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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT



of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1964



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Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1964

Montpelier House,
Dunstable.

8th June, 1965.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Health Report for 1964.

The boundary change in 1964, when Luton became a County Borough, entailed a loss to the Council of 1,895 acres, 2,584 houses, and 8,990 population.

Infectious Diseases: There were no infectious diseases of the more serious type during the year, but measles was very prevalent, 401 cases being notified. It is necessary to reiterate the importance of immunising children against certain dire diseases. Protection against smallpox, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and tetanus can be given so easily and practically with no discomfort. There are still many parents who have not made use of this service.

Cancer: This is still one of the commonest causes of death. During the year there were 53 deaths from cancer, of which 12 were cancer of the lung.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Luton.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A. (Cantab), M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L. G. HILL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

T. C. OLIVER, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Vital Statistics

Area of District	46,099 acres
Area lost to Luton County Borough	1,895 „
Population: Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1964	33,580
Number of inhabited houses	9,874
Number of houses lost to Luton County Borough	2,584
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1964	£1,221,471
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March, 1964	£4,890 (estimated)
Number of new houses erected:	
(b) Private	271
(a) Council	27

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year 1964, as furnished by the Registrar General:—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births:	902	475	427
Legitimate ...	860	455	405
Illegitimate	42	20	22
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	Crude Rate	26.8	
	Adjusted Rate	22.2	

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still Births:	6	3	3
Legitimate ...	6	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...	6.6		
Rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.18		

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Total Live and Still Births:			
Legitimate ...	902	475	427
Illegitimate ...	6	3	3
	908	478	430

Deaths of Infants

INFANT DEATHS (under one year of age)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	Rate per 1,000 live births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Total ...	10	7	3	11.1	11.1	—
Legitimate ...	10	7	3			
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—			

INFANT DEATHS (under four weeks of age)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>			
Total	8	6	2	8.8	8.8	—
Legitimate	8	6	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			

INFANT DEATHS (under one week of age)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>			
Total	8	6	2	8.8	8.8	—
Legitimate	8	6	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			

Stillbirths and Deaths under One Week of Age

Stillbirths	6	Combined Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births
Deaths	8	
Total	<u>14</u>	15.5

Illegitimate Live Births = 4.6% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths 1

Deaths

Male	130
Female	106
Total	<u>236</u>

Death Rates (per 1,000 population)

All causes: Crude	7.0
Adjusted	10.5
Typhoid and paratyphoid	—
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	—
Tuberculosis	0.03
Influenza	0.03
Smallpox	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Pneumonia	0.54
All causes under 1 year of age	0.3

POPULATION

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, for 1964 was 33,580, and as will be seen from the undermentioned table, there has been a total increase of 12,890 in the last ten years. The decrease in population in 1964, amounting to 8,990, was due to the fact that a portion of the district was taken into Luton County Borough at the beginning of April.

Population 1955 — 1964

Year	Population	Increase or decrease over previous year	Natural Increase
1955	20,690	600	8.1
1956	22,530	1,840	9.8
1957	23,500	970	12.2
1958	24,570	1,070	10.2
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9
1962	41,090	3,550	13.9
1963	42,570	1,480	8.5
1964	33,580	8,990 (decrease)	12.2

“ Natural Increase ” shows the difference between the birth and death rates.

Birth Rate

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar-General supplies a comparability factor to all areas so that an adjusted Birth Rate can be made. The ‘ Factor ’ for this District is 0.83.

The Birth Rate for 1964 was 22.2 after multiplying the ‘ crude Birth Rate of 26.8 by the ‘ comparability factor.’

The total number of live births was 902.

Still Births

The number of still births was 6 and the still birth rate 0.18 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate for 1,000 total live and still births was 6.6.

Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 7.0 as compared with 7.3 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.50, by which a corrected death rate for 1964 of 10.5 is obtained.

Cancer of the stomach caused five deaths, compared with eight last year, and cancer of the lung (bronchus) caused twelve deaths, compared with twenty last year.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths below 55 years of age	30	21	51
Deaths over 75 years of age	36	52	88

Maternal Mortality

There was one Maternal death during the year, and one death due to pregnancy.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	—	12
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	12	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	15	13	28
18. Coronary disease, angina	27	11	38
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20. Other heart disease	7	15	22
21. Other circulatory disease	5	5	10
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	9	9	18
24. Bronchitis	7	3	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2	2
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	10	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	3	7
34. All other accidents	5	6	11
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All Causes	130	106	236

Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 10, of which 7 were male and 3 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 11.1 per 1,000 births over the year. 3 infant deaths were due to prematurity, 1 to congenital malformations, 2 to broncho-pneumonia, 1 to previability, 1 to virus pneumonia, 1 to cerebral haemorrhage, and 1 to acute laryngo tracheitis.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month of age was 8, corresponding to a rate of 8.8 per 1,000 live births.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — SECTION 47

Persons in need of care and attention

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take steps for compulsory removal to hospital of any persons during the year.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1955-1964

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			STILL BIRTHS			DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS		
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 est. population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births
1955	20,690	385	18.6	7	17.9	217	10.5	3	—	3	7.8	—	—	—	—
1956	22,530	409	18.2	18	42.2	189	8.4	8	2	10	24.1	—	—	—	—
1957	23,500	495	21.1	9	17.9	209	8.9	8	3	11	22.2	—	—	—	—
1958	24,570	537	20.8	7	12.9	220	10.6	9	2	11	20.2	—	—	—	—
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7	—	—	—	—
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	—	2	2	2.4
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6	—	—	—	—
1962	41,090	1,149	20.7	18	15.4	270	9.8	20	9	29	25.2	—	—	—	—
1963	42,570	1,050	19.5	21	15.0	313	11.0	12	6	18	16.8	—	—	—	—
1964	33,580	902	22.2	6	6.6	236	10.5	8	2	10	11.1	—	1	1	1.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	8
Whooping Cough	37
Measles	401
Meningococcal Infection	3
Dysentery	5
Food Poisoning	3
Jaundice	28
Erysipelas	1

Scarlet Fever. 8 notifications were received, making a case rate of .25 per 1,000 population.

Whooping Cough. 37 notifications were received, making a case rate of 1.1 per 1,000 population.

Measles. There were 401 cases in 1964, the case rate being 10.9.

Meningococcal Infection. 3 cases were notified, making a case rate of .09.

Dysentery. There were 5 cases, making a case rate of .15.

Food Poisoning. 3 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, making a case rate of .09.

Jaundice. There were 28 cases of jaundice, the case rate being .84.

Erysipelas. 1 case of erysipelas was notified, making a case rate of .03.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases:—

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	—	—	—	1
25—44 years	1	1	—	1
45—64 years	2	2	1	—
65 years and over	1	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	4	4	1	2

Cases notified during:—					Total
1960	8	4	2	3	17
1961	9	4	—	1	14
1962	8	2	1	—	11
1963	4	1	—	2	7
1964	4	4	1	2	11

Chief Public Health Inspector's Annual Report 1964

1. WATER SUPPLY

Public Mains Water

144 samples were obtained within the rural district, every parish being covered for this purpose. The bacteriological examinations carried out at the Medical Research Council's Public Health Laboratory, Lewsey Road, Luton, indicated that the water was of an "excellent" standard of purity.

During the year indoor water supplies were extended to private and council owned dwellings in the parish of Kensworth. These improvements are a direct result of a public sewer having become available in this village early in the year. There remain a number of old cottages without an indoor water supply, but these are either the subject of demolition orders, closing orders or are scheduled as being unfit for habitation and for treatment under Section 16, etc., of the Housing Act 1957.

It is hoped that the expeditious provision of new homes by the Council will soon facilitate the rehousing of families from such cottages.

Private Water Supplies

There remain in the district a number of dwelling remote from the public mains which draw their water from wells or boreholes. 16 samples were obtained from these sources and where the bacteriological reports indicated that the purity of the water was suspect, steps were taken to remove sources of pollution or otherwise provide means of chlorinating the supply.

Discolouration of Water

During 1963 I was able to report a marked improvement in this respect. The steps taken by the Luton Water Company to precipitate the sediment or otherwise remove it from the water appear to have proved successful, as during the year under review no complaints were recorded.

2. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Early in the year the public sewer laid in the village of Kensworth became available for connection thereto. Owners of dwellings, most of whom are owner/occupiers, were quick to avail themselves of this amenity, and by the end of the year the majority of dwellings were discharging the drainage therein.

In the village of Sundon the public sewer became available towards the end of the year and progress in connecting dwellings thereto has proved to be satisfactory.

A public sewer was in the process of being installed in the village of Chalton towards the end of the year and should become available for use early in 1965.

The improvement in sanitary circumstances, which becomes evident immediately houses are drained to a public sewer, is considerable and the general benefits to residents and the Council's Services alike are appreciated. Such improvements emphasise the urgent need for better sanitary circumstances in parishes such as Studham, Totternhoe, Tilsworth, Hockliffe, Billington and Streatley, which can only be achieved by the provision of a public sewer.

Cesspool Emptying

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

During the last twelve months, the main drainage scheme for Kensworth has been completed and this has enabled the labour force to be used to reduce the waiting period for emptying in the remainder of the district.

However, increased development taking place in those areas where main drainage is not yet available has to some extent counteracted the relief which could have been anticipated in this service.

The difficulty of finding suitable sites for disposal still remains, though direct emptying into the new Chalton Sewage Disposal Works has eliminated the necessity for emptying the northern part of the district into Toddington sewers. The remainder of the effluent is dealt with by land treatment and a chemical deodorant is used to attempt to reduce the complaints of smell nuisance caused by open discharge.

During the year some 5,147 cesspools were emptied comprising a total of 12,431 loads and, in spite of labour shortages, this service has been satisfactorily maintained.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

4. PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES

The sanitary circumstances obtaining under these headings are directly related to my report under "SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE."

In those parishes where a public sewer has been laid improvement is inevitable. Where, however, villages and parishes generally have not received the benefit of this essential amenity, pollution of ditches and watercourses and ultimately streams and rivers, continues; and in some respects the sanitary circumstances deteriorate from year to year.

It is to be regretted that ponds, ditches and watercourses are increasingly being used by unauthorised and irresponsible persons as "dumping" areas for household and shop waste, and it is not an unusual sight to see a disused car permanently "ditched" therein.

Every effort is made in co-operation with local police officers to trace the offenders but this form of vandalism is assuming such proportions that it becomes difficult to find sufficient time to deal with the problem effectually.

5. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

No particular difficulty has been experienced in persuading owners of dwellings to provide water closet accommodation where a public sewer has become available. The only dwellings in sewered villages retaining pail closets are those which are subject to demolition orders or are unfit houses scheduled for similar treatment. The Council's own dwelling houses are being modernised progressively but the rate of progress is to some extent determined by the availability of a public sewer.

The pressure upon the cesspool emptying service is such that the conservancy system is tolerated in non-sewered areas.

With regard to the night soil collection service at Sundon, this is no longer required, except at dwelling houses scheduled for demolition or the subject of demolition orders, and the service has gradually been extended to elderly and infirm persons residing in other parishes.

6. REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Boundary alterations by the formation of the Luton County Borough reduced the number of properties to be served and, as a consequence, the refuse collection rounds have been reduced from six to five.

The refuse collection fleet now comprises:—

- 5 — Compression type vehicles.
- 1 — Compression type vehicle and
- 1 — Side Loader (in reserve).

The Task Incentive Bonus Scheme has continued to work satisfactorily and a regular weekly collection service in all areas of the district has been maintained, despite difficulties in attracting labour for this service.

The disposal of refuse still remains a difficulty and no improvement in these facilities has been achieved this year. Negotiations regarding a Council owned Tip are nearing completion and next year it is hoped that this Tip will be available.

At the present time all refuse is disposed of at a privately owned tip at Sundon, the Luton County Borough Tip at the Airport and a small portion to a Tip at Leighton Buzzard.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage	428
Ditches and Watercourses	60
Refuse Accumulations, Deposits, etc.	112
Water Supply and Sampling	238

NUISANCES

Premises (defects)	191
Filthy or verminous premises	40
Disinfestation	21
Animals	41
Rodents	61
Other Pests	13
Atmospheric Pollution	180
Noise Abatement	12
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	266

SPECIAL PREMISES

Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards	5
Factories	30
Outworkers	10
Offices and Shops Act	7
Schools	4
Petroleum	266
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	194
Pet Shops	4
Swimming Pools	20
Farms Welfare	1
Riding Establishments Act	2
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	41

FOOD

Retail Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	47
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	38
Clubs, Village Halls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	29
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	13
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	281
Extraneous Matter in Food	...	...	...	...	...	10
Food (Miscellaneous)	...	...	...	...	...	13

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Milk Sampling and Testing	...	...	...	...	...	25
Extraneous Matter in Milk	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice-Cream Retail Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ice-Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	29

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND WELFARE

Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	108
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	11
Swabs and Specimens	...	...	...	...	...	66
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	1
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	19
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	6

HOUSING

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	152
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	13
Housing (Miscellaneous)	...	...	...	...	...	113

3,290

8. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

One hundred and forty-seven Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action.

Informal action has usually proved to be satisfactory in causing Nuisances to be abated within a reasonable time. Whilst most of these have related to premises, other conditions which have constituted a Nuisance included overflowing cesspools, improper keeping of animals, insanitary ditches and burning of rubbish and waste, etc.

Statutory Action—Public health Act 1936—Section 93

(i) Formal Notices were served on an owner of premises with respect to the improper keeping of animals and improper drainage, etc. He failed to comply with the Notices and subsequently he was summoned to answer a complaint before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction who served an Abatement Order upon the offender.

(ii) Public Health Act 1936—Section 83.

Cleansing of Filthy Premises

An owner/occupier was required by Notice to take such steps to remedy the condition of the premises by cleansing and disinfection. Despite the granting of more than adequate time to comply with the Notice, it was necessary eventually to carry out the cleansing following the default of the owner.

The Litter Act 1958

I have referred to the dumping of rubbish and waste under Paragraphs 3 and 4. However, in addition thereto, various commons and heaths within the district are heavily littered during the holiday seasons despite the provision of waste paper baskets. The problem also arises in streets, particularly where there are groupings of shops. The provision of additional and sufficient waste paper baskets would help to limit this irresponsible habit, but there is obviously a fair proportion of residents who disregard these facilities and dispose of their litter on the pavements and streets.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

Complaints of noise were generally limited to barking dogs, this being in evidence mostly on the Car Collecting Areas at Slip End, where guard dogs are used.

The training of these animals is such that they can be brought immediately under control, but the time factor prevents this being effected instantly.

The Management at the three Car Collecting Centres are anxious not to disturb residents by night and they appear to do their utmost to limit the noise.

Complaints with regard to noise caused by a Motor Cycle Club were resolved satisfactorily following informal action.

9. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

1964 did not live up to the reputation of the previous year and on all deposit gauges an increase in the average monthly deposit was recorded.

The recorded figures are as follows:—(1963 compared to 1964)

Manor Park, Houghton Regis:	From 25.31 to 29.78 tons per sq. mile
Sundon:	From 19.05 to 26.80 „ „ „
Chalton:	From 16.11 to 20.53 „ „ „

The number of complaints received, particularly from Houghton Regis, appear to confirm the increased emission of dust and on observation it was evident that at both low and high level dust was being emitted in such quantities as would give rise to annoyance and possibly constitute a Nuisance.

The Management concerned are immediately notified of unusual dust emissions and generally they co-operate in taking the best practicable steps available to prevent a Nuisance.

The district Alkali Inspector Dr. Grant is also kept informed of the circumstances and liaison with him generally makes for improvement.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

During the year 194 inspections and re-inspections were carried out. Further statutory enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Act and the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 has resulted in a reduction in the number of caravans stationed on unauthorised sites and the removal of caravans where the number approved of under licence had been exceeded.

There are still sites within the district which do not fully comply with the site licence conditions, but this is in some measure due to the absence of proper facilities for the disposal of drainage. The provision or extension of sewers will make a major contribution to having this situation remedied.

The total number of Licensed Sites	...	...	...	45
The total number of caravans on Licensed Sites	...	...	...	657

These are constituted as follows:

Sites with more than 100 caravans	...	...	...	...	2
Sites with 50/100 caravans	...	...	...	...	2
Sites with 20/50 caravans	...	...	...	...	7
Sites with 5/20 caravans	...	...	...	...	6
Sites with 2/4 caravans	...	...	...	...	8
Sites with only one caravan	...	...	...	...	20

Included in the above figures are sites limited to holiday use only. There are five such sites and a total of 88 caravans can be stationed thereon.

There are approximately 35 caravans remaining on unauthorised sites and when the Council's own site at Hockliffe becomes available in 1965 this number will be reduced substantially and eventually disappear.

HOUSING ACT 1957 — UNFIT HOUSES

HOUSES DEMOLISHED

As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	30
Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	...	...	...	...	—

UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	14
Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	—
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	—

UNFIT HOUSES AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

After informal action by local authority	...	...	...	...	By Owner	38
After formal notice under	...	...	...	...
(a) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...		—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...		4
Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...		1

HOUSING ACT 1957 — UNFIT HOUSES PROGRESS REPORT

Demolished as a result of Formal Action	...	...	...	...	...	148
Demolished as a result of Informal Action	...	...	...	...	...	108
Formal undertakings to render fit	...	...	...	...	...	19
Informal undertakings to render fit	...	...	...	...	...	27
Formal undertakings not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal undertakings not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	20
Closing Orders (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	26
Subject to demolition orders where reconstruction has been approved of (Section 24)	...	...	...	...	...	19
Subject to demolition orders still being occupied or have not been demolished	...	...	...	...	...	89
Purchased by the Council with a view to rendering fit	...	...	...	...	...	8
					TOTAL	467

There are a further 150 unfit houses scheduled for treatment within the next five years. At least one-third of these are situated within the parish of Houghton Regis.

In addition to the unfit houses referred to above, steady repair and improvement of houses as a result of informal procedure continues. These houses are mainly situated in those parishes provided with a public sewer and adequate water supply.

More than 300 Improvement Grants have been made since 1954. Just over 50% of these have been with respect to owner/occupied dwellings. Owners generally show little enthusiasm for improving rented houses although the propaganda resorted to within the past few years is showing some signs of success and during 1964 approximately four in ten of the dwellings improved by grant assistance appear to be as a result of such informal action.

FOOD INSPECTION — FOOD HYGIENE

Mobile Shops

The following is a list of Mobile Shops found to be operating in the district: —

Bakers	...	...	...	...	21
Butchers	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	5
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	20
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					61
					—

The Boundary review was responsible for the decrease of 25 mobile shops operating in the district.

Two of the large bakery firms co-operated in the running of trials of a hand-cleansing towelette which was prepared by a Manufacturing Chemist in conjunction with the Department. A total of thirty-eight hand swabs were taken from bakers roundsmen before and after using the towelette. Although the results were encouraging, the towelette, which consisted of a spirit impregnated paper towel kept in a foil pack, did have certain shortcomings. Since carrying out the trials another firm has produced a superior product which it is hoped will be provided by the operators for the use of their roundsmen.

The Council found it necessary to institute legal proceedings in connection with contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 by the operator of an ice cream sales vehicle, who admitted three offences, and was guilty of two further offences. Fines totalling £80 were imposed by the local Magistrates.

Ice-Cream

Two premises were registered to sell ice-cream, bringing the total on the Register to 86.

Twenty-eight samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory all of which were placed in Grade I.

Milk — Milk Sampling

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	3	3	—
Sterilized	1	1	—
Raw Milk (T.T.)	32	17	15

A large catering establishment has been using raw milk in refrigerated milk dispensers and the majority of the unsatisfactory results mentioned above came from these machines. Greater attention is now being paid to sterilizing procedures and the results have improved.

Three samples were taken from automatic vending machines, and two further samples showed no evidence of infection with *Brucella Abortus* and Tuberculosis when examined at the Public Health Laboratory.

Retail Premises

The following is a list of the food premises in the district:—

Bakers	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	...	19
Catering Premises	...	...	...	...	20
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	19
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	11
Grocers (General)	...	...	...	...	69

Bakehouses

Six bakehouses are still in use.

Catering Premises

The first two units of a motorway service area opened in April and when completed the premises will be able to cater for 1,000 customers at one time.

Licensed Premises

Three of the sixty-nine public houses in the district were completely rebuilt and modernised and another six substantially improved.

There are still a number of Licensed Premises where the sanitary accommodation is of a very poor standard. Understandably the Brewers appear to be reluctant to tackle this problem where the returns are likely to be small. Improvements are often only carried out when extra car parking space is provided.

Every effort is being made, however, to persuade those responsible to carry out improvements where they are required.

Unfit Food

Five complaints were received from the public concerning unfit food; they were as follows:—

1. Mouldy steak and kidney pie.
2. Milk bottle containing mould growths.
3. Milk bottle containing cement.
4. Foreign body in bread roll.
5. Mouldy chicken and ham pie.

In two of the above cases letters were sent to those responsible for the contravention, warning them that should they be involved in any similar incidents the Council would consider legal action.

The two complaints involving milk bottles were referred to the Local Authority in whose area the milk was bottled.

MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Bovine (other than Calves)	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Total
Numbered killed	492	28	448	1080	14	2062
Number Inspected	492	28	448	1080	14	2062
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	3	18	—	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42	1	25	50	—	118
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	8.74%	10.72%	6.25%	6.29%	—	6.95%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	1	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	.44%	—	—	.1%

Cysticercus Bovis

One case was detected during the year in a heifer. The affected organs were condemned and the carcass quartered and placed in cold storage for at least three weeks.

Particulars of meat found to be unfit for human consumption: —

	MEAT (lbs.)	OFFAL (lbs.)
Bovine (other than Calves)	285	475
Calves	294	2
Sheep and Lambs	852	123
Pigs	373	74
	1,804	674
Tuberculosis	159 lbs.	
Other Diseases	2,319 lbs.	
	2,478 lbs.	

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of inspections, treatments, etc., carried out during the year: —

	RATS	MICE
Number of houses surveyed	1062	17
" " " treated	144	17
Number of business premises surveyed	79	4
" " " treated	22	4
Number of agricultural premises surveyed	16	—
" " " treated	3	—
Number of sewers surveyed	41	—
" " treated	29	—
Number of sewage disposal works surveyed	90	—
" " treated	12	—
Number of refuse tips surveyed	13	—
" " treated	—	—
Other places surveyed	1	—
" " treated	—	—

**RODENT CONTROL REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS
ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1964**

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	(3) All others (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Col. (1) (2) and (3)	(5) Agricultural
I. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	58	9,219	1,431	10,708	382
II. Total number of PROPERTIES INSPECTED as a result of NOTIFICATION ...	2	130	46	178	7
Number of properties found to be infested by:—					
Common Rat—Major ...	—	1	2	3	2
Minor ...	3	119	34	156	3
House Mouse—Minor ...	—	21	4	25	—
III. Total number of PROPERTIES INSPECTED in the COURSE OF SURVEY UNDER THE ACT ...	144	1,062	80	1,302	16
Number of properties found to be infested by:—					
Common Rat—Minor ...	41	144	22	—	3
House Mouse—Minor ...	—	17	4	—	3
IV. Total number of PROPERTIES OTHERWISE INSPECTED (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	47	14	61	—
Number of properties found to be infested by:—					
Common Rat—Minor ...	—	43	7	50	—
House Mouse—Minor ...	—	4	7	11	—
V. Any other points of interest					

The Council's Area was reduced in size by approximately 3,000 hereditaments as from 1st April, 1964.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority ...	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	52	30	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	2	2	—
TOTAL ...	55	32	6	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	9	8	—	1	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork — Sections 133 & 134

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 133
Wearing Apparel —	
Making, etc.	88
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	6
Xmas Stockings, etc.	13
Lampshades	2
	<hr/>
	109
	<hr/>

There were no instances of work in unwholesome premises and no cases of default in sending Lists to the Council.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936

Two new licences were granted, bringing the total number of licences issued to seventy-one.

The Motorway Service Area Filling Station, with storage space for 210,000 gallons came into operation in April.

Two hundred and sixty-six inspections were made in connection with the enforcement of the licensing conditions.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

This report covers the period from the 1st May, when the Act came into force.

No general inspections were carried out during this time, but all the records and office arrangements have been made. It is hoped that all the routine general inspections, concerning the 133 registered premises in the district, will be made during the first quarter of 1965.

THE REGISTRATION OF PREMISES

During May, letters were sent to the occupiers of 271 premises where it was thought that they may come under the scope of the Act. These letters pointed out the provisions of the Act in connection with the registration of premises and a Registration Form OSR.1. was included.

Although the response was good, it was necessary to send a further 83 letters to persons who had not replied to the original.

Of the 271 registration forms returned, it was found that 138 of the premises were excepted from registration.

STATISTICS

On the 31st December, 1964, 133 premises were registered under the Act, comprised as follows:—

Offices	...	...	...	33
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	23
Retail Shops	...	...	...	77
				<hr/>
				133
				<hr/>

1,107 persons are employed in these premises. An analysis is set out below:—

Offices	...	...	...	233
Retail Shops	...	...	...	299
Warehouses	...	...	...	2
Catering Establishments open to public	...	...	...	579
Canteens	...	...	...	4
				<hr/>
				1,107 (367 males and 740 females)
				<hr/>

INSPECTIONS

The number of visits of all kinds made by the inspectors to registered premises was 47.

EXEMPTIONS

No applications were made during the year for exemption under the Provisions of Sections 5(2), 6, 9 of the Act.

PROSECUTIONS

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of any offences at registered premises.

A GUIDE TO THE ACT

A six page Guide to the Act was prepared by the Department and a copy sent to occupiers of all the registered premises.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Nine Establishments were licensed during the year. These licences covered the boarding of 248 dogs and 128 cats.

The R.S.P.C.A. Inspector proved to be extremely helpful in offering advice on the welfare of animals in the early stages of the operation of this new Act.

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

Infectious Diseases

All cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health are investigated with a view to tracing the source of infection.

Sonnei Dysentery

An outbreak at Stanbridge accounted for twenty-one known cases and involved seven families.

Suspected Dysentery

Eight cases were investigated following notification by doctors that food handlers had shown symptoms suggesting that they may have been suffering from Dysentery. Subsequent laboratory examinations, however, revealed that this was not so.

Infective Hepatitis

During the early part of the year twenty-one children and two members of the teaching staff were found to be suffering from Infective Hepatitis during an outbreak involving Hillborough County Primary School.

Investigations into the source of the outbreak were made but no common factor could be found. For example, the twenty-one cases involved eight separate classes. Only one case was found in the nearby infants school although many of the families affected by the disease did have children attending both schools.

The symptoms in some cases were quite severe, many of the children being away from school for six weeks or more.

National Assistanct Act, 1948

Care of Elderly Persons

During the year reports with respect to four elderly persons were submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee. Two of these, in co-operation with the County Welfare Officer, were provided with residential accommodation. In no case was it found necessary to take statutory action in order to effect removal.

Other Duties

These include the control of swimming pools which are increasing in number, particularly at schools; reports on ruinous and dilapidated structures, Public Health Act 1961; The Pet Animals Act 1951 and the Licensing Act 1961.

Public Health Department — Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my Deputy, Mr. T. C. Oliver, for the efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties and for his loyalty and co-operation during the year.

Mr. Alan Turvey commenced his duties on the 11th May, 1964, as a Student Public Health Inspector. He attends the approved course for the Public Health Inspector's Diploma at the Hertfordshire College of Building at St. Albans, and during his practical training here and at college he has proved to be a good student.

I am grateful to the other members of the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

Miss E. Joyce—Clerk/Shorthand Typist.

Mrs. C. Coppard—Clerk/Shorthand Typist (part time).

Mr. E. Todd—Assistant Rodent Officer.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

