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Kingsbridge Rural District Council



**REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
and  
**Chief Public Health Inspector**  
for the Year, 1969



KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1969.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246/7.

Statistics

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: T.A.J. FOWLER, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant: MRS. E.E. OSMAN

Medical Officer of Health's Central Office: AREA NO. 5 SOUTH WEST DEVON, PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL OFFICES, 8 PLYMBRIDGE ROAD, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH PL7 4LG.

TEL: PLYMOUTH 36644

Medical Officer of Health's Clerk: MISS G. PROWSE, TEL: PLYMOUTH 36644



# KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon  
Telephone: Kingsbridge 3245/7.

### STAFF

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.S.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of  
Health:

MARY E. HUBBARD, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc.,  
D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer  
of Health:

R. J. COLE, M.R.S.N., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health  
Inspector:

T. A. J. FOWLER, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public  
Health Inspector:

MRS. E. E. OSMAN

Clinical Assistant:

AREA NO. 2 SOUTH WEST DEVON,  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
8 KINGSBRIDGE ROAD,  
PLYMOUTH, PLYMOUTH PL7 4LG.

Medical Officer of  
Health's Central  
Office:

TELE: PLYMOUTH 36644

MISS C. PROSE,  
TELE: PLYMOUTH 36644

Medical Officer of  
Health's Clerk:

## KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1969.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I present, herewith, the Annual Report on the health of the area during 1969, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/70 dated January, 1970. Included in this Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

#### Statistics

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population at 12,080 persons, an increase of 60 over the previous year. Deaths exceeded births by 2 persons, which means that 62 persons must have moved into the District. There were 157 births giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 15.9 per thousand, only slightly less than the National Average of 16.3 per thousand population. Deaths, at 159, were fewer than in 1968, and gave a Standardised Rate of 10.7 per thousand population as against the National Rate of 11.9. There were no infant deaths.

Diseases of the heart and circulation caused 83 deaths (approximately 52%), cancer caused 41 deaths (25%) and diseases of the chest and lungs caused 14 deaths (8% of the total).

#### Water Supply

Mains water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board, and the supply has been excellent. The water is regularly sampled by the Board, and during the year no adverse reports were received.

There are a number of small private supplies which are inspected and sampled as necessary.

#### Infections Common to Farm Animals and Man

Outbreaks of Salmonellosis in cattle and amongst turkeys were reported on 43 occasions, mostly from separate farms, although one or two farms had repeated infections. A turkey, and several cows and calves died as a result of the infection. Human infection with the same organisms was discovered at one farm. One case of Anthrax was reported in a cow. Eight outbreaks of Brucellosis were discovered as a result of milk



sampling. In five instances, all the milk was sold wholesale to a creamery for pasteurisation, which rendered the milk safe for human consumption. The remaining three farms sold raw milk retail, so Notices under the Milk and Dairies Regulations were issued, requiring the milk to be pasteurised before sale for human consumption. One farm eradicated the infection from its herd, so the Notice was withdrawn after a satisfactory milk test. The other two Notices are still in force as the herds are still infected with Brucellosis.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the staff and Councillors for their help and encouragement during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN

Medical Officer of Health

JULY, 1970.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF

### THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1969.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Herewith I submit my report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1969.

#### SEWERAGE

##### Bigbury-on-Sea and Challaborough

Details of the revised scheme for dealing with sewerage and sewage disposal at Bigbury-on-Sea and Challaborough have been submitted to and approved by the Council. The land required for the sewage Disposal Works and various pumping stations has either been acquired or agreed with owners, and it is hoped that the scheme will commence in the near future.

##### Brownston

The discharge into a stream of crude sewage from the houses and farms in this hamlet continues. Although there is little visual evidence of pollution, the position is most unsatisfactory.

##### Loddiswell

The proposals for extending the sewers and constructing a new Sewage Disposal Works have not yet commenced. A road which will provide access to the new disposal site and which also gives access to the existing site has been constructed, and this has enabled the settlement tanks to be desludged by tanker. In addition, certain other modifications to the inlet chamber, the storm water overflow and to the effluent discharge, have been carried out, together with the construction of a small humus tank. These items have greatly improved the standard of the final effluent.

##### Stoke Fleming

The consultants have prepared an outline scheme for dealing with extensions to the sewerage system and the construction of



atreatment works at Stoke Fleming. The outline scheme envisages the treatment of sewage by means of the Pasveer system. Due to the surcharge of sewers dealing with the Deer Park estate, there is some urgency regarding the construction of storm water sewers or alternatively the duplication of foul sewers to deal with this particular area of Stoke Fleming.

#### West Buckland

An outline scheme has been submitted by the consultants for dealing with this area, in conjunction with Thurlestone and South Milton. Further discussions are taking place regarding these proposals.

#### Modbury

An outline scheme has been submitted by the consultants and has been approved by the Council for resewering this area, and for constructing a new sewage disposal works. The existing works are grossly overloaded, and at certain times of the year a high proportion of the sewage is not receiving full treatment.

#### Churchstow

Certain difficulties have been experienced at Churchstow particularly in relation to the treatment of sludge. A scheme was prepared to modify the settlement tanks and humus tanks, and to construct a series of proper sludge drying beds. These works were under construction in the latter months of the year and were completed early in the current calendar year.

#### East Allington

Although these disposal works were constructed post-war they are grossly overloaded at present, due to the relatively high building programme which has taken place in this village. This has led to some difficulty in maintaining satisfactory standards at the works, particularly in relation to sludge drying and disposal. A scheme was prepared to modify the inlet to the works in order to give greater control of the incoming flow, and to construct a range of sludge drying beds and a sludge storage bay. These works were in progress at the end of the year under review, and were completed in the early months of the current year.

#### Maintenance

During the year under review, maintenance has been carried out by two mobile gangs: in winter months these gangs have consisted of four men per gang, but during the summer the



number of men per gang has been reduced to two, due to the demands of the refuse collection service and holidays. Unfortunately, this reduction in maintenance staff coincides with peak loading at Sewage Disposal Works and other additional work such as grass cutting, hedge paring, etc.

These difficulties are likely to increase in the future as staff holiday periods are increased.

In order to reduce travelling time and in an effort to provide more regular and efficient control, the number of gangs has been amended to three gangs of two men (basic number), and this system was introduced early in the current year.

I think it is always important to bear in mind that a number of works that were built pre-war - and to a certain extent early post-war works - are becoming grossly overloaded, due to the increase in the number of properties draining to the installations, and to the fact that the consumption of water per head has increased considerably over and above design figures.

Such works require increased maintenance, and with the construction of new works, many of which are more complex in character, the demand on this section is continually increasing, and will of necessity result in the employment of more maintenance staff.

## HOUSING

The number of unfit houses represented during the year was thirteen. These were all dealt with as individual unfit houses and were the subject of Closing Orders.

A similar number of properties on which action had previously been taken were dealt with and made fit during the year, and it is interesting to note that in a number of cases two cottages were converted into one unit in order to provide a satisfactory unit and standard of accommodation.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A new Act dealing with Improvement Grants came into operation in August, 1969. This has resulted in the maximum amount of grant payable being increased substantially in respect of the various categories. The increased amounts are welcomed and seem more realistic in the light of present day costs.

In this particular area the demand for the higher amount



of grant with a maximum of £1,000 seems to be chiefly from owners who are anxious to improve and modernise properties purely for holiday purposes, and taking the narrow view as it relates to this particular area, it seems most unfortunate that all controls have been taken off when making such grants. I cannot conceive that it is the intention of central Government to provide large sums of money by means of grants for providing holiday accommodation which may be occupied only for one or two weeks in the year.

To a certain extent I believe that the lack of controls has resulted in the Council pursuing its policy to suspend the making of Improvement Grants.

#### MEAT INSPECTION

There was a slight reduction in the number of animals inspected during the year, but it is interesting to note that the incidence of disease increased quite substantially. Condemnations of meat were mostly due to systemic infections, i.e. septicaemia, etc., injury, or local affections involving individual carcase organs. It is also noted that only two cases of cysticercosis were found, and as one might expect there were no cases of tuberculosis.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Generally the position regarding caravan sites throughout the District remains satisfactory, with site operators programming works of improvement. The position with regard to the Beesands site has still not yet been resolved. There was an Appeal to the Magistrates' Court regarding the Conditions imposed by the new Site Licence arising from the submission of a new layout plan by the site operator, but the outcome was indecisive due to a possible High Court action regarding the question of the road leading from Beesands to Beesands Cellars.

#### REFUSE

The refuse collection service has worked very well during the year. This service is one which is very much in the public eye, and as a result must be maintained, even at the expense of other services operated by the Council. Efficiency of the refuse collection service depends on this priority being maintained, and the Council's policy of operating the largest vehicles possible. During the winter months there has been a reduction in vehicle/man hours, thus releasing labour for other work.



Conditions at the central disposal point at Molescombe have improved tremendously, and the rate at which the Quarry is filling indicates the progressive increase in the volume of refuse dealt with annually.

### OIL POLLUTION

This still remains a hardy annual, and inevitably results in labour having to be diverted from other important tasks to deal with oil on our beaches. It is frustrating to know that so little is being done or can be done to prevent this nuisance.

### GENERAL

Generally, the maintenance of services during the year was satisfactory, but I am most concerned at the limited labour available to deal with all the Council's commitments, particularly in relation to the maintenance of sewage disposal works when elements of danger arise without the correct complement of men.

I have already referred to the difficulties experienced in maintaining refuse and sewage services and these will only be aggravated during the coming years. I must reiterate that refuse collection and sewerage are two services which are expanding rapidly and as a result will necessitate the employment of additional staff if we are merely to maintain existing standards. This may present a somewhat gloomy picture, but I feel that as well as reporting on any progress and achievements made during the year, the Council ought to be informed of the difficulties experienced in keeping up adequate standards.

### ADMINISTRATION

In view of the reorganisation of technical departments at the end of 1969, it was decided to appoint an Additional Public Health Inspector, and this was done in the early part of the current year.

In conclusion, may I thank all Members and staff for their support during the year and in particular Mr. Fowler and Mrs. Osman and the outdoor staff who have achieved excellent results under adverse conditons.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

D. J. COLE,  
Chief Public Health Inspector

JULY, 1970.



## A P P E N D I X

### VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969.

Table 1

Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets

#### POPULATION:

##### Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Rural District:

12,080

(12,020)

Natural increase or decrease	-2	(-43)
Migration in or out	+62	(+163)
Total increase or decrease	+60	(+120)

Population at 1961 Census 11,738

#### GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Kingsbridge Rural District in Acres 70,818

##### Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book (1.4.69)

Number of Inhabited Houses	5,009	(4,878)
Number of Houses per acre	0.070	(0.069)
Number of Persons per acre	0.170	(0.169)
Number of Persons per House	2.411	(2.464)
Dwellings owned by the Council	752	731

##### Rateable Value of District

£368,947

(£356,928)

##### Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£1,457

£1,406)

# VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969.

Table 2

Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets

## BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate  
per 1,000 population

15.9 (12.9)

Area Comparability Factor for Births

1.22 (1.22)

Number of Live Births:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	83	74	157
Legitimate	73	70	143
Illegitimate	10	4	14
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	2	1	3

## DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate  
per 1,000 population

10.7 (11.8)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths

0.81 (0.83)

Number of Deaths:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages - Total</u>	86	73	159
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	-	-	-
Number under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-
Number under 1 week of age	-	-	-
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u> <u>per 1,000 Live Births</u>	-		(7.8)

## COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	16.3	(16.9)
Death Rate	11.9	(11.9)
Infantile Mortality Rate (Infants under 1 year of age)	18.0	(18.0)



# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1969

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	2	-	2
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1	1
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	-	2
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	11	2	13
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	6	6
8. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
9. Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
10. Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	6	11
11. Diabetes Mellitus	2	2	4
12. Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
13. Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
14. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
15. Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
16. Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	13	33
17. Other forms of Heart Disease	8	8	16
18. Cerebrovascular Disease	13	10	23
19. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	7	7
20. Influenza	-	1	1
21. Pneumonia	4	3	7
22. Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	-	4
23. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
24. Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
25. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	-	2
26. Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
27. Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	2
28. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
29. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1	2
30. Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
31. All Other Accidents	1	2	3
Total All Causes	- 86	73	159

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1969

Table 1

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP IN YEARS					
		Under 1	1+	5+	15+	25+	Over 65
Measles	46	0	25	21	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Infective Jaundice	2	0	0	0	1	1	0

Table 2

DISEASE	TOTAL	INCIDENCE BY QUARTERS			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	46	2	33	11	0
Scarlet Fever	2	0	1	0	1
Infective Jaundice	2	1	1	0	0

## INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

In accordance with the requirement of the World Health Regulations, certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccinations in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the 1948 Act, or under the (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal and detention of persons in need of care and attention.

No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### 1. Hospitals

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated in Kingsbridge. The area is also served by hospitals at Plymouth, Totnes, Dartmouth, and Torbay.

### 2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the after-care of such persons.

Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer at Exeter.

### 3. Laboratory Service

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

### 4. General Medical and Dental Services

Three General Medical Practitioners live in villages in the District, and also seventeen doctors and ten dentists from adjoining towns serve the area.



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1969.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	..	..	..	140
Litter	..	..	..	32
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	230
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	26
Inspections of Caravan Sites	..	..	..	91
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts				122
Pests	..	..	..	9
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	..	..	..	18
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	1
Rodent Control	..	..	..	12
Ice Cream Samples	..	..	..	6
Water Samples	..	..	..	24
Water Supplies	..	..	..	7
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	101
Wrecks of the Sea	..	..	..	2
Slaughter of Animals Act	..	..	..	1
Petroleum Regulations	..	..	..	29
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	2
Drainage	..	..	..	54
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	11
Food Inspection	..	..	..	10
Factories	..	..	..	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	49
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	..	..	..	4
Streams and Watercourses	..	..	..	37
Oil Pollution	..	..	..	70
Coastal Erosion	..	..	..	24
Total	-	-	-	<u>1,113</u>

# MEAT INSPECTION

During the year 253 visits were made to slaughterhouses in the District. The following carcasses were inspected:-

Cows	..	..	..	17
Heifers	..	..	..	79
Steers	..	..	..	149
Calves	..	..	..	18
Sheep	..	..	..	1,395
Pigs	..	..	..	67
				<u>1,725</u>

Total weight of meat condemned - 1 ton 4 cwts. 1 qr. 1.1b.  
Diseased meat, etc., is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Income from meat inspection charges amounted to £68.13s.9d.

## CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART:

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	228	17	18	1,395	67
Number inspected	228	17	18	1,395	67
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	2	9	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	49	10	-	29	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci	21.49	70.58	11.1	2.7	7.45
Tuberculosis only	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



### OTHER FOODS

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business:

Bakehouses	..	..	..	6
Butchers' shops	..	..	..	10
Fishmongers and fryers	..	..	..	3
Ice cream - retailers	..	..	..	82
General stores	..	..	..	63
Dairies	..	..	..	3
Restaurants and cafes	..	..	..	30
Hotels and guest houses	..	..	..	82
Inns	..	..	..	41
Sweet confectioners	..	..	..	8

### Registration of Premises under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:

Sale of Ice Cream	..	..	..	82
Manufacture of Preserved Food	..	..	..	11
Number of new registrations under Section 16	..	..	..	2

Amount of food condemned during the year .. 101.1bs.

### Ice Cream Sampling:

4 samples of ice cream were taken for examination during the year

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

#### Licensed Sites and Caravans:

Number of Sites	..	..	..	31
Number of Caravans licensed	..	..	..	1,259
Licensed individual caravans	..	..	..	20

Eleven sites, each with a maximum of five caravans, are exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club.

In addition there are two other mobile caravan sites run by the Caravan and Camping Clubs.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 of the ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupier Prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories without mechanical power)	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Factories with mechanical power)	27	1	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	-	-	-	-
	30	1	-	-

No defects were found.

There is one out-worker.

# RODENT CONTROL

<u>PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS:</u>	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	
	<u>NON-AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>
1. Number of properties in District	4,495	842
2(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	982	81
2(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 2(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	671	62
(ii) Mice	41	7
3(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,273	49
3(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 3(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	784	8
(ii) Mice	8	1

## SEWERS

Ten areas were found to be infested during the year.



### WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Habitable Houses	Number connected to Water Mains	Estimated Population served
Aveton Gifford .. ..	259	155	387
Bigbury .. ..	225	196	489
Blackawton .. ..	173	129	322
Buckland-tout-Saints .. ..	59	41	102
Charleton .. ..	149	122	305
Chivelstone .. ..	146	115	287
Churchstow .. ..	130	89	222
East Allington .. ..	146	124	310
East Portlemouth .. ..	113	97	242
Kingston .. ..	135	118	295
Loddiswell .. ..	264	225	563
Malborough .. ..	370	324	810
Modbury .. ..	405	340	850
Ringmore .. ..	97	93	232
Sherford .. ..	95	59	147
Slapton .. ..	189	160	400
South Huish .. ..	247	222	555
South Milton .. ..	149	132	330
South Pool .. ..	130	115	287
Stoke Fleming .. ..	400	354	884
Stokenham .. ..	683	621	1552
Strete .. ..	158	140	350
Thurlestone .. ..	354	326	815
West Alvington .. ..	206	173	433
Woodleigh .. ..	55	36	91
	5,337	4,508	11,260

These figures relate to houses in existence on 1st April, 1970.

### WATER SAMPLES

Source of Sample	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
* South West Devon Water Board Mains	223	6	229
Private Supplies	19	14	33
	242	20	262

\* These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1969.

STANDARD GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS UNDER  
HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959:

(a) Applications -

Formal Applications received	..	..	7
Applications approved:			
Owner-occupied dwellings	..	..	2
Other dwellings	..	..	5

(b) Grants Paid -

Number of dwellings	Total Amount	Number of amenities provided					
		Bath or shower	Wash basins	Hot water	Water closets	Food Store	Septic tanks
13	£2276.0.9.	13,	13	13	13	9	2

GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS UNDER  
SECTION 8, HOUSING ACT, 1969:

(a) Applications -

Formal Applications received	..	..	19
Applications approved:			
Owner occupied dwellings	..	..	10
Other dwellings	..	..	8

(b) Grants paid - No grants have yet been paid under the 1969 Act, as it came into force only in August, 1969.

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS:

Represented	13
Confirmed	13
Demolished	1
Families rehoused	6
Unfit houses made fit	6









