

[Report 1973-1974] / Medical Officer of Health, Hoddesdon U.D.C.

Contributors

Hoddesdon (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1974

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kb7vftu5>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

for the period

1st January, 1973,

to

31st March, 1974.



Hoddesdon Urban District Council



Annual Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

Under the Public Health Officers Regulations it was the duty of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector to submit an annual report of the work of the Health Department to the Council. Due to reorganisation no report was prepared for the Hoddesdon Urban District Council for the year 1973.

The following is the statistical information relating to Hoddesdon Urban District Council which would have been included in the Chief Public Health Inspector's part of the report. The information covers the period 1st January 1973 to 31st March 1974. Although the Public Health Officers Regulations have been repealed it is intended that in future years the Director of Environmental Health will submit an annual report on the work of the Department.

Members of Health and Housing Committee 1973-1974

Councillor C. W. H. Goldie (Chairman)
Councillor G. D. Barnes (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. J. E. E. Ball
Councillor A. J. Cooper
Councillor J. E. Gray
Councillor K. W. Gregory
Councillor J. R. Harrington
Councillor J. S. Hastings
Councillor K. A. Sandison
Councillor D. M. Sheath
Councillor D. C. Smith
Councillor R. C. Vincent J.P.

Staff of Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health

J. V. Earle M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.I.H., M.F.C.M.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

E. C. Howarth M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager

W. Scott M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.I.H.M.

District Public Health Inspectors

T. J. Price M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

C. V. Sparrow M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

G. W. Cockerill

Clerk/Typist

Mrs. M. Winter

Rodent Operative

H. Hutchings

(1)

F O O D

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The following table shows the numbers and categories of food premises in the Urban District subject to these regulations:-

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>
Supermarkets	5
Grocers	29
Greengrocers	10
Butchers	12
Fishmongers/Fried Fish Shops	7
Sweets and Confectionery	21
Bakehouses	4
Bread and Flour Confectionery	9
Cafes and Restaurants	17
Factory Canteens	12
School Canteens	19
Public Houses	17
Miscellaneous	21
Market Stalls	5
	<hr/>
TOTAL	188
	<hr/>

All food premises in the area were inspected during the period covered by this report and any infringements of the regulations pointed out either verbally or by letter. No prosecutions were taken under the regulations during the period. Any proposals for new food premises were carefully examined, both during the planning stage, and during construction. This ascertained that all food hygiene requirements in new premises were met.

Food Complaints

Numerous complaints concerning food were received and in certain cases legal proceedings were instituted as follows:-

A fish stick, one of a packet purchased from a local supermarket, was found to contain a fly. Legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturers who were convicted and fined £25 with £17.50 costs.

A faggot purchased from a local shop was found to contain a splinter of glass. Legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturers who were convicted and fined £25 with £17.50 costs.

A loaf of bread purchased from a local baker was found to contain a cigarette end. Legal proceedings were taken against the bakers who were convicted and fined £50 with £24 costs.

Rollmop herrings purchased from a local supermarket were found to contain glass splinters. Proceedings were taken against the supermarket who cross-summoned the Manager who was convicted and fined.

A cake purchased from a local baker was found to contain a used matchstick. Legal proceedings were taken against the baker who was convicted and fined £20 with £16 costs.

A currant bun purchased from a local supermarket was found to contain two pieces of glass. Legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturers who were convicted and fined £25 with £16 costs.

A fish finger, one of a pack purchased from a local freezer centre, was found to contain a piece of metal. Legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturers who were convicted and fined.

Other complaints concerning food were received and the following gives some indication of their nature:-

Insect in cut mixed peel.	Discoloured dough in loaf of bread.
Conveyor web in biscuit.	
Nail in sliced dried onions.	Wood splinters in loaf of bread.
Mouldy bread.	Canned broad beans decomposing.
Cement in bottle of milk.	Stone in breakfast cereal.
Plastic in chocolate eclair.	Dirty cream horns.
Mouldy Jaffa eclair.	Worm in salad sandwich.
Maggot in canned tomatoes.	Mouldy cream cheese.
Dirt in peas.	Mouldy skinless sausages.
Plastic in instant mashed potatoes.	Decomposing swede.
Fermenting canned fruit cocktail.	Wood in loaf.
Insects in flour.	Mouldy bread roll.
Mouldy cheese.	Decomposing tin of corned beef.
Grease adhering to side of loaf.	Fly in marmalade.
Stone in canned carrots.	Nail in frozen beans.
	Metal in sausage roll.
	Fibreboard debris in loaf of bread.

Every complaint was fully investigated and where necessary retailers, wholesalers or manufacturers were approached for their observations and comments. Warning letters were sent where appropriate.

Food and Drugs Act 1955 Section 16

18 premises were registered under the above section for the manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, and 50 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

13 premises were registered by the County Council for the sale of milk. Registration under these regulations is now the responsibility of Broxbourne Borough Council.

(2)

H O U S I N G

Housing Acts 1957 to 1969

9 houses were represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation.

In the case of 58 Rye Road, 72 Amwell Street, 29 Lord Street and 31 Lord Street, Closing Orders were made and in the case of 14, 16, 18 and 20 Ware Road and 14 Burford Place undertakings by the owners not to relet until the dwellings were rendered fit were accepted. Under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 a Notice was served for the compulsory improvement of 3 Southern Terrace, Nursery Road.

33 applications for standard grants were received and approved during the period 1st January 1973 to 31st March 1974 and improvement works were completed in 26 premises. £5,294 was paid in standard grants in the period.

5 applications for discretionary improvement grants were received and approved during the same period and improvement works were completed in 8 premises. £4,760 was paid in improvement grants.

(3)

O F F I C E S , S H O P S A N D
R A I L W A Y P R E M I S E S

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act requires that the Local Authority shall submit an annual report to the Department of Employment each year. The report for the year 1973 in respect of the Hoddesdon Urban District Council is given below:-

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. Prems Newly Reg. During Year</u>	<u>Total No. Reg.Premis. End Year</u>	<u>No.Reg.Premis. Rec. One/More Gen. Insp. During Year</u>
Offices	4	92	7
Retail Shops	5	188	51
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	-	7	6
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens.	-	16	7
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	303	71
	=	=	=

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises: 130

Analysis By Work Place of Persons Employed in Registered
Premises at End of Year

<u>Class of Work Place</u>	<u>Number of People Employed</u>
Offices	1106
Retail Shops	957
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	115
Catering Establishments open to the public	100
Canteens	13
Fuel Storage Depots	-
	<hr/>
TOTAL	2291
	<hr/>

Total males 1149 Total females 1142

Exemptions

Section 5 (2), Section 6 Temperature, Section 9 Sanitary Conveniences, Section 10 Washing Facilities: in each of these categories there were no current Exemption Certificates at 31st December. No exemptions were granted or extended during the year. There were no cases of employees opposing applications and no appeals against any refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted during the year. There were no complaints made under Section 22 of the Act and there were no interim orders granted.

Accidents

The number of registered premises and persons employed has remained fairly constant. 28 accidents were notified which represents a level similar to 1972. Every accident notified was investigated by a Public Health Inspector.

(4) F A C T O R I E S

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
Of The Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

Inspection For Purposes of Provision As To Health

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. On Reg.</u>	<u>No. Of Inspec.</u>	<u>No. Writ. Notices</u>	<u>No. Of Occrs. Prosetd.</u>
Factories in which S 1,2,3 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	2	2	-	-
Factories not included in above in which S 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	140	92	-	-
Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	6	-	-
TOTALS	<u>168</u>	<u>100</u>	-	-

In no cases were defects found.

There were 11 outworkers registered, 6 are in engaged in the making of wearing apparel and 5 are making cardboard boxes.

(5) W A T E R S U P P L I E S

Public Mains Supply

Hoddesdon Urban District is within the statutory area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board. All properties have an internal supply from the Board's mains except for a small number referred to below:-

1. (a) The supply was satisfactory both as to (i) quality, and (ii) quantity throughout 1973.
- (b) All new and repaired mains are disinfected with chlorine; after a predetermined period of contact the pipes are flushed out and refilled; samples of water are then collected from these treated mains; and the mains are returned to service only after the analytical results are found to be satisfactory.

The quality control from these laboratories is carried out by means of daily sampling from sources of supply, from the treatment works or well stations, from the distribution system, and through to the consumer. Any sign of contamination or any other abnormality is immediately investigated.

- (c) (i) The Board has no record of the number of structurally separate dwellings supplied in the area, but the population supplied direct according to the Registrar-General's estimates at 30th June 1973, was 27,144.
- (ii) No houses were permanently supplied by standpipe.
- (d) No artificial fluoride is being added, and where the fluoride content is indicated in the analyses it represents the naturally occurring fluoride in the water.

2. (a) The supply was derived from the following works and pumping stations:-

River Thames/Lee water from Coppermills works. Well water from Rye Common and Broxbourne.

No new sources of supply were instituted and there were no changes to the general scheme of supply in the area.

The number of samples collected and the bacteriological and chemical analyses of the supply from the above sources after treatment are shown on the following table.

- (b) On account of their hardness content and alkaline reaction the Board's river and well water supplies are shown to be not plumbic-solvent. It should, however, be appreciated that all types of water pick up varying amounts of metal from the material of water piping particularly when it is newly installed; this applies to copper, zinc, iron and also to lead.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - Water Examination Department

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS - YEARLY AVERAGES, 1973.

BEFORE TREATMENT

Source of supply	Number of samples	Agar plate count per ml		Coliform count		Escherichia coli count	
		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml	Count per 100 ml	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml	Count per 100 ml
Coppermills	1356	110.1	-	27.58	17.0	53.24	3.4
Broxbourne	234	45.1	672	1.28	157.3	8.12	48.1
Rye Common	247	7.2	44	92.31	0.4	95.95	0.3

AFTER TREATMENT

Source of supply	Number of samples	Agar plate count per ml		Coliform count	Escherichia coli count
		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C		
Coppermills	255	10.0	-	100.0	100.0
Broxbourne	251	15.7	313	100.0	100.0
Rye Common	251	16.8	38	100.0	100.0

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - Water Examination Department
AVERAGE RESULTS OF THE CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIED TO
HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Milligrammes per litre (unless otherwise stated) during 1973

Description of sample	Number of samples	Ammonical Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nitrate Nitrogen	Oxygen abs. from KMnO_4 4 hrs. at 27°C	Hardness (total) CaCO_3	Hardness (non carbonate) CaCO_3	Magnesium as Mg	Sodium Potassium as Na	Sodium Potassium as K	Chloride as Cl
Coppermills	51	0.049	0.100	8.7	1.24	282	84	6.0	37.1	7.5	50
Broxbourne	4	0.095	0.035	6.2	0.46	306	78	-	-	-	32
Rye Common	4	0.010	0.026	5.4	0.12	328	68	-	-	-	25
	Phosphate as PO_4	Silicate as SiO_2	Sulphate as SO_4	Natural Fluoride as F	Surface active material as Manoxol OT	Turbidity units	Colour (Burgess units)	pH value	Electrical conductivity (micromhos)		
Coppermills	4.3	10	66	0.18	0.04	0.2	9	7.8	610		
Broxbourne	-	-	-	0.22	-	0.6	7	7.3	590		
Rye Common	-	-	-	0.22	-	0.1	1	7.2	610		

Private Water Supplies

There are approximately 34 properties in the area where the water supply is derived from private wells. These include 14 industrial premises and two holiday caravan sites.

23 samples of well water were taken during the period and submitted to bacteriological examination. All the well water sampled were bacteriologically satisfactory. However, a proportion of the wells in the area supply water which is unsatisfactory. The owners have in the past been warned of the probable danger of drinking this well water.

(6) SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewage purification and disposal are undertaken at the Rye Mead Sewage Works after being pumped through a series of pumping stations scattered around the area.

In the more rural areas of the District where sewers are not available there are approximately 125 cesspools or septic tanks.

(7) COMPLAINTS

693 complaints were received during the period. The types of complaints received are as follows:

219 concerning rodents of which 87 were rats and 132 mice. All notifications were investigated and treatment carried out and advice given.

93 concerning insects including fleas, bed bugs, wasps, ants, flies, mites and several species of beetle. All notifications were investigated and treatment carried out or advice given.

130 concerning blocked drains. Hoddesdon Urban District Council operated a free drain clearing service and in most cases the drains were cleared. Where necessary advice was given.

40 concerning noise or smoke. Each complaint was investigated and appropriate action taken.

211 other complaints were received. Each was investigated and action taken or advice given as appropriate.

(8) L I C E N C E S

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928

There were 32 premises licenced to store petroleum spirit under the Act. These were all inspected before the licences were issued.

No accident or contravention occurred during the year.

Under the Local Government Act 1972 the issuing of petroleum licences and the administration of the Act became the responsibility of the County Council. Accordingly on the 1st April 1974 all files and records were handed over to the County Council Fire Brigade.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

One licence was issued for the keeping of a boarding establishment at premises in Wormley.

Pet Animals Act 1951

Two licences authorising the use of premises as pet shops were issued.

Riding Establishments Acts 1964/1970

Four establishments were inspected and licensed under the above Act during the year.

Game Act 1831

Licences to deal in game were issued to six shops in the district. These licences are now issued by the County Council.

Caravan Sites And Control Of Development Acts 1960/1968

One caravan site licence was issued during the period.

(9) SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INSPECTORS
VISITS, INSPECTIONS ETC.

Food And Drugs

	No. of Visits
Food Premises	378
Notifiable Infections	145
Food Complaints	61
Mobile Food Vehicles	37
Market Stalls	8
Imported Food	8

Housing

Disrepair	80
Individual Unfit	12
Clearance	9
Overcrowding	17
Improvement Grants	249
Qualification Certificates	59
Multi-Occupation	6

Offices, Shops And Railway Premises

Offices	25
Shops	75
Warehouses	6
Catering/Canteen	7
Visits	38

Factories

	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Factories	100

Public Health

Drains And Sewers	276
Dwelling Houses	8
Dustbins	10
Water Supplies And Samples	116
Dust Effluvia	16
Swimming Baths	12
Animals Kept	27
Offensive Accumulations	55
Ditches And Water Courses	9
Moveable Dwellings	3
Public Conveniences	13
Infectious Disease	5
Refuse Tips And Skips	49
Hairdressers	6

Other Enactments

Clean Air - Industrial	41
Clean Air - Domestic	33
Clean Air - Miscellaneous	35
Petroleum	163
Animal Boarding	1
Pet Animals	5
Riding Establishments	21
Caravans	26
Noise	87
Rodent Control	438
Sewer Treatment	22
Insects	85
Toxic Waste	2
Miscellaneous	229
Court Appearances	3

TOTAL	3126
-------	------



