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#### **Contributors**

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# Portland Urban District Council



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1963



E. J. Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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## PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### REPORT

#### on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

#### PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

#### YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963

Council Offices, PORTLAND, Dorset.

June, 1964

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 1963 on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

The only infectious disease of note was measles, of which 210 cases were notified, 144 of these being in the June quarter and 63 in the September quarter. No cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The mid 1963 population as estimated by the Registrar General was 11,600. Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 55. The live birth rate, 13.88 per thousand estimated population, showed a fall from that in the previous year (16.91).

It is again a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has been extended to me by the Council throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful cooperation. In particular, Mr. Williams, your Public Health Inspector and Miss D. Bloy, part-time clerical assistant, later succeeded by Miss M. Crabb, have helped greatly 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

- Medical Officer of Health, Health Centre, Weymouth. Tel: WEYMOUTH 1645.
   E. J. Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
- 2. Public Health Inspector:

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

3. Clerk (part-time):

Miss D. Bloy (resigned 26th December, 1963). Miss M. Crabb (from 1st January, 1964).

4. Sanitary Labourer/Rodent Operator:

Mr. T. Llewellyn.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water) in acres	2,905
Population (mid 1963) (Estimated by Registrar General)	11,600
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1964	327,908
Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1964	£1,320
No. of private houses (exclusive of Government Properties)	2,538
No. of Council houses or flats	656
	3,239
Shops assessed with private dwelling accommodation	89
Licensed Premises, hotels or boarding houses	35
Total houses, flats and business premises	3,363

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS:

Live Births: 161		Males	Females	Total
Logitimate Illegitimate		77 2	79 3	156 5
	TOTAL	79	82	161

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population				13.88
*Comparability Factor (births)				1.30
Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate	ed por	pulati	ion	18.04
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total 1				3.11

Still Births: 5 Males Females Total	
Legitimate 3 2 5 Illegitimate	
TOTAL 3 2 5	
	01
<u>DEATHS: 106</u> <u>Males Females Total</u> 57 49 106	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 9.	30
Deaths of Infants under 1 year: Males Females Total  Legitimate 2 - 2  Illegitimate	
TOTAL 2 - 2	
Infant Mortality Rate:	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate 6. (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	21
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	1
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)  No. of deaths	_
*Comparability Factor. This is worked for each District by the Registrar General.	
In his circular dated 20th April, 1964, G.R.O. Circular (M.O.H.) No. 3/1964, the Registrar General states, "The area comparability factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.	f
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1963	
Males Females Total	

<u>Ma</u>	les	Females	Total
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	- 1100	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
	2	3	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	- =	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
- Company of the comp	7	6	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	me tests	-
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
and the same of th	6	8	14
	.0	9	19
Tree of the contract of the co	1	3	4
20. Other heart disease	8	7	15
21. Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
22. Influenza	-	-	-
	1	2	3 6
	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
	2	1	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
	7	4	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	2	-	2
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	MET TEN	
TOTAL 5	7	49	106

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

	March	June	September	December	Total 1963
Scarlet Fever	6	1	Designation of	2	9
Measles	3	144	63	-	210
Dysentery	1	1	3	1	6
Acute pneumonia	2	-		-	2
Food poisoning	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	1	-	-	1

## FOOD POISONING

The one case of food poisoning during the year was due to Salmonella Infantis.

## FOOD

## (1) General

Food premises were regularly inspected by the Public Health

Inspector. Twenty food samples were taken by the Dorset County Council as Food and Drugs Authority and submitted for examination. These were reported satisfactory. One sample of biscuits submitted by a Portland resident was examined by the County Bacteriologist who reported them to be sterile although black elongated objects were noted. These were then submitted to the Public Analyst who described the objects as discoloured dough.

## (2) Meat

(a) Slaughter Houses. There are no registered slaughter houses in the Urban District.

As from 1st October the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 required a 100% meat inspection of all meat and offal. Owing to staff shortage in the Dorchester Rural District the Portland Council permitted their Public Health Inspector to assist the Rural District Council at weekends on meat inspection, for a period of six months. This was in accordance with a Ministry circular suggesting co-operation between authorities particularly as the Regulations require a seven day service if necessary.

The covered metal vans used for bringing meat to the Island were maintained in accordance with the Food Hygiene Code of Practice issued under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

(b) Sausage and Cooked Meat Premises. Thirty-seven visits were made to the eight premises used for production or sale of sausages and cooked meats. These are mainly in conjunction with butchers shops and continued to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. Twelve visits were paid to bakehouses making meat products. These premises were maintained in good condition and to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

## (3) Milk

The Dorset County Council is responsible for the registration of retail dealers in pastuerised, sterilised and tuberculin tested milk. The County Health Department reported that thirty-four milk samples were taken from retailers' premises in Portland. One failed the methylene blue test but passed the phosphatase test.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) or Milk (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1960 the following dealers were licensed by the County Council for the sale of milk in Portland:-

Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
20	20	8

The main suppliers of milk are Messrs. Lovell's Creameries Ltd. of Weymouth and the Weymouth & District Co-operative Society.

There are no pasteurising plants on the Island and milk produced from farms locally is forwarded to Weymouth for pasteurisation. Two farms on the Island are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, and the animals are tested by the Ministry's Veterinary Officers at regular intervals.

## (4) Summary

(i) Food premises within the area are as follows:-

Butchers Shops	 	 		8
Bakers Shops	 	 		5
Bakeries	 	 		3
Greengrocers	 	 		13
General Provision Shops	 	 		35
Confectionery Shops	 	 		21
Works Canteens	 	 		3
School Canteens	 	 		4
Hotels	 	 	••	7
Licensed Premises	 	 		34
Salvation Army Hostel	 	 		1
Cafes	 	 		12

(ii) The following premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:-

(a)	For the sale of ice	cream	 	51
(b)	For the manufacture	of sausages	 	8
(c)	Cooked fish shops		 	5

#### (5) Byelaws and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955

With regard to the handling and wrapping of food, the Byelaws made in 1950 under Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been a useful complement to the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. There were no prosecutions under the Regulations or Byelaws.

#### (6) Cafes and Food Premises

Two hundred and twelve visits were made by the Public Health Inspector to cafes, hotels and other food premises. These complied with the Food Hygiene Regulations but the three temporary wooden cafe structures at Portland Bill had no toilets and the staff had to walk about two hundred yards to the public convenience. Statutory Notices were served requiring the provision of toilets at these cafes and drawings for the approval under the Byelaws have now been received. These schemes had to be approved by the Crown Commissioners' Agents as the toilets are situated on Crown land.

Right notices were served for provision of extra toilets and wash-hand basins and general repairs in food premises.

Fifty visits were paid to licensed premises.

#### WATER SUPPLY

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

One sample of the public water supply for chemical analysis was submitted to Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien of Bristol. Seventy-two were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:-

has the belong approached the	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Suspect	Total
Council Offices, Portland	54	1	111-101	55
Friar Waddon (before chlorination)	9	4	4	17
	63	5	4	72

#### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS February, 1964

Appearance: Clear and colourless. Trace of gritty sediment.

Reaction: pH 7.3

	Parts per Million
Free Carbon Dioxide CO	19
Ammonia (as N) Free Albuminoid Chlorine (as Chlorides) equivalent to Sodium Chloride Oxygen absorbed (4 hours) Nitrogen in Nitrite Nitrogen in Nitrate Total Solids Loss on ignition Appearance on ignition Hardness: Temporary Permanent	0.05 0.02 21 35 0.21 0.02 3.3 312 16 Slight charring
Total	240
Lead Pb less than Copper Cu less than	0.1
Calcium Ca Magnesium Mg Sodium Na Potassium K	89 4.5 10.5 0.7
Carbonate CO <sub>3</sub> Sulphate SO <sub>4</sub>	127 14
Fluoride (separated by distillation)	0.09

(SIGNED) WATERFALL & O'BRIEN

In forwarding their report, Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Analytical Chemists said, "This sample does not show any significant change from previous samples; the high standard of organic purity is maintained and there is no alteration in the mineral composition. The fluoride is again just below 0.1 parts per million. This is of course far below the level which has been found to give any protection from caries formation in children".

## HOUSING ACTS 1936-61

During the year the under-mentioned properties were represented as unfit for habitation and action was taken by the Council as indicated.

96 Weston Road Closing Order made
Flat 1 Artist Row Closing Order made on one room

## Action taken re houses officially represented in previous year

An approved specification of works having been carried out to

(7)

the under-mentioned property the Closing Order made in the previous year was determined.

#### 30 Grove Road

#### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

A site licence was issued under this Act to Mr. B. Cade in respect of Glenn Holiday Park, Wakeham, Portland.

A site licence was issued to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Legg for a caravan site at the rear of Weston House, Weston, Portland.

Fifty-one visits were made to caravan sites during the year when conditions were found to be satisfactory.

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

No formal action was taken during the year, but twenty-seven visits were paid to aged or infirm persons, and help or guidance given as needed.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

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

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are no licensed pet shops in Portland. One visit was made to Portland Fair to investigate conditions under which animals and goldfish were offered for prizes.

#### LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

The cabinets loaned to the Council by the R.S.P.C.A. for the humane destruction of cats and dogs were available at the Council's Wide Street Depot on Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. The service has been much appreciated by pet owners. During the year thirty-seven dogs or puppies and forty-four cats or kittens were humanely destroyed. Electricity was used for dogs and chloroform for cats. The electrical apparatus is checked and serviced every six months.

#### DEALERS IN OLD METALS

Three persons were registered to deal in scrap metals under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 but there were no Marine Stores Dealers. Four visits were made to check stores and books during the year. The Council also grants authority for the County Police to inspect records under this Act.

#### MINES AND QUARRIES ACT, 1954, SECTION 151 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 92

Twenty-eight visits were made to check quarry fences throughout the Island. The stone industry was working at high pressure and contours of quarries altered quickly in some places.

Five preliminary notices were issued and reminders were sent to the two quarry companies pointing out the difficulties where public paths were adjacent to quarries and the danger to the public during times of reduced visibility. Hooligans continued to damage the quarry walls in Wide Street and temporary wire fences were erected.

The County Council purchased from the Crown about fifteen feet of quarry land north of the Council Depot to Verne Yeates on each side of Wide Street and three warning notice boards were eracted. Quarry fences along this road became the County Council's responsibility for the first time.

## THE LITTER ACT, 1958

One hundred and fifty circular letters were issued drawing attention to the Litter Act.

The Council and the Court Leet reached agreement on a payment for emptying litter bins from Crown lands and there is no doubt that the situation at Portland Bill was somewhat better.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Throughout the Island there are eleven public conveniences for men and nine for women. These are in reasonable structural condition although it is considered that several should be modernised by the addition of wash-hand basins. These were visited one each month by the Public Health Inspector and when necessary reports were made to the Surveyor's Department which is responsible for the maintenance. The convenience at Portland Bill appeared inadequate for peak summer periods but a second convenience in the hutted arearecommended by the Public Health Inspector has notso far been provided.

It is hoped that in the near future a new convenience will be available at Verne Yeates which is most popular by the visiting public.

The subsidence of the cliff at West Weares has made the approach to the convenience there precarious.

#### DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK ETC.

The Health Department carried out the clearing of drains and private sewers by direct labour at no charge to the property owners. It is found that this brings early notice of defects in private drains and sewers, the owners of which are required to repair or renew and it is thought that this keeps the Island fairly clear of drain troubles. All new drainage to private buildings continued to be approved by the Public Health Inspector prior to being put into use. A water test or smoke test is used, as necessary. Seventy-four drains and private sewers were cleared during the year and fifteen notices issued for essential repairs.

The Council's Sanitary Assistant also carried out rodent destruction throughout the area, disinfections and disinfestations of buildings, burning up of accumulations, disposal of unwanted cats and dogs, the spraying of the Council's Tip, sewer flushings and other miscellaneous duties.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Construction of dwellings and business premises on the Island has continued. All these new premises and numerous improved old premises were connected to the Council's sewers with the exception

of the new petrol station at Verne Yeates which is served by a septic tank. The outfalls at Chene, Portland Bill and Sheat passed untreated sewage into the sea by natural fall (except for a small area at the end of Wakeham). The Underhill area, however, is pumped to the main sewer at West Weares.

The Grove area comprising the Borstal Institution, its Officers' Quarters, the Grove School and two large houses adjoining are connected to the Borstal Institution's private outfall. The Admiralty have private outfalls from the Dockyard and the Naval Establishments adjoining which enter the sea outside the Harbour.

The Naval Married Quarters, West Cliff, and Caravan Site (previously the site of the Royal Air Force station and Quarters) and the large Admiralty buildings at Southwell are connected to the Council's sewers and at time of heavy rain the sewers in the Weston area are overloaded. Overflowing of sewers also occurred at Castle Road due to increased use and silting. At the bottom of Grosvenor Road overloading occurred due to continued new extensions, e.g. Tophill Junior School and Park Estate Road. Action to improve the capacity of the Island's sewers would appear to be necessary before any further housing development takes place.

#### FLOODING AT SOUTHWELL

A major scheme to deal with the flooding at Southwell has not yet been put into operation but further building development in this area has been curtailed.

#### RODENT CONTROL

The district was consistently inspected for rats and other rodents both by the Public Health Inspector and the Council's Rodent Operator. This is necessary as during the summer visitors leave food on the Island's open spaces and rats move at the end of the summer to the built up areas.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food methods of destruction were used and there were regular visits from their Officers to check the work. Twice during the year the sewers were test-baited and poison-baited according to the Ministry Inspector's advice.

The Council's Tip was baited twenty-four times during the year. This Tip has been consistently on fire for a number of years and this has a deterrent effect on rats but careful watch was maintained on the adjacent land. As the Tip is in a very open quarry area no complaints were received concerning smoke.

Number of visits of part-time rodent	
operative (Inspections and Treatment)	672
Rat infestations reported and eradicated	99
Mice infestations reported and eradicated	44
Baits laid (including pre-baiting)	529
Sewer manholes test-baited (2 periods)	95
Sewer manholes poison-baited (2 periods)	63
Owners advised regarding rat proofing	21
Visits made by Public Health Inspector primarily	
for other purposes but combined with rodent	
inspections	468
Visits made by Public Health Inspector for	
rodent matters	35

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of house and shop refuse was carried out regularly and satisfactorily throughout the year. This work is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

One Commer 18 cubic yard rear loading vertical tipping covered lorry was used for refuse collection.

The Council's Surveyor estimates that approximately 4,000 tons of house and trade refuse were disposed of during the year.

Free tipping is allowed at the Council's Wide Street Tip when trade refuse is delivered there by private or contractors! lorries. This encourages disposal of trade refuse in a proper manner.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

One informal notice was served under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, and this had a satisfactory effect.

#### HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS ETC.

Under the Housing Act 1957, thirty-nine visits were made to houses occupied by more than one family, and twelve notices were served on owners, usually after their existing tenants had been offered Council houses. These notices drew attention to the need for proper standards of sanitary accommodation and facilities for preparation and cooking of food for each family. Six notices were issued confirming the number of persons permitted to live in each flat or accommodation.

There are no registered common lodging houses within the district.

## UNSOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

Food	No. of containers	Weight
Milk (condensed)	4	4 lbs.
Peaches	7	14 lbs.
Pincapple	16	21 lbs.
Pies	9	6 lbs.
Tomatoes	9	7 lbs.
Pears	28	21 lbs.
Jam	6	6 lbs.
Fish (various)	9	12 lbs.
Beans	10	9 1bs.
Meat (various)	32	270 lbs.

#### CONDEMNED FOOD

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

#### VISITS AND INSPECTIONS ETC. BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

11

Sanitary Defects. Nuisances investigated	 	 113
Revisits	 	 142
Visits to Verminous Premises	 	 9
Premises disinfested or disinfected	 	 19
Investigating Infectious Diseases	 	 4
Visits to houses owned by Local Authority	 	 507

visits to Aged and infirm persons	21
Private housing inspections	34
Investigating overcrowding or unsatisfactory conditions	31
Interviews with owners, agents, contractors etc	212
Dangerous or dilapitated structures (visits)	8
Notices issued or action taken	6
Smoke Nuisances	1
244 22	114
	14
Informal visits under Rent Act	
Butchers Shops and Meat Preparation Rooms	37
Bakehouses	12
Provision Shops	64
Fish Fryers Cafe and Hotel Kitchens Canteens Ice Cream Premises	12
Cafe and Hotel Kitchens	33
Canteens	5
Ice Cream Premises	13
Licensed Premises	50
Offices inspected	12
Pet Animals and Animal Boarding Establishment Acts	3
01 0 11 0 01	12
	10
Milk Shops	
Food Disposal certificates issued	33
Visits re unsound food	26
Routine drinking water samples for bacteriological	-
examination	72
Waterworks visited re sampling	17
Water wastage reported to Engineer	78
Hairdressers	14
Farms for accumulations or toilet facilities	14
Inspections of factories and workplaces	83
Factories Act - notices	4
Outworkers premises visited	11
	110
	3
Circulars regarding Litter Act	150
Inspector's visits re rodents	35
Visits to refuse tip	12
Tip sprayed for flies etc	12
Tip baited for rodents	24
Sewers baited for rodents	2
Complaints re refuse collection dustbins etc. investigate	ed 6
Visits (by invitation) to H. M. Prison and Borstal	
(kitchen, farms and tip)	3
Visits to caravan and camping sites	51
Beaches and Common Land	16
Pig Keepers	5
2 2 10 11 0 1 1 1 1	5
	39
Houses let in lodgings (visits)	7.00
Notices served	12
Permitted number notices	6
Miscellaneous visits	293
Scrap Metal Dealers visited	4
Sewerage items referred to Engineer & Surveyor	21
Drainage inspections and tests:-	
Smoke	3
Colour	9
Water	61
Visits re drains and sewers	118
Drains or sewers cleared	74
	72
A 1 1 1 1 A 2 1 1 1	19
Quarries inspected for accumulations	17

( 12 )

Quarry fences inspected for danger			28
Preliminary notices re fencing			5
Accumulations removed or destroyed			20
Notices issued or action taken re dilapitated s	truct	ures	3
Public Health Acts and Housing Acts:-			
Notices served - Informal			64
Formal			5
Notices complied - Informal			65
Formal			5
Referred to Court for Nuisance Order			1
Total number of inspections made (By the Public			
Health Inspector)		2.3	82

## FACTORY ACTS, 1937 to 1959

## PART I OF THE ACT

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

<u>Premises</u>	Number on Register			Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which secs. 1. 2. 3. 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	46	52	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	23	25	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	6	-	-
TOTAL	71	83	3	-

## Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases which	
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H. M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	tions were instituted	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-		
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or	3	-	1	1	-	
defective Other offences against	-	-	-	-	-	
the Act		_	_	_	_	
TOTAL	4	1	1	1	-	

# PART VIII OF THE ACT

Nature of Work	Section No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	on 110 No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	11	-	-		Intertest	- Tara
TOTAL	11	-	-	-	-	-

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