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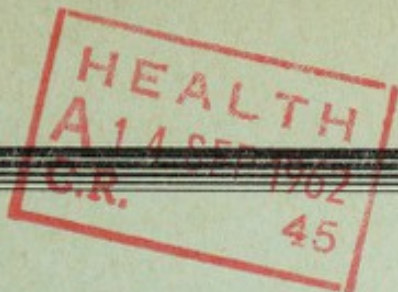
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LISKEARD  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL




THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the Year 1961

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P. J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.





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## **RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD**

# **THE ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**for the Year 1961**

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Liskeard.**

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rowe, and Gentlemen,

During the year 1961 there was some fall in the number of persons resident in No. 7 Health Area. As far as individual County Districts in the Area were concerned, St. Germans R.D., Liskeard R.D., Saltash M.B., and Looe U.D., showed reductions in population and Torpoint U.D. and Liskeard M.B. an increase. Nevertheless the overall population deficit in the Health Area as compared with 1960 was 1,230 persons. There have been a variety of speculations and predictions as to the effect on East Cornwall which the opening of the Tamar Bridge might produce. It seems to be generally agreed that some increase in population in Saltash M.B. and adjacent parts of St. Germans R.D. may take place, since these areas are now relatively accessible to people whose employment and interests lie in the City of Plymouth.

The various vital statistics for the year show little that calls for particular comment. The excess of deaths over births — 123 in 1961 — show a considerable increase over that recorded in the previous year. The correct birth rate was noticeably below the national figure and the corresponding death rate was higher than for England and Wales. All these figures are I am sure a reflection of the lower proportion of young adults and the higher proportion of elderly people in the population of South-East Cornwall.

The principal causes of death remain in the same general order as in previous years with heart disease heading the list, followed by cancer, and strokes. It is also interesting to note once again that of 23 deaths arising from accidental causes 6 only were caused by the much maligned motor vehicle, the remaining 17 having occurred mainly in the home. The average age at death remains close to the last published figures for expectation of life in England and Wales and of those who died during 1961 the proportion who had reached or passed their 75th birthday at the time of death was no less than 49%.

The recent report by The Royal College of Physicians entitled "Smoking and Health" has revived interest in this controversial subject and comes down heavily against the cigarette as a potent cause of lung cancer. There has been much emphasis on the need to publicise the association between the moderate or heavy consumption of cigarettes and the occurrence of cancer of the lung. This subject has in fact been receiving considerable publicity on radio, television, in newspapers and in periodicals and magazines for several years and I cannot believe that very much effect can be expected from further efforts in this direction. What is needed is example rather than precept and since most adults in all walks of life are confirmed addicts to nicotine and the other chemical substances present in tobacco smoke, it is most difficult to set the good example which older children and adolescents need if they are to resist taking up this adult and superficially sophisticated habit. It is only by discouraging young people from acquiring this habit that any hope of real progress in this field would appear to lie. There is very little hope of making any real impression on those adults in whom the habit



is strongly entrenched. I think more might be done to encourage non-smokers by greater restrictions on smoking in public transport, places of entertainment, and other situations in which the non-smoker has no choice but to inhale smoke polluted atmosphere which is normal in the majority of such places. I should also like to see more use made of the mass media of communication, particularly television, to counter the subtle and very persuasive publicity being put across by the tobacco industry. Is it too much to hope that some of the huge revenue from the excise duty on cigarettes might be diverted to such a purpose?

There was some improvement in the prevalence of tuberculosis infection in the Health Area during 1961, when the number of new cases notified fell to 21 as compared with 33 new cases in 1960. I am not inclined to feel complacent about this welcome reduction in new notifications as a similar fall in 1957 to exactly the same figure of 21 cases was followed by sharp rises in the two succeeding years. I have drawn attention previously to the suspicion we have that a good deal of unrecognised tuberculous infection — a reservoir of this infection — is present in people past middle age. People in this age group unfortunately are most resistant to suggestion and advice that they should have chest X-ray examination. I think this attitude is founded on the erroneous belief that if one survives to middle age or old age then one cannot have tuberculosis. This is not at all the case, and if we accept the age of 45 years as the beginning of middle age then in 1961 no less than 10 of the new cases of tuberculosis notified in this Health Area were aged 45 years or more at the time of notification. In face of this I must reiterate that the risk of contracting and suffering from tuberculosis does not disappear or even lessen with advancing years, and that in their own interest as well as in the interest of relations and friends with whom they live and associate those over 45 years of age should take every advantage of any available opportunity to have the condition of their chests checked by X-ray examination.

The increased proportion of old people in the community continues to pose problems. At the present time the deficiency in the social service directed towards the elderly which is causing most concern is the shortage of hospital beds for the chronic sick and the aged. When old people living alone fall ill there is generally no alternative to removal to hospital. Unless however, their disease or disability is of an acute nature and dangerous to life, it is usually necessary for some weeks to elapse between the time the bed is applied for and the vacant bed becomes available. Whilst some assistance can be given by the district nursing services, and the home help service, this is necessarily limited in extent and if, as often happens, no close relatives live in the vicinity, the old person has to be left alone for much of the time. It is inevitable that from time to time such old, ill people when left alone will suffer a sudden, and perhaps fatal deterioration in their condition, or may become involved in an accidental fall or in a fire. Until such time as more adequate provision of hospital beds for the elderly can be achieved, then we must accept the fact that tragedies will happen. Some years ago when the workhouse of the old Poor Law days was still a reality in the minds of the elderly most of them were suspicious of and resistant to the efforts of Welfare Officers to help them. However the greatly improved standards of welfare accommodation in old folks homes, and even in institutions housed in old workhouse buildings has become generally known and many old people who find that age and infirmity makes it difficult for them to look after themselves are willing to enter such welfare accommodation as can be offered to them. Indeed, in spite of the fact that the opening of new welfare homes has in recent years provided many additional places there is almost



always a waiting list for welfare accommodation. Whilst on the subject of caring for elderly people I cannot close without referring to the good work which has been done by District Councils in this Health Area in the provision of flats and small bungalow type dwellings for old people. I feel quite sure that the transfer of old people from old, dilapidated cottages, and larger dwellings, most of them lacking amenities, to these compact, and easily run small houses not only makes the old folks happier but enables them to keep their own home together rather than having to seek admission to welfare accommodation.

Although the number of notifications of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, showed an increase on the corresponding figure for 1960 the increase was very largely due to measles, which in these days of higher living standards, and more readily available medical advice and treatment is no longer a serious menace to children's health. Of the more serious notifiable diseases there was only one case of poliomyelitis. This case, paralytic in type, affected an adult farm worker, and the source of infection in this sporadic case could not even be guessed at let alone discovered. The man concerned had not been immunised against poliomyelitis.

Supplies of water were generally adequate although any dry spell coupled with increased consumption resulting from an influx of holiday-makers can result in shortages on that part of the East Cornwall Water Board's system which is supplied by the treatment works at Bastreet. It is surprising that in an area of moderate rainfall one should have to make any reference to water shortage. The difficulty arises because the capacity to store water is relatively small when measured against the heavy demand from modern domestic arrangements and from the farming community. I think it is now generally agreed that greatly increased capacity to store water will have to be provided for by the construction of at least one large impounding reservoir. Such an arrangement, coupled with larger and better links between the distribution systems based on St. Cleer and Bastreet treatment works would do much to avoid or mitigate the effect of shortages which do occasionally affect parts of the St. Germans Rural District and the Urban District of Looe at the present time.

The provision of more adequate supplies of piped water has encouraged people to improve their living conditions by the installation of baths, wash basins, sinks, and water closets all of which produce waste which has to be disposed of. This additional volume of waste water and sewage is proving quite a problem particularly in inland villages and hamlets where its discharge into old inadequate public sewers, and thence to catch pits, ditches, and small watercourses soon gives rise to a serious nuisance. Much has already been done in St. Germans and Liskeard Rural Districts to provide sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements in the larger villages, and both Authorities are actively engaged in considering proposals for further sewage disposal plants in their districts. I am especially glad to see that the large villages of Pensilva and Landrake are either being provided with sewage disposal arrangements or will be in the very near future. A comprehensive scheme for sewers and sewage disposal serving several villages in the Calstock Parish is being prepared for the St. Germans Rural District Council. In the urban areas things are not quite so happy. The scheme for Liskeard Borough which has been in preparation for many years and which has now reached finality has not yet been put in hand and it is not possible to see when a start is likely to be made, but one can only hope that it will not be much longer delayed. At Looe where some 12-18 months ago meetings and discussions on possible ways to provide an acceptable system for sewage disposal were held, interest

in this subject seems to have evaporated at least for the time being. I am aware that the very high cost of providing effective sewage disposal at Looe is a very powerful deterrent to those who might wish to see the present deplorable state of affairs put to rights. Nevertheless the presence of sewage, crude and untreated in the river and on the adjacent beaches is something impossible to condone or excuse in a holiday resort which is setting itself up to attract larger and larger numbers of holiday-makers each year.

In concluding this general preface I would like to take the opportunity to express to Members and Officers of the six District Councils I serve my gratitude for the co-operation and assistance they have given me in the year 1961.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rowe, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

P. J. FOX,  
Medical Officer of Health.



# RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

## Public Health Committee.

COUNCILLOR W. R. LUFFMAN, Chairman.

COUNCILLOR J. W. J. PEARSE, Vice-Chairman.

## Housing Committee.

COUNCILLOR J. OLLIVER, Chairman.

COUNCILLOR D. L. RICHARDS, Vice-Chairman.

## Health Officers of the Authority.

P. J. FOX, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health,  
Health Area Office, West Street, Liskeard. Telephone—Liskeard 3373.

G. ROGERS, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

G. M. LAWRY, M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg.,  
Deputy Public Health and Building Inspector.

G. O. COWLING, Assistant Surveyor,  
Council Offices, Luxstowe House, Liskeard. Telephone—Liskeard 2379.

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Area of Rural District	...	...	...	...	104,803 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	13,310
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	5,330
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£101,436
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£404

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## Vital Statistics for 1961

	Male	Female	Total
Live births	91	77	168
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Live birth rate per 1,000 of population	14.2	14.3	17.4
	Male	Female	Total
Still births	6	1	7
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	40.0	25.3	18.7
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	91	103	194
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Death rate per 1,000 of population	12.6	13.6	12.0
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under one year of age	2	1	3
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	17.9	14.6	21.4



## Principal Causes of Death at All Ages

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	81
Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	27
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke")	...	...	...	...	23
Respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	18
Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	11
Accidents	...	...	...	...	6
Genito-urinary disease	...	...	...	...	3

## Average Age at Death

Males	Females
72	72

Of the defined forms of cancer that affecting the stomach was most prevalent and caused five deaths, the same as in 1960. Cancer of the lung was a much less common cause of death than in the preceding year. Of those who died during 1961 the proportion who had reached or exceeded 75 years at the time of death was 53%.

**Infectious Disease.** The incidence of notifiable disease was much higher in 1961 than during the previous year. The great bulk of this increase was caused by an outbreak of measles of which there were 212 cases out of the total of 241 cases of notifiable disease. No cases of the more serious types of infectious disease were notified during the year.

The following are details of actual numbers and case rates of infectious disease which occurred during 1961 :—

Disease	Cases	Rates per 1,000 of population	
		Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
Measles	212	15.93	17.29
Whooping cough	15	1.13	1.64
Pneumonia	14	1.05	0.93

**Tuberculosis.** There was a slight improvement in the position as far as this disease was concerned. During 1961 four new cases of tuberculosis were notified as compared with five in the previous year. Of these, three were respiratory infections and one was a non-respiratory infection. There were no deaths due to tuberculosis during the year.

The following are details of new cases and case rates during 1961 :—

Age Group			New Cases	
			M.	F.
0—5	...	...	—	—
5—15	...	...	1	—
15—25	...	...	—	2
25—45	...	...	—	—
45—65	...	...	1	—
65 and over	...	...	—	—
			2	2

Disease	Rates per 1,000 of population	
	Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
New cases	0.31	0.42
All known cases	4.73	6.27
Deaths	—	0.02

At the end of 1961 there were 54 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 9 known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis residing in the Rural District.

**National Assistance Act, 1948.** No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during 1961.

**Water Supply.** This was generally satisfactory during the year. I was particularly glad to see that within a short time of taking over full responsibility for water supply the East Cornwall Water Board was able to bring a supply of piped water from their mains to the village of Menheniot which had suffered for many years from inadequate supplies from a local source the purity of which could not be guaranteed.

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.** Schemes for the proper treatment and disposal of sewage were completed and brought into operation at Tredinnick, Duloe, Lanreath, and Menheniot, whilst at the end of the year a tender for a scheme to serve the large inland village of Pensilva had been accepted. About this same time tenders for three smaller schemes to serve the villages of Common Moor, Minions, and Crows Nest were being asked for.

**Food.** As Mr. Rogers points out in his report, whilst no spectacular progress can be expected or is being made in the field of food hygiene, much has been achieved in bringing about better and cleaner methods of storing and handling food.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

**Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.** No difficulties in the administration of these Acts were experienced during 1961.

**Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.** This report by Mr. G. Rogers follows. It is again my pleasant duty to put on record my thanks to Mr. Rogers, to Mr. G. Lawry and to Mr. G. Cowling for the assistance they have given me during the past year.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

**Water Supply.** On March 31st, 1961, the Council ceased to act as Agent for the East Cornwall Water Board, and on April 1st, the Board took over full control. During the summer of 1961, the Board completed the laying of a main to the village of Menheniot, thus providing improved mains water to one of the few parts of the District without an adequate supply.

**Quality.** The following is a list of water samples taken during 1961 :—

1. Morval ... Land Spring. Tap supplied from Reservoir, Penearthtown. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 3.1.61.
2. Menheniot ... Shallow Well — Public Pump, Doddycross. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 14.2.61.
3. Liskeard ... Shallow Well — Pump, Bye-Lane End. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 1.3.61.
4. Menheniot ... Shallow Well, direct from dip well, Trethawle Cottage. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 20.3.61.
5. Menheniot ... Direct from shallow well, Llawryglyn, Roseland. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 27.4.61.



- |     |               |     |  |
|-----|---------------|-----|--|
| 6.  | St. Veep ...  | ... | Land Springs. Tap over kitchen sink, Tregenna Farm. Bacteriological Examination. Unsatisfactory. 3.5.61.         |
| 7.  | Menheniot     | ... | Shallow well to private house, Roseland. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 16.6.61.                     |
| 8.  | Duloe ...     | ... | Blackdown Farm. Chemical Examination. Satisfactory but with slight acid reaction. 1.5.61.                        |
| 9.  | Duloe ...     | ... | Blackdown Farm. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 1.5.61.   |
| 10. | Dobwalls      | ... | Doublebois House. Land Spring. Satisfactory. 10.8.61.  |
| 11. | St. Cleer ... | ... | Bullen Farm House. Tap over scullery sink. Satisfactory. 17.8.61.  |
| 12. | Morval ...    | ... | Morval Church. Mains Supply. Satisfactory. Bacteriological Examination. 15.8.61.                                 |
| 13. | Menheniot     | ... | Scawns Lodge. Shallow Well. Rotary pump over kitchen sink. Bacteriological Examination. Unsatisfactory. 17.8.61. |
| 14. | Lanteglos     | ... | Carneggan Council Houses. Shallow Well, Pump Spout. Bacteriological Examination. Satisfactory. 19.10.61.         |

**Sewerage.** The Council has continued the policy of providing sewers and sewerage disposal works to serve villages in the District and throughout the year considerable progress has been made. The Treatment Works already in operation have been well maintained and regular de-sludging has been carried out twice a week.

During the year there has been difficulty in the disposal of dried sludge, but it has been possible to persuade farmers to take it for agricultural purposes, although sometimes with some reluctance. This is particularly important, for it means that humus is returned to the soil and not discharged into streams and rivers where, apart from other considerations, it is lost completely.

The following is a report on various village systems :—

**Menheniot.** This scheme was completed during the year and from the beginning, functioned satisfactorily. The scheme included the construction of a storm water sewer which discharged into a stream directly. On one occasion, a chokeage in the system was reported in the vicinity of the White Hart Hotel and Scawns, and on investigation it was discovered that the whole of this section of the village was drained into stone culverts which were connected into the new sewerage by stoneware pipes. A report was made to the Council and authority was given for the culverts to be replaced by socketed stoneware pipes, jointed in cement mortar, at a cost of £650.

The work was put in hand and by the end of the year the whole of the piping in the drive and field at Scawns had been laid, whilst the work in the road outside the White Hart Hotel was in hand.

**Lanreath, Duloe and Tredinnick.** These village sewerage schemes which were commenced in 1960 and completed in 1961 settled down satisfactorily. The systems were regularly de-slugged and the result at the outfall was a clear stream at each, instead of a foul evil-smelling effluent.

In order to improve the maintenance of the Duloe and Lanreath works, it was decided to install stationary sludge pumps, on each site. The work was very well advanced by the end of the year, and the pumps will be in operation early in 1962.



**Seaton Sea Outfall.** No complaints were received at any time during the year in respect of the sewers or the sea outfall at Seaton, and the system functioned normally.

One sewage sample was taken at Seaton, the result being as follows :—

Sewage Sample. Deposit consists entirely of vegetable debris and primitive animal and vegetable life, and decaying vegetation. No faecal contamination.

**Polperro Sea Outfall.** In January 1961 a second storm water overflow was fitted to the main sewer in the harbour adjacent to Warren House. This provided an additional outlet at a point where, in the past, a certain amount of trouble had been experienced with flooding.

Later in the year an examination of the sewer and branches from Saxon Bridge to Crumplehorne was made in order to find any point at which river water could enter the sewer and overload it. Several such points were found, including a partly plugged connection, and these were sealed off without delay.

In March a sewer branch under the floor of the Shell House was exposed and it was found that several feet consisted merely of a culvert cut in the solid rock. This was replaced by cast-iron pipes encased in concrete and the work was completed satisfactorily.

Towards the end of the year, a branch sewer across the harbour was cleared of obstruction after several hours of difficult work. On September 26th there was an 18' 0" tide and an opportunity was taken to cleanse the outfall tunnel. This was duly carried out and at the same time, an accumulation of pebbles and small boulders was removed from the final manhole beyond the tunnel.

**Polruan Sea Outfall.** This system gave rise to no concern during 1961 and the only repair was to a joint in the 12" cast-iron sewer on the beach.

**St. Cleer Treatment Works.** No problems were experienced with this system, and the usual twice weekly attention to the works was carried out. The glass roof over the drying beds enabled the sludge to be dried out rapidly, and it was able to be handled without difficulty.

**East Taphouse.** This village is only partially sewered and no treatment is given to the effluent at the sewer outfall. The Council has placed this village high on the list for a system of sewers, and treatment works, and a scheme will be prepared during 1962.

**Dobwalls. Treatment Works.** This system has two pumping stations each with sewage ejectors in duplicate. These gave no trouble throughout the year. The treatment works were well maintained and the dried sludge was disposed of locally. As at Lanreath and Duloe it was decided to install a permanent sludge pump at the works in order to make for more easy maintenance and the contract was well in hand by the end of the year.

**Other Villages.** In accordance with the Council's policy, sewerage schemes have been prepared for the large village of Pensilva, and the smaller ones of Common Moor, Crows Nest and Minions. In December a tender of £76,140. 19s. 4d. was accepted from Messrs. W. Carline Ltd., for the Pensilva Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. The work was scheduled to commence in January, 1962.



By the end of 1961, tenders were invited for sewerage schemes at Common Moor, Minions and Crows Nest, and it is expected that these will be well advanced in the next few months. Schemes will then be prepared for Upton Cross, Rilla Mill, Trewidland, Widegates, St. Keyne, St. Neot, Mount, Highway and Lerryn.

**Public Conveniences.** During the early part of the year, the Public Conveniences at Talland and Crumplehorne, Polperro were completed and in use before the summer season began. They proved of very real value in both localities where the influx of visitors was considerable.

No new Conveniences were erected during the year, but efforts were made to obtain sites at St. Cleer and Menheniot. In view of the fact that progress had been made in the preparation of the Pensilva Sewerage Scheme some consideration was given to the selection of a site for a toilet block in this village, but by the end of the year, there was no success.

The Conveniences in use in the District were all well maintained.

**Refuse Collection.** During 1961 an experiment was carried out in the Pensilva and South Hill areas of giving refuse collection services once in two weeks instead of weekly. A very careful check was kept on the vehicles and men at this time, and it was found that there was a very small saving in cost, but the complaints which were received made it evident that the general public did not favour the scheme. A full report was made to the Council at the conclusion of the experiment and taking all factors into consideration it was decided to revert to the weekly service except for somewhat isolated premises lying outside villages, where the collection would be once every two weeks, and in some cases once a month.

In the townships of Polruan and Polperro two collections each week would be continued.

Throughout the year, refuse from Polruan and other parts of Lanteglos parish was taken to the dump at Bury Downs. Because of this factor, the cost of collection increased due to the additional miles involved. No refuse was placed in the Lantic Bay dump throughout the year, and during this period much of the scar became covered with vegetation.

The Council was fortunate in securing many tons of rubble for use in covering the refuse and this was transported at little or no cost. A bulldozer was used at intervals to level the surface, and at Bury Down a roller was available for a limited period.

All dumps were treated for fly infestation regularly and the results were satisfactory. The Rodent Operator dealt with each dump frequently and at no time was there any serious infestation.

**Litter.** More and more litter bins have been provided by the Council and the Highway Authority in lay-bys and other places where visitors frequent. The result has been reasonably satisfactory, and it is considered that whilst there are still individuals who care nothing for cleanliness and tidiness, in the main, people will use litter bins if they are placed in right positions in sufficient quantities. The disposal of the volume of paper from the bins placed quite a strain on the refuse collection service, and this is likely to continue in future years.



**Camping and Moveable Dwellings.** 12 licences were issued during the year in respect of caravan sites under the provisions of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960. The licences were in respect of 136 caravans which were all on existing sites. These were all granted, subject to the Standard Conditions adopted by the Council for Holiday Caravan Sites. In each case, compliance with the conditions required the execution of works, and this was made a condition of the licence. Site proprietors in the Rural District have accepted the Council's Standards and there have been no appeals to Court.

In 1961 one licence to station tents on land was granted under the Public Health Act, 1936. This was in respect of 45 tents. Prior to the licence being granted, a toilet block was erected comprising two men's water closets and two urinals, and three ladies' water closets. A wash-hand basin with cold water laid on was installed for both sexes.

The "Saturation Policy" of the Cornwall County Council Planning Committee has continued to operate throughout the year. This Policy has the support of the Minister of Housing and Local Government and consequently, no new static holiday caravan sites have been allowed in the coastal part of the District. It is understood, however, that favourable consideration will be given for a further site to accommodate tents and dormobiles only. There is an undoubted need for such a site, particularly to meet the peak demand in late July and early August. For instance, in early August, it was found that for a limited period some 200 tents were stationed in an unlicensed field which had no sanitary accommodation. The owner was contacted immediately, and a number of chemical closets erected.

The inspection and supervision of caravan and camping sites has become an important part of public health work. The effect of the Caravan Act is already shown by the provision of improved facilities in many of the sites, and within a few years I am sure it will secure a complete transformation of the sites in this District.

**Rodent Control.** This service was continued in 1961 and treatment was given to private and business premises including many farm buildings, together with banks of streams, and the harbour area at Polperro. The Operator was very successful in his work particularly on farms, and the farmers were generally very satisfied with the results.

All main sewers and sewerage works were test baited but the "takes" were very insignificant.

Treatments of refuse tips were regular, and thorough, with the result that at no time was infestation allowed to build up. This is, of course, very essential in order to prevent "centres" where rodents can increase and spread to surrounding areas.

On one occasion one rat had the temerity to break into the Rodent Operator's office in the Council Yard, obviously believing that attack was the surest form of defence. However, it was a victory for the Operator who was able to dispose of the rat within 24 hours.

Two meetings of the No. 4 Workable Area Committee were held, dealing with Rodent Control and Insect Infestation generally. These were attended by representatives of a number of Local Authorities in E. Cornwall and S. Devon, and British Railways staff, together with Army and Navy units. Papers were given on various subjects, including "Rodent Control in Rural Areas," "The Ship Rat," "The Use and Effect of Various Poisons," and so on. It was felt that these meetings, although infrequent, were of some value to those attending, and it was decided to continue them in 1962.



## Food.

**1. Meat Inspection. Slaughterhouses.** As mentioned in the Annual Report for 1960 the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, accepted the Report of the Council on the present and future need for private slaughterhouses in the area, and fixed January 1st, 1961 as the "appointed day" for the Regulations to come into force. Since that date, no slaughtering has taken place in the District.

There are, of course, many retail meat purveyors serving the District, most having premises within it, others coming from the adjoining Borough or Rural Districts. Almost all the meat retailed is obtained from the Liskeard Borough abattoir.

Inspections have been made of the meat exposed for sale in all the various butchers' shops in the District throughout the year. Two licences were granted to slaughtermen to slaughter and stun animals in slaughterhouses, both being employed outside the District and then only occasionally.

**2. Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.** Much has been written about the importance of food hygiene and it is difficult to add to what has already been said. The routine administration of the Regulations is often unspectacular and generally, little immediate result is seen for one's efforts. Nevertheless, the long term effect is already being noticed in food shops and cafés. There is a general impression of cleanliness in shops and kitchens with decorations of lighter colours. Refrigerated display cabinets are being installed in many of the shops, and open food is both protected from contamination and kept at a temperature at which food poisoning organisms do not multiply.

The café and restaurant kitchens are mainly concentrated in the village of Polperro. Routine visits were made throughout the summer season and conditions were generally found to be satisfactory. The village is congested and the lack of space in most kitchens makes working conditions very difficult. There is little room on the premises for placing refuse bins, cartons, etc., and to help in this respect the Council operate a frequent refuse collection service.

No particular educational activity was undertaken during the year. The only practical way of achieving improvements in an area such as this is routine visits to the food premises. During these visits the principles of clean food practices are explained to the persons handling food.

During the year, the following work was carried out to food premises :—

### Cafés and Restaurants.

1. New ceiling provided in one café.
2. Kitchens reconstructed — walls lined — new sinks and hot water supply installed and drainage arrangements altered in one café.

### Retail Food Shops.

1. Complete reconditioning, plastering of walls, new floor and ceiling and provision of fly-proof ventilation in a butcher's shop.
2. Shop redecorated, part walls lined and new ceiling fixed in a butcher's shop.
3. Sink with hot and cold water laid on in butcher's shop.
4. Constant hot water supply provided in a grocer's shop.

### Licensed Premises.

1. Sink with hot and cold water laid on provided in a licensed premises.



**3. Condemned Food.** Any food surrendered and condemned in this District is collected by the Inspector at the time of his visit and disposed of at the nearest or most convenient refuse dump by burying after first puncturing the tins and treating other food with a meat staining spray. The amounts dealt with are usually quite small as most retailers are able to obtain replacement of unfit food from their suppliers.

**4. Examination of Food.** Visits are made from time to time to retail shops in the many villages and examination is carried out of the foods exposed for sale.

**5. Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-52.** At the end of 1961 there were 99 premises registered for the retail sale of ice cream, ten more than the previous year. These are visited at intervals, chiefly during the summer months, and samples taken where necessary. Thirty samples were taken for examination by the methylene blue tests and the results are as follows :—

Grade 1	—	21
Grade 2	—	5
Grade 3	—	1
Grade 4	—	3

These results are a great improvement over those of 1960. Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, and this year 26 out of 30 were in that category, leaving only four in the low grades. Again, these latter were from ice cream sold loose and it is almost certain that the low grading is due to contamination taking place during the time when the commodity is sold to a customer. In every case, the occupier and the person serving were again advised on the need of scrupulous cleanliness and complete sterilisation of equipment, but if one seeks a 100% Grade 1 or 2, wrapped ice cream is far more likely to be the answer.

**6. Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Orders, 1937.** During the year, the number of licences in respect of premises operating plant and equipment for boiling waste foods was increased from three to eight. Before these licences were issued, the premises were inspected and the amount of waste foods likely to be collected was ascertained in order to be satisfied that the plants installed could adequately deal with it. The premises were examined to ensure that they were rat-proof. If they were not, then the necessary work to make them so had to be done before the licences were issued.

Butchers in the district were informed by circular letter of the dangers involved in feeding raw bones and meat scraps to dogs, and also pamphlets on precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease, were distributed.

**School Sanitation.** Inspections were carried out of the sanitary systems of the schools in the district, as a matter of routine. In one case, following a complaint regarding objectionable smells occurring periodically, it was found that a plug of an inspection eye had been omitted, thus permitting sewer gases to escape. As the school drains connected into the sewer immediately after the highest point of a rising main, the smells were particularly noticeable at pumping periods.

**Licensed Premises.** The normal routine inspection of these premises was continued throughout the year. As a result of these, and informal contact with owners, certain improvements were carried out in three public houses. These included new conveniences for both sexes in two, additional W.C.'s. for men in one, and the installation of sinks with hot and cold water in two.



**Housing.****1. Council Housing.** Twenty-two dwellings were erected in 1961 :—

Tremar Coombe, St. Cleer	— 3 two bedroomed bungalows.
	— 2 three bedroomed bungalows.
	— 5 one bedroomed bungalows.
Rilla Mill, Linkinhorne	— 2 one bedroomed bungalows.
Holland Road, St. Martin	— 4 one bedroomed bungalows.
Bodinnick, Lanteglos	— 2 one bedroomed bungalows.
	— 2 two bedroomed houses.
Polruan, Lanteglos	— 2 one bedroomed bungalows.

**2. Private Housing.** Nineteen new dwelling houses were completed during the year as follows :—

Lanreath	— 2	St. Cleer	— 2
Lansallos	— 4	St. Ive	— 2
Lanteglos	— 1	St. Martin	— 1
Liskeard	— 3	St. Neot	— 2
		St. Veep	— 2

A further nine housing units were provided by conversions :—

Lansallos	— 1	St. Cleer	— 1
Lanteglos	— 2	St. Martin	— 2
Pelynt	— 2	St. Veep	— 1

**3. Reconditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses.** During the year, the Council maintained its policy to encourage the improvement and reconditioning of private houses by giving "Discretionary" Grants in all suitable cases. Under this group, are the following :—

No. of applications received (dwellings)	— 44
No. of applications approved (dwellings)	— 44
Total approved expenditure	— £36,456. 0. 0.
Total amount of Grants made	— £12,039. 0. 0.
Total number of Grants completed	— 36

Standard Grant applications continued in 1961 at about the same rate as the previous year. Details are as follows :—

No. of applications received (dwellings)	— 39
No. of applications approved (dwellings)	— 39
Total approved expenditure	— £5,750. 0. 0.
Total amount of Grants made	— £3,183. 0. 0.
Total number of Grants completed	— 28

The number of applications received for Discretionary Grants increased from 33 in 1960 to 44 this year, and is an indication that owners are still willing to carry out major improvements even though cheaper Standard Grants are offered. Applications for both types of Grant are made chiefly by owner/occupiers, but it is pleasing to report that applications by Estate owners in respect of cottages for letting, have been, and are being received. Up to December 31st, 1961 a total of 428 Discretionary and Standard Grants have been approved, many of which have been completed and the Grants paid. From this can be seen the value of financial assistance, in providing essential amenities for many homes, and preventing the ultimate loss of a great number of units of accommodation. Such schemes have done much to slow down the rate at which country dwellers were leaving the agricultural areas for the already overcrowded towns and cities.



**Slum Clearance.** In the Council's five year programme for Slum Clearance action, 112 properties were listed preliminarily. Up to the end of the year 145 have been dealt with.

Since 1955, major reconditioning by informal action has resulted in a further 117 properties being provided with modern amenities and brought up to a good state of repair. Only 33 dwellings now remain on the Council's Slum Clearance list.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Council has embarked on an extensive programme of sewerage schemes for villages in the District and this will enable a greater number of dwellings to be reconditioned and provided with amenities which they lack. The provision of these amenities such as drainage, water supply, W.C's., baths, etc., will remove very many properties from the unfit categories, and for this reason, it would not seem advisable to carry out a further survey of unfit houses. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has concurred.

During 1961 in clearance areas three houses were demolished and in non-clearance areas six were dealt with in the same manner. Houses closed numbered 27, a total of 36. In the same period, 84 unfit houses were rendered fit by defects being remedied by the owners through informal action, and two by formal action.

**Housing Management.** During the year the Council erected 22 new houses, making the total owned by them 571.

The Council continued to improve their older houses by taking advantage of Improvement Grants. In all, 44 houses benefited from such schemes, and undoubtedly this policy of bringing the pre-war houses up to modern standards will continue throughout 1962.

The small direct labour force employed by the Council has continued to operate most satisfactorily, and it may well be, that in the following year, some additions may be made to their numbers, as it seems to be the only way in which the Council can be sure of priority being given to work where it is most needed. At the present time, quite a lot of housing repair work has to be done by private firms, and although the standard of work is generally quite good, the delay in the execution of the work is sometimes considerable. As in previous years, the Council has continued to contract out to private firms for the bulk of its external repainting programme.

**Drainage of Private Premises.** During the year 102 houses were provided with drainage. Of these, 33 were connected to the Council's sewers and 69 were provided with septic tanks. This necessitated a total of 9,243 feet of drainage being inspected and tested.

Each year more houses are being provided with drainage. In a scattered area of this nature it is perhaps too much to expect that every isolated cottage will be provided with water carriage sanitation but undoubtedly with the Council's sewerage programme, we can look forward to the time when all the houses in the villages can be provided with modern amenities.

**Petroleum Regulations.** The Council licensed a total of 46 petroleum premises under these regulations. Before these could be issued, inspections had to be made by members of my department. In the case of 44 premises which had been in use previously, it was necessary to ensure that they were being maintained satisfactorily, and complied with the requirements of the regulations. The remaining two licences were issued in respect of new installations, and in these cases, the tanks and pipelines were subjected to air tests of 10 lbs. per sq. inch.

In view of the great expansion of electricity supplies in rural areas, almost all pumps are electrically operated. It is therefore necessary to ensure that the electrical equipment used satisfies the Home Office Code.



**APPENDIX 1.**  
**Principal Causes of Death — All Ages — 1961**

Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Heart disease ...	74	81	39	18	49	28	289
Cancer (all sites)...	56	27	13	12	10	13	131
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ('stroke').	32	23	12	6	7	9	89
Respiratory disease	28	18	11	6	5	8	76
Circulatory disease	16	11	4	1	4	1	37
Accidents ...	9	6	2	1	2	3	*23
Genito-urinary disease ...	4	3	2	1	1	—	11
Digestive disease...	4	2	1	1	2	—	10
Suicide ...	2	1	—	1	1	—	5

\* Motor vehicle accidents — 6. Other accidents — 17.

**APPENDIX 2.**  
**Types of Heart Disease and Cancer Causing Death — 1961**

Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Coronary disease, angina ...	43	29	16	9	9	16	122
Hypertension with heart disease ...	7	—	1	2	3	—	13
Other heart disease	24	52	22	7	37	12	154
Cancer of stomach	7	5	2	4	2	4	24
Cancer of lung and bronchus ...	7	2	1	2	2	4	18
Cancer of breast...	8	3	2	1	1	—	15
Cancer of uterus...	7	—	2	1	1	—	11
Various other cancers ...	27	17	6	4	4	5	63

**APPENDIX 3.**  
**Deaths by Age Groups — 1961**

District	0-5 years	5-15 years	15-45 years	45-65 years	65-75 years	75 years & over	All Ages
St. Germans R.D. ...	2	1	11	51	72	114	251
Liskeard R.D. ...	3	1	5	35	47	103	194
Saltash M.B. ...	3	2	—	21	26	42	94
Liskeard M.B. ...	—	1	3	13	20	48	85
Looe U.D. ...	—	—	2	12	17	33	64
Torpoint U.D. ...	1	—	3	11	15	21	51
Health Area No. 7 ...	9	5	24	143	197	361 (49%)	739



**APPENDIX 4.**  
**Average Age at Death — 1961**

District	Males	Females
St. Germans R.D. ...	69	72
Liskeard R.D. ...	72	72
Saltash M.B. ...	68	70
Torpoint U.D. ...	65	71
Liskeard M.B. ...	73	73
Looe U.D. ...	72	76
Health Area No. 7 ...	70	72

**APPENDIX 5.**  
**Tuberculosis**  
**New Cases and Deaths in Health Area No. 7 — 1961**

Age Group	New Cases		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5 years ...	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	1	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	2	2	—	—
25—45 years ...	3	3	—	—
45—65 years ...	7	2	—	—
65 years and over ...	1	—	1	—
Totals ...	14	7	1	—

	Males	Females	Total
New case rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.28	0.14	0.42
Mortality rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.02	—	0.02

**Case Rates and Mortality Rates per 1,000 of Population in the Six County Districts in Health Area No. 7 — 1961**

District	All known Cases		Deaths
	New Cases	at 31.12.61	
St. Germans R.D. ...	0.21	6.45	0.07
Liskeard R.D. ...	0.31	4.73	—
Saltash M.B. ...	0.68	6.80	—
Torpoint U.D. ...	0.48	7.22	—
Liskeard M.B. ...	0.90	7.85	—
Looe U.D. ...	0.54	6.54	—
Health Area No. 7 ...	0.42	6.27	0.02
Cornwall County ...	0.42	6.76	0.07



## APPENDIX 6.

**Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus**  
**Deaths by Age Groups and Sexes — 1961**

Age Group			Males	Females
15—25 years	...	...	—	—
25—45 years	...	...	—	—
45—65 years	...	...	9	1
65—75 years	...	...	4	2
75 years and over	...	...	2	—
All ages	...	...	15	3

**Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus**  
**Death Rate per 1,000 of Population — 1961**

	Males	Females	Total
Health Area No. 7	0.303	0.061	0.364
Cornwall County	0.303	0.075	0.378
England and Wales	0.422	0.073	0.495



## APPENDIX

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

This table is enclosed by a request of the Minister of Labour to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, to be furnished in their Annual Reports with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. This table, which is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, should be attached as an annex to the Report.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
in respect of the Year 1961 for the Rural District  
of Liskeard in the County of Cornwall.**

**Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1937.**

## PART I OF THE ACT

**1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities† ... ..	35	30	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	60	35	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)..	29	29	Nil	Nil
Total ...	124	94	1	Nil



## 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	3	2	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 ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

† To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

‡ i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1) ), Institutions (Section 104) sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108), Slaughterhouses (Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, Section 7) and Railway Running Sheds (Factories Act, 1959, Section 25).

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

No outwork under these Sections of the Act is undertaken in the Rural District of Liskeard.