills is now insisted upon and the various users of this equipment have co-operated readily in almost all cases to the benefit of the residents.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces	127
Milk and Dairies	17
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions	21
New Constructions	35
Defective	8
Water Supply	29
Food Premises	570
Slaughter House	589
Caravan Control	73
Clean Air	8
Offensive Trades	—
Visits, Public Health Acts	345
Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act	148
Noise Abatement Act	31
TOTAL	2,001

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

All drains are tested by smoke or by hydraulic test.

Total length of 4" drain	984 ft.
" " 6" "	210 ft.
New properties	6
Improvements to existing properties.. .. .	29

Sanitary conveniences

Additional baths provided	..	..	..	23
Additional sinks provided	..	..	..	23

Notifiable Diseases

Routine visits were paid to all cases of infectious diseases notified to the department, and the necessary action taken.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the district.

Disinfestation

No cases arose during the year where it was found necessary to carry out full scale disinfection.

Spraying of the Council's refuse tip at Frankham was carried out during the period April to August, and a satisfactory degree of control was achieved.

A small number of complaints were received from householders in regard to the domestic fly. Advice and guidance were given. In one or two cases the garden refuse dump was found to be the source of trouble. After suitable precautions were taken the nuisance abated.

Swimming Pool

The one privately owned swimming pool used by members of the public continued to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. Two samples of water were obtained and both were reported upon as satisfactory.

Water Supply

The public supply is administered by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and no problems arose during the year. Hexham is fortunate in having a sufficient and wholesome supply of water and one which gives little concern to this Department. The ready co-operation of the Water Company officials when asked for is greatly appreciated.

Regular sampling of the supply is undertaken, the public health laboratory, Newcastle, being responsible for the analyses. The Company also makes regular checks, the results of both being shewn in the tables following.

Number of samples collected by the department .. 29

Number of samples collected by the Water Company 24
all of which were found to be of satisfactory quality.

During the year the Cemetery and the Superintendent's house were connected to the public supply following recommendations by the department in regard to the original supply, from a spring, being suspect.

The other private supplies continue to be checked periodically and a satisfactory standard has been maintained.

Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

Samples taken at			<i>Gunnerton</i>	<i>Ladle Wells</i>
pH Value	..	..	7.0	7.4
Colour..	..	..	3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity	..	..	0	0
Hardness	..	..	64	26
Alkalinity	..	..	32	45
Chloride	..	..	14	9
Sulphate	..	..	30	14
Ammonia	..	..	.06	.02
Iron ..	..	..	.02	.05
Manganese	..	..	< .05	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed	..	..	.04	0
Fluoride	..	..	0.1 average 0.2 max.	0.1 max.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The 103 food premises within the district have been systematically visited during the year and the standard of hygiene remains satisfactory.

The tendency towards multiple trading has again continued and the number of small food premises continues to shrink. Those that remain appear to fill a need and do so in a very satisfactory manner in the majority of cases. The larger food stores in the town have almost entirely been fully modernised to the advantage of all concerned.

Several of the licensed premises have, following the national trend, been refitted internally and this has permitted the installation of additional facilities to assist in the hygienic operating of the premises concerned.

The following table details the food premises within the district :—

Type of Business	Total No.	No. complying with Reg. 16	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses.. ..	6	6	6	6
Butchers	10	10	10	10
Grocers	19	19	19	19
Catering				
Establishments ..	21	21	21	21
Public houses ..	10	10	—	—
Greengrocers ..	7	7	7	7
Wet fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Fried fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Ice-cream dealers/ sweets	18	18	—	—
Confectioners ..	6	6	6	6

Ice-Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are 3 registered manufacturers in the district, one of which has a heat treatment plant. The other two rely on cold mix type manufacture. All three plants are regularly visited and a high standard of hygiene has been maintained throughout.

There are 50 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and no cases of unsatisfactory handling occurred during the year.

Number of new registrations during the year	..	Nil
Number of samples collected		13

Results of examination :—

Grade 1	..	10
„ 2	..	1
„ 3	..	2
.. 4	..	—

Milk Special Designation Regulations 1960

The local dairy continues to serve the community in a very satisfactory manner, producing a consistently satisfactory product.

The County Health Department are responsible for the licensing of the heat-treatment plant and for the samples obtained. Close co-operation is maintained and is appreciated by all concerned. The following samples were collected :—

For methylene blue test		26
For phosphatase test		26
No failures were reported during the year.		

Brucellosis

Sampling of milk from the non-accredited producer retailer in the area was carried out in accordance with Circular 17/66 of the Department of Health. No positive samples were found. During the latter part of the year the producer retired from business. The remaining producer retailer is accredited under Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and no action has been required by this department.

Number of raw milk samples obtained for brucella investigation		10
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During the year 4 samples of untreated cream were submitted for bacterial examination. All were reported upon as satisfactory.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

(i)	Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district		Nil
(ii)	Number of samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test and their results		Nil
(iii)	Comments on the year's administration of these Regulations		—

Poultry Inspection

(i)	Number of poultry processing premises within the district	Nil
(ii)	Number of visits to these premises ..	Nil
(iii)	Total number of birds processed during the year	Nil
(iv)	Types of birds processed	Nil
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	Nil
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	Nil
(vii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection	Nil

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

These regulations continue to be satisfactorily operated. The stalls in the Council's open air market are visited regularly and where required the traders' attention is drawn to the relevant Sections. New traders are advised of their responsibilities when commencing trading.

Frequent checks are made to mobile shops. In the main these are operated by the larger firms and are found to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
				st.	lbs.	
Beef (Home-killed)	..			172	12	—
Beef (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Mutton (Home-killed)	..			54	1	—
Mutton (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Pork	..			14	12	—
Game..	..			—	—	—
Poultry	..			—	—	—
Veal ..	..			12	4	—
				lbs.	ozs.	
Fish ..	..			—	—	—
Fruit	..			—	—	—
Canned Goods (Meat)	..			5	15	—
" " (Assorted)	..			21	11	—
Bacon	..			—	—	—
Cheese	..			—	—	—
Butter	..			—	—	—
Lard	..			—	—	—
Eggs	..			—	—	—
Other Foods..	..			—	6	—
Frozen Foods	..			5	—	—

TOTAL : 254 st. 0lbs. 0ozs.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	1,440	22	13	5,045	1,643	8,163
Number not inspected ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	2	2	3	10	—	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	25	1	4	67	22	119
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci ..	1.87	13.54	53.84	3.05	1.22	
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
<i>C. Bovis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Generalised and totally condemned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Steers	Heifers	Cows Bulls	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Rams Ewes	Pigs	Sows Boars
131	1,309	22	13	4,993	52	1,539	104

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
Cows	lbs. Nil.	lbs. 781	lbs. 781
Other Animals ..	Nil.	5,730	5,730
TOTAL ..	Nil.	6,511	6,511

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Whole Carcasses condemned	5	3	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses or organs affected ...	48	39	33	9	14	7	—	2	1	1	—	—	
Percentage affected ...	7.8%	11.3%	9.5%	3.1%	5%	6.6%	—	3.0%	.72%	2.94%	—	—	—

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter 3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year the Council entered into a contract with a servicing company for the control of rats/mice and insect pests in all residential properties. This system has operated most efficiently and appears to be appreciated by the public.

In so far as trade premises are concerned, the department's advice and instruction is readily given in regard to pest control and in many cases suitable contracts have been agreed with the servicing company.

Tests during the year showed that there was no infestation of the sewerage system by rats.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	4,178	60
Total number of properties inspected following notification	91	1
Number infested by rats	38	1
Number infested by mice	4	—
Number of properties inspected other than by notification	12	—
Number infested by rats	1	—
Number infested by mice	2	—

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under this act it is an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by a local authority. It applies to market stalls as well as established premises.

Number of licences granted 2

AGRICULTURE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE (PROVISIONS), ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of this Act are administered by the local authority. There are 36 farms and holdings within the district.

The arrangements provided by the owners have been found to be satisfactory in relation to the size of the premises.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Under the provisions of this Act registration of dealers is carried out by the local authority, the Act being administered by the Police.

There are 8 registered dealers within the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act continues to be in general satisfactorily complied with. In the main only minor infringements are noted, these usually being through a misunderstanding or a breakdown in communications between staff and management.

Newly opened premises are visited within a short period of commencing trading, and as necessary the relevant requirements of the Act are explained to the person responsible.

The total number of registered premises remains constant, though the actual make-up of the total shows some change over the years.

Table A : Registrations and General Inspections

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number Newly registered during year	Total number at end of year	Number of general inspections
Offices	3	76	13
Retail shops	4	109	33
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	18	4
Fuel storage depots ..	—	1	—
Totals ..	8	206	51

Table B : Number of visits of all kinds 148

Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	430
Retail shops	724
Wholesale departments, warehouses ..	9
Catering establishments open to the public/canteens	88
Fuel storage depots	2
TOTAL :	1253
(Males 480 : Females 773)	

FACTORIES ACT, 1961**Inspections** (Including Inspections by Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	116	2	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	5	9	—	—
TOTAL ..	85	127	2	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	—	—

There are no Registered Outworkers within the district.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

The 40 sites licensed by the Council under the above Act continued to operate satisfactorily. No major problems arose during the year and all of the 328 available spaces were fully utilised during the season.

Towards the end of the year an application was received on behalf of the local racecourse operators for a touring only licence for caravans. This application together with a further application to develop a site for 105 vans, will if agreed to, bring the total available pitches up to 493, 60 of which would be limited to 72 hour users. There is no doubt that the explosive growth in this type of holiday is one which correctly supervised by this department, is of great advantage to both the caravaner and to the district in general, although the necessary control by the department's officers has added to the work being carried out.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

The trend towards the installation of gas-fired apparatus both in domestic and trade premises continued during the year.

In so far as houses owned by the Council were concerned, the conversion to gas was very marked. Towards the end of the year the Chareway modernisation scheme commenced. All these properties will on completion be completely smokeless, the majority being gas heated.

Advice and guidance has been given freely to both householders and business persons, the results of these efforts being no small contribution to the general improvement of the town's environment.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

The co-operation of all but a minority of users of pneumatic drills has now been obtained in that approved silencers are fitted, this now being a condition in the contract between the Council and any outside firm employed by them.

Whilst the public utility authorities are exempted by section 1 of the Act, they have in the main agreed to the use of mufflers on drills operated by them. During the year a pocket noise meter was obtained which has enabled a more accurate assessment of this type of nuisance to be made.

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1970

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	Nil	—	—
(b) By any other Author- ority	Nil	—	—
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	6	6

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District 3,477

Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority .. 1,080

Estimated Population 9,860

1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance Schemes	Nil
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas)	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	6
(3) Houses closed, including partial closure	2
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	2

2.—Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(1) As a result of informal action	18
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action	Nil
(3) By local authority on default of owners	Nil

3.—Inspection

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	53
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	17
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1949

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) <i>Discretionary</i> :	
Applications submitted to local authority	23
Applications rejected by local authority	2
Applications approved	21
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	251
(b) <i>Standard</i> :	
Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year	Nil
Total number to date	72

Housing Report

The following tables provide the statistical information in relation to the year 1970 :—

Total number of general purpose housing units that became available.. .. .	19
Total number of O.A.P. bungalows becoming available ..	11
All classes — GRAND TOTAL	30

Rehousing Details :

Number of families rehoused under points scheme	14
Number of families rehoused as special cases	5
Number of families rehoused as key workers	1
Number of families rehoused from tied tenancies/eviction ..	1
Number of applicants rehoused to O.A.P. bungalows	11
All classes — GRAND TOTAL	32

Number of refusals of tenancies from priority list applicants ..	7
Number of cases of overcrowding abated.. .. .	19
Number of cases of under-occupancy rehoused in smaller accommodation.. .. .	10
Number of tenants making mutual exchange arrangements ..	32
Number of new applications accepted on to the general housing list	46
Number of new applications accepted on to the O.A.P. housing list	10
Number of applicants on the general housing list	
(a) residing in the Urban District area	65
(b) residing outside the Urban District area	53
(c) of the total of Class (b) 21 have birth qualification ..	

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	118
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Number of applicants for O.A.P. housing	
(a) residing in the Urban District area	72
(b) residing outside the Urban District area	3
TOTAL	75

HOUSING ACT 1969

The powers contained in this Act have been used in conjunction with the engineer's department in persuading owners to modernise their property. It is still a difficult matter to persuade owners to carry out this work, though using the qualification certificate procedure, owners are increasingly realising the advantages of bringing their property up to the qualifying standard.

During the year seventeen qualification certificates were applied for. It is anticipated that after repairs in some cases, all the properties concerned will be up to the required standard and the necessary certificates issued.



