

**[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Kingsbridge U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Kingsbridge (Devon, England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1954

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ky5zhvp2>

**License and attribution**

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

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

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



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

Library

KINGSBRIDGE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

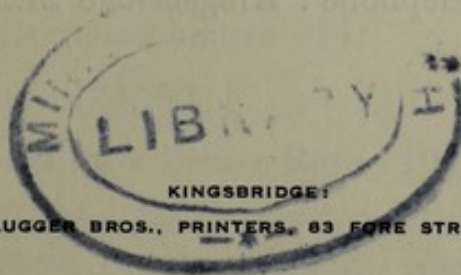


*REPORT*

*of the*

*Medical Officer of Health*

*for the Year 1954*



KINGSBRIDGE:

LUGGER BROS., PRINTERS, 83 FORD STREET

## **Kingsbridge Urban District Council**

---

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL,  
Council Chambers, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2196.

---

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2004.

---

CLERK TO M.O.H.  
MISS J. PALK,  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2004.

---

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
Council Chambers, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2122.

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

---

*Medical Officer of Health* : DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health* : DR. W. H. COWPER, M.B.,  
B.CH., B.A.O.

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector* : MR. L. J. HILL, A.M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1954.

The health of the district has continued to be very satisfactory.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area (in acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,140.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Book—1,031.

Number of unoccupied houses—14.

Rateable Value—£23,793.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£95. 1s. 0d.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births :

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	56	30	24
Illegitimate .....	—	2	—
	—	—	—
	56	32	24

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 17.83.

Still Births ..... — — —

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : Nil.

Deaths ..... 38 14 24

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12.10.

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births)
*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	71.43
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	74.07
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.				M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	.....	—	—	1
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	.....	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	.....	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	.....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	—	—	—
6.	Meningoccal Infections	.....	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	—	—	—
8.	Measles	.....	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	.....	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	.....	1	1	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	.....	—	—	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	.....	—	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	.....	—	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	.....	2	4	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	.....	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	.....	—	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	.....	—	4	4
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	.....	1	—	—
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	.....	1	—	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	.....	2	5	5
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	.....	—	2	2
22.	Influenza	.....	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	.....	1	4	4
24.	Bronchitis	.....	2	—	—
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	.....	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	.....	1	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	.....	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	.....	1	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	.....	—	—	—
30.*	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	.....	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	.....	1	1	1
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	.....	—	—	—
34.	All other Accidents	.....	1	1	1
35.	Suicide	.....	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	.....	—	—	—
				14	24

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton District, Kingsbridge Rural District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and Medical Officer to the South Devon Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

**LABORATORY FACILITIES.** The Public Health Laboratory Service provided a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, on 3rd June, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

This new Laboratory is of great assistance and I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

**VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION** are carried out through the General Practitioner Service or at Schools, School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and Vaccine Lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

**NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.**—There is one District Nurse/Midwife working the area. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. The nurse is qualified to administer analgesics, and acts as a County Staff Sister in the area, dealing with matters relating to the off-duty of Nurses in her group.

**MIDWIVES.**—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council, which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There is one practising midwife in the District.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.**—There is a Centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on Wednesdays each week, except the first Wednesday in each month. The attendance has been very good during the year.

**VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.**—At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury, and another at Kingsbridge.

**OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.**—The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

**X-RAYS.** The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple, and Plymouth.

**ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT** is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association as in-patients at Exeter and Ivy-bridge, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South-West Clinic which deals with this district as well, held at the Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

**THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL** provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district.

Men's Ward .....	6 beds
Women's Ward .....	6 beds
Children's Cots .....	2
Private Wards .....	2 (one bed each)

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Scott Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

**AMBULANCE SERVICES.** The Ambulance Service throughout Devon is operated in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Voluntary Organisations. Infectious cases for the Plymouth Infectious Area are carried, by agreement, in the Plymouth City Infectious Ambulance.

### **NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS). DURING THE YEAR 1954.**

Diseases.	Total Cases Admitted to		
	Notified.	Hospital.	Deaths.
Whooping Cough	7	—	—
Pneumonia .....	2	—	—
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	7	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
	18	2	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Non-		Non-	
	Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Respiratory.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Under 1 year	— —	— —	— —	— —
1—5 years	— —	— —	— —	— —
5—15 years	— —	— —	— —	— —
15—25 years	— —	— —	— —	— —
25—35 years	— —	— —	— —	— —
35—45 years	— —	— —	— —	— —
45—55 years	— —	— —	— 1	— —
55—65 years	— —	— —	— —	— —
65 years and upwards	— —	— —	— —	— —
TOTALS	— —	— —	— 1	— —

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER SUPPLY** (Moorland Supply) from South Devon Water Board.

The Water Supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations of the raw water are made by the Water Board ; samples of water going into supply were submitted for analysis and were satisfactory.

No trace of lead was detected in chemical examinations of this water.

The water is chlorinated.

During the past year 22 samples of Moorland Water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows :—Grade 1=19 ; Grade 2=2 ; Grade 4=1.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** For some time, complaints have been received of offensive smells from the Estuary.

This was found to be caused by a discharge of sewage from the storm water drain at the head of the Estuary. It was also found that the main sewer discharging at High House Point was not functioning at full capacity.

After testing the sewers concerned, section by section, one section was found which had no flow, though the section above it was flowing at normal rate. Two such sections were found in Prince of Wales Road, on different mains.

As a result of excavation, it was found that the secondary main sewer had collapsed and that a large cavity had washed out under Prince of Wales Road due to the action of the sewage finding its way from the collapsed main into the adjoining storm water culvert, and the storm culvert walls had suffered minor damage as a result.

A new length of sewer was built into the existing sewer and the storm water culvert was repaired and the whole concreted in. The results were immediate and there was a marked improvement in conditions at the head of the Estuary. The cure may not perhaps be complete as there are other minor factors concerned.

The Surveyor has given this question much attention, and it is due to his efforts that so much has been achieved.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.** No alteration in the system, which is satisfactory in all respects.

### **HOUSING.**

During the year 20 houses were completed.

96 houses and 40 flats have been erected since the war and an old building converted into four houses.

Including 77 pre-war houses, the Council now owns 173 houses and 40 flats.

### **FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.**

298 tins various, 54½-lbs. cheese, 265½-lbs. meat, 24-lbs. fruit, 8-lbs. bacon, 11 stones fish, and three packets various.

### **NUISANCES, Etc.**

No. of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	.....	.....	.....	8
(b) alleging housing defects	.....	.....	.....	224
(c) other complaints	.....	.....	.....	22
Nuisances proved	.....	.....	.....	8
Minor housing repairs dealt with	.....	.....	.....	216
Other complaints remedied	.....	.....	.....	7
Informal letters sent	.....	.....	.....	3
Statutory notices	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions, including new Council Houses	.....	.....	.....	117
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	.....	.....	.....	71

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

#### PART I OF THE ACT.

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

Premises. (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Inspect'ns. (4)	Number of Written Occupiers Notices. Prosec'd (5) (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	5	—	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity .....	41	8	
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' pre- mises) .....	—	—	
TOTAL .....	46	8	

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

July, 1955.



