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#### **Contributors**

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# Portland Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1957



## PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

## PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

## YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957

Council Offices, PORTLAND, Dorset. September, 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1957 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

So far as infectious diseases were concerned it was a very quiet year. There have been only 43 notifications of whooping cough and six of measles. Seven cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified.

The standardised Birth Rate (16.92) per 1000 population was again lower than that of the previous year (18.16), while the standardised Death Rate (11.53) was higher than the rate for the previous year (9.95). Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 37.

Once more it is a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has invariably been extended to me throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful co-operation. In particular Mr. Williams, your Public Health Inspector and Miss M. Otter, part-time clerical assistant, have done much to promote the efficiency of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health

# Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

2. Public Health Inspector:

Mr. P. A. Williams, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

3. Clerk (part-time)

Miss M. Otter.

4. Sanitary Labourer/Rodent Operator:

Mr. T. Llewellyn.

GENERAL STATISTICS	
Area (land and internal water)	2,905
Population (mid 1957) (Estimated by Registrar General)	13,820
	£108,007
Sum represented by Penny at 1st April, 1958	£434
No. of houses inhabited at 1st April, 1958 (exclusive of Government properties)	2,480
Shops assessed with private dwelling accommodation	97
Licensed Premises, hotels or boarding houses	35

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS:

	Total Births · · · ·		
	Birth Rate per 1,000 population Comparability Factor (births) .	::: :::	1.58
20	Standardised Birth Rate per 1,0	00 population	

2,605

Total

# Live Births: 144

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate		72 3	66	138
	TOTAL	75	69	144
Live Birth Rate per	1,000	population	•••	10.71

## Still Births: 4

Legitimate Illegitimate	. 4	I I	4
TOTA	L 4	-	7+
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (	live & still	) births	27.03
DEATHS: 107			
	58	Females 59	Total 107
Death Rate per 1,000 populat  Comparability Factor (Deaths Standardised Death Rate	ion		· 7.74 · 1.49 ·11.53

Males

Females Total

# Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate		ī	2	2
	TOTAL	1	2	3

## Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		-	2	2
Illegitimate		1	-	1
	TOTAL	1	2	3

#### Infant Mortality Rate

All Infants per 1,000 live births	20.83
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	13.88
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	6.94
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
	Nil

M Comparability Factor. This is worked for each District by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised birth and death rates which are fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1957

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	ta i legação	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	- 99	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-		-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	1

		Males	Females	Total
8.	Measles		-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic			
	diseases	-	dath - nd	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1 1	5 3 1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronch	nus 2	1	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast		T	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus Other malignant and lymphatic	-	are despetable	-
T.r.	neoplasms	10	7	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	_	_ 38	
16.	Diabetes	_	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous			
	system	6	6	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	5	1	6
19.	Hypertension with heart diseas	5 3 8	1 2 18	6 5 26 4 1 4 9
20.	Other heart disease		18	26
21.	Other circulatory disease	2 1 2 8	2	4
22.	Influenza Pneumonia	7	2	1
23.	Bronchitis	á	1	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory	V	_	
	system	- 0		-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarri	noea-	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	n -	-	
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined	0	0	10
22	diseases	2	2	4
33.	Motor vehicles accidents	1		1 1
35.	All other accidents Suicide	7	7	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
50.	TOTAL	50	49	7.07
	TUTAL	58	77	107

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:-

	March	June	September	December	Total 1957
Scarlet Fever	14	2	2	-	8
Whooping Cough	2	26	15	-	43
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-í	-	ĭ
Non-Paralytic do.	_	-	-	-	_
Measles	2	2	2	-	6
Diphtheria	-	_	-	121 1-12 3	-
Acute Pneumonia	_	-	_	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	_	-	-
Smallpox	-		-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-			-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Para-typhoid Fever		-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	- 1	1
Meningoccal Infection	-	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Respirator	y 3	2	1	1	7
Non-Respirator			_	-	
Malaria	-	-	_	-	-
11020170					

#### FOOD POISONING

One case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year.

#### FOOD

## (i) Meat.

(a) Meat Premises. There are no registered slaughter-houses in the District and all meat for human consumption had been inspected by Neat Inspectors of adjacent authorities before it was brought to the Island. Regular visits were made by your Public Health Inspector to Butchers' shops. The covered metal-lined van used for bringing meat to the Island has been inspected periodically and found to be maintained in good condition.

One man was registered as a slaughterman, and employed mainly outside the district or in slaughtering for private consumption, and not for re-sale.

(b) Sausage and Cooked Meat Premises. Twenty-one visits were made to the eight premises used for small sales in conjunction with butchers' shops. All were found to be maintained satisfactorily.

Work on improving conditions required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 continued and thirty-six visits were made to bakehouses cooking meat products or premises where meat products were sold. One bakehouse was relined internally with impervious metal sheeting to permit of more effective cleaning.

No special lectures were given nor Clean Food Guild inaugurated.

## (ii) Milk.

The only grades of milk permitted to be retailed in Portland, are Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised. There is no pasteurising plant on the Island - neither are there any local producers of Tuberculin Tested milk.

The main suppliers of milk are Messrs. Lovell's Creameries Ltd., and the Weymouth & District Co-operative Society who are licensed as Supplementary Dealers.

All raw milk produced on the Island is sent by the farmers for pasteurisation in Weymouth.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) or Milk (Pasteurised & Sterilised) Regulations, 1949, the following licences were issued by the Council:-

Tuberculin Tested

Dealers or Supplementary
Purveyors

During the year the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester examined thirteen samples of pasteurised milk, (four being T.T. Pasteurised), all of which were reported to be satisfactory.

(iii) Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, pre-packed supplies being obtained from manufacturers on the mainland. All premises used for the sale of

ice cream were inspected and the freezing apparatus checked and these conformed with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. No loose ice cream was sold within the area.

(iv) Summary

Food premises within the area are as follows:-

Butchers Shops Bakers Shops Bakeries		866
Greengrocers General Provision Shops Confectionery Shops Works Canteens		3521
School Canteens Hotels		45
Licensed Premises Salvation Army Hostel Cafes	3	3319

- (ii) The following were registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-
  - (a) For the sale of ice cream 39
    (b) For the manufacture of sausages 8
    (c) Cooked Fish & Chip Shops 6
- (v) Byelaws & Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. With regard to the handling and wrapping of food, the Bye-laws made in 1950 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 have been of a useful complement to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.
- (vi) Cafes & Food Premises. All Hotels and Cafes together with all other food premises such as Provision Shops, Greengrocers, Confectioners, Works and School Canteens were visited during the year and in appropriate cases attention was drawn to the need for staff facilities for washing hands, fly proofing, cleanliness of machines. Clothing lockers or compartments were also mentioned and much adaptation was carried out. A total of 221 visits were made.

As a result of these visits, fourteen informal notices were served in regard to the provision of extra sanitary accommodation, impervious internal surfaces, covered metal refuse bins, rat & mice proofed containers, etc., washing facilities, tidying of stores and redecoration. The standard of hygiene in these premises continues to improve and is generally satisfactory.

#### WATER SUPPLY

All houses in the District have a main water supply pumped from the Friar Waddon borehole where the supply is chlorinated.

Forty-five samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:-

Council Offices Friar Waddon	Satisfactory 23 15	Suspicious 2	Unsatis.	Total 23 22
	38	2	5	45
	**************************************		accuses.	

# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS 26th March, 1958

Appearance: Clear and colourless. No smell.

Reaction: pH 7.36

Pa	rts	per	Millio	<u>n</u>
1 1000		10.00		

Free Carbo Ammonia (a	n Dioxide s N)	16
equivale	as Chlorides) nt to Sodium Chloride sorbed (4 hrs.)	0.003 0.012 24.5 40.5 0.07 Very faint trace 3.0 305 20
Hardness:	Temporary Permanent Total	206 28 234

## Mineral Analysis

Lead Copper Iron Calcium	Pb Cu Fe Ca	Less than Less than	0.1 0.1 0.05 83
Magnesium Sodium Carbonate	Mg Na CO <sub>2</sub>		14
Sulphate	504		15

# As nearly as can be calculated:

Calcium Carbonate CaCO3	206
Magnesium Sulphate MgSOl	19
Magnesium Chloride MgCl <sub>2</sub>	13 25
Salt NaCl	
Sodium Nitrate NaNO3	22 20
Ignition Loss	305
	507

In forwarding their report, Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Analytical Chemists said, "This is very similar to other samples analysed. The water is hard and is of excellent organic purity."

During the year a sample of the public water supply was submitted for analysis of its fluoride content. This was found to be 0.10 parts per million (method used - distillation from perchloric acid).

## HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957

During 1956 the three under-mentioned properties had been the subject of Official Representations and in 1957 action was taken by the Council as indicated.

No. 37 Wakeham -No. 1 Clements Lane -No. 77 Chiswell -

Undertaking accepted.
 Undertaking Accepted.
 Undertaking cancelled and Closing Order made.

## Action taken re houses officially represented in previous year.

No. 163 High Street and No. 41 Straits - Specifications of works carried out and undertakings given by the owners cancelled by the Council.

## Action taken under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

No. 149 Fortuneswell - Closing Order made on basement living room.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

Three licences to use individual caravans for a period not exceeding six months were issued during the year.

A licence was issued to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Legg to use the paddock adjoining Pennsylvania Castle, as a site for twentyfive caravans.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No formal action was taken under these Acts but 33 visits were paid to aged or infirm persons, and help or guidance given as needed.

One elderly man living under most unsatisfactory conditions was persuaded to enter hospital, where he later died.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

It was not necessary for me to issue any notice on behalf of the Council under these regulations.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One shop was licensed under this Act.

The Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. has continued to act in an honorary capacity as Inspector under this Act. No complaints were received from him during the year. Five visits were paid by your Public Health Inspector and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

#### LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

The cabinets for the humane destruction of cats and dogs loaned to the Council by the R.S.P.C.A. were available at the Council's Wide Street Depot on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

This service has been much appreciated and during the year 69 dogs or puppies and 107 cats or kittens were humanely destroyed. Electricity was used for dogs and chloroform for cats.

## DEALERS IN OLD METALS

Three persons were registered as Dealers in Scrap Metal under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 and five visits were made to check books and premises. No Marine Stores Dealers were registered.

## FACTORY ACTS, 1937 & 1948

## PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Numbe Inspections	Written	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	27	33	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	42	46	10	_
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authorit (excluding out- workers' premises)	y 2	14	-	-
TOTAL	71	83	12	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of	
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Refer To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspector	cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted	
Want of cleanliness	2	2				
Overcrowding	-	-	_	_		
Unreasonable						
Temperature	1	1	-	-	-	
Inadequate Ventilation	_		-	1994		
Ineffective						
drainage of						
floors	1	1	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences	+					
(a) Insufficient.	2	2	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable						
or defective (c) Not separate	3	3	-	2	Control of the last	
for sexes	1	1		_		
Other offences				4000		
against the	2	2	,	2	1000	
Act	3	3	1	3	-	
TOTAL	13	13	1	5	-	

## DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK, ETC.

There was no alteration in the day-to-day work of the Department.

All new drainage and repairs or alterations to existing drainage of all premises other than Government buildings were tested by water pressure or smoke machine in the presence of your Public Health Inspector, and a good standard of work was maintained by both Council employees and Contractors. Drains and private sewers in the area were cleared where required by the Council's Sanitary Labourer, who in addition to this work carried out all rodent destruction throughout the area, disinfections and disinfestations of buildings, disposal of unwanted cats and dogs, the spraying of the Council's Tip and other miscellaneous duties, e.g. sewer flushings etc.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Portland has approximately 2,600 houses and business premises and with a few exceptions these are sewered into four outfalls at Chiswell, Chene, Portland Bill and Sheat. Apart from a small area at Pennsylvania Castle, all the sewage from Tophill enters the sea by natural fall, but in the Underhill district automatic sewage pumps are employed.

The Chesil sewers were cleared out and extensive repairs carried out to the sewer outfall at Portland Bill which had been damaged by heavy seas.

#### FLOODING AT SOUTHWELL

There was further flooding in this area after heavy rain and minor works to relieve this were put in hand.

An Inspector from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government paid a further visit to the Island but authority to carry out major remedial measures has not yet been received.

#### RODENT CONTROL

During the year 56 visits were made by your Public Health Inspector in connection with rodent control.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food methods of destruction were used and their Divisional Rodent Inspector checked the work regularly. Twice during the year all the non-tidal and unflooded portions of the sewerage systems were test-baited, and poson-baited according to the Ministry Inspector's advice.

One man was employed part-time (20 hours per week) on rodent destruction work, and the rat population was kept at a low level.

Number of visits of part-time rodent operative (Inspections & Treatment)	750
Infestations reported and eradicated	83
Baits laid (including prebaiting)	450
Sewer manholes test-batted	88
Sewer manholes poison-baited	51

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council maintained a weekly collection of house refuse throughout the year and also removed trade refuse. This work was under the control of the Council's Surveyor. One 'Karrier' 10 cubic yerd side-loading covered lorry was used for refuse collection and a driver and four assistants were employed on this vehicle.

It is estimated that 3,500 tons of house and trade refuse were disposed of during the year. The Tip at Wide Street was maintained free from rats, by being regularly baited. This latter work was also checked by the Divisional Rodent Inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

#### LICENSED PREMISES

The improvement of licensed premises commenced after the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 continued, and twenty-five visits to check progress were made. This resulted in the provision of two further water closets for ladies, and two for gentlemen and to the provision of three wash-hand basins for ladies' toilets. All thirty-three licensed premises have sinks with hot water for glass washing. One notice to provide an extra water closet is outstanding, but drawings have been approved by the Council for this work.

#### HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 sixteen houses let in lodgings were inspected, mostly in conjunction with Council house applications. One drainage improvement resulted from the visits.

Twelve routine inspections of furnished accommodations resulted in one informal notice for repairs.

#### UNSOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

Food	No. of containe	Weight	
Tomatoes Margarine Figs Peas Beans Christmas Oranges Lard Pineapple Cocomut Flour Beetroot Peaches Coffee Apricots Jam Butter Meat Bacon Fish Biscuits Tea Sugar	pudding 1229181144362265	3½ lbs. 1 lb. 128 lbs. 47 lbs. 3 lbs. 1 lb. 2 lbs. 1 lb. 11 lbs. 1 lb. 2 lbs. 1 lb. 2 lbs. 1 lb. 2 lbs. 1 lb. 1 lbs. 3 lbs. 3 lbs. 1 lbs.	

Condemned Food Condemned Food is collected by Council transport after voluntary surrender has been agreed to in writing and disposed of at the Council's Tip.

## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Sanitary Defects, Nuisances investigated Visits to verminous premises Premises disinfested by Local Authority Premises disinfected by Local Authority Investigating Infectious Diseases	::	200	94 7 33 15 6
Investigating Infectious Diseases Visits to houses owned by Local Authority Visits to Aged and infirm persons Housing Survey Inspections	::	::	237 33 88
Investigating overcrowding or unsatisfactory conditions	::	••	43 45 90 67 101 21 1 <del>2</del>

Taxi inspections		11
Provision Shops		26
Fish Fryers		18
Cafe and Hotel Kitchens		21
Canteens (including 3 School Canteens)		14
Ice Cream premises		23
Licensed Premises		25
Offices inspected		25 16
School Conveniences		14 4 5 18
School's drainage		4
Pet Animals Shops		5
		18
Shops for the purposes of Shops Acts		22
Milk Samples for bacteriological examination		13
Parting defending water complete for bestand	n	13
Routine drinking water samples for bacterio		1.0
examination		45
Waterworks visited re sampling		22
Inspections of factories and workplaces		83
Petroleum Installations - Visits		18
Petroleum Installations - Tests		2
Notices sent under Factory Acts		12
Factories re fire certificates		12 14 6
Other matters in Factories		6
Public Conveniences		23
Visits re animals		11
Inspector's visits re rodents		56
Visits to refuse tip		21
Tip sprayed for flies etc		5
Tip baited for rodents		5
Complaints re refuse collection, dustbin et		
investigated		8
investigated		13
		13
		12
Cess-pools & Septic Tanks inspected		13 2 16
Septic Tanks emptied	•• ••	76
Houses let in lodgings		98
Miscellaneous visits		20
Scrap Metal Dealers visited		5
Drainage Inspections and tests:-		-/
Smoke		16
Water		67
Visits re drains		121
Quarries inspected for accumulations		13
Quarries' fences inspected for danger		17
Accumulations removed		16
Drains or sewers cleared by Council men		118
Food disposal certificates issued		43
Magistrates Food Condemnation Certificates		Nil
Visits re unsound foods		12
Informal Visits under Rents Acts		18
Certificates of Disrepair recommended		
Letters to Owners		1,
Public Health Acts & Housing Acts:-		
Notices served - Informal		62
Formal		
Notices complied - Informal		7 58
		6
		,756
Total number of inspections made	** **T	9170





