

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Royston (Hertfordshire) U.D.C.

Contributors

Royston (Hertfordshire, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jbhffkd7>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

Library

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



(Herts)



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1956

--oOo--

Town Hall,
ROYSTON,
Herts.

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

1901

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR

1901

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956

Councillor H. G. Haddock,
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
List of Members and Chief Officers	(i)
Preface	1
Local Statistics	1
Extracts from Vital Statistics	2
Provision of Health Services for the Area	3
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	3
Water Supply	3
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	3
Refuse Removal and Disposal	4
Rodent Control	4
Sanitary Inspections of the Area	4 - 6
Housing	6
Slum Clearance Programme	6 - 7
Inspection and Supervision of Food	7 - 8
Food Premises in the District	8
Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955	8 - 9
Food Inspections	9
Food Poisoning Outbreaks	9
Green Plunge Swimming Pool	10
Factories Act, 1937	10 - 11
Prevalence of, and Control over Infections and other Diseases	12
Tuberculosis	13
Index	14

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1956 - 1957

COUNCILLORS:

A. L. CAIN, J.P., A.I.E.E.
Chairman of the Council

H. G. HADDOCK
Vice-Chairman of the Council

R. H. C. Clark, C.C.

P. F. Sewell

Miss J. P. Etheridge

H. A. Stearn, J.P., M.P.S.

W. S. Keatley

A. V. Thair

G. W. Langridge

W. A. Turner

Lady Newman

R. L. Wilkerson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

S. M. JACKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

E. R. SWIFT, S.I.E.J.B.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

S. P. WALTON, F.C.I.S.,
Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955 - 1957

COUNCILORS

A. J. GILL, J.P., A.I.E.E.
Chairman of the Council

H. G. HADDOCK
Vice-Chairman of the Council

M. E. Sewell

R. A. Stevens, J.P., M.P.S.

A. V. Thair

W. A. Turner

R. L. Wilkerson

R. H. C. Clark, J.P.

Miss J. P. Sturridge

W. S. Kenley

G. W. Langridge

John Newman

DIVISIONS

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
District Medical Officer of Health

S. M. JACKSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector

E. H. Swift, J.P., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Additional Sanitary Inspector

S. E. WATSON, J.P., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Clark and Chief Planning Officer

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 19/56, I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The local death rate (15.6) was unusually high, but the comparability factor supplied (0.76) indicates the cause to be a higher-than-average age distribution; application of such factor gives a 'standardised' death rate of 11.9. For the same reason the local birth rate (17.1) is surprisingly high.

The local infant mortality rate (61.0) looks surprisingly high but is partially balanced by the absence of any stillbirth. Reference to the actual cause of death in the five fatalities under a year shows an unusually high incidence of congenital malformations, which are unpreventable.

There was again during the year a marked absence of serious infectious disease from the District.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this Report from Mr. S.M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary matters. Also I would like to thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER

July, 1957.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1956	4,800
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1957 (estimated) ..	1,601
Rateable Value (1st April, 1957)	£35,470
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£139

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Royston Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rates for England and Wales.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	79	38	41		
(Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		
(All	82	40	42		

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident
population 17.1 15.7

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	-	-	-
(Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
births Nil 23.0

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>DEATHS</u>	75	32	43

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident
population 15.6 11.7

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births 61.0 23.8
Rate for legitimate infants per
1,000 legitimate births 63.3
Rate for illegitimate infants
per 1,000 illegitimate births Nil

Actual number of such deaths: (a) Under 4 weeks and (b) Totals under
1 year

Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	14	14
Deaths from Measles	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	Nil	Nil

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population shows a considerable decrease (320) on the figure for 1955. Live Births (82) were 2 more and local deaths (75) 16 more than for 1955.

SECTION B

Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Royston Water Company Ltd., by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

The difficulties of providing a piped water supply to the Eagle Tavern Area were not resolved, and again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in this district during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Eleven new houses built by private enterprise, 37 new houses built by the Council, and 2 new houses built by the County Council were connected to the sewage system during the year.

735 yards of 9" and 6" sewer were laid on the Council's Housing Site at Newmarket Road for the first 72 houses to be built on the Site.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal for the year amounted to £2,095.

Maintenance of the refuse tip was continued and advantage was taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year by the Rodent Operator of the Joint Scheme.

Rodent Control

The operation of the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils showed that useful work was carried out, and in Royston the Rodent Operator's work covered the following:-

Total hours worked on treatments - 201 $\frac{3}{4}$

The time spent on the various types of premises were:-

Sewers 46 hours; Refuse Tips etc. 104 hours; Private dwellings 35 hours; Business Premises 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours; Block Inspections 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours; Inspection of Agricultural Land 9 hours.

The total number of inspections made during 1956 as a result of notification or otherwise was 412.

The Scheme has worked smoothly, and I would like to record my appreciation of the work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector of the Hitchin Rural District Council, who has been in control of the Scheme and acted as co-ordinating officer.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	62
Under the Public Health Acts	196
Under the Factory Acts	28
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	12
Milk and Dairies Orders	8
Food Shops and Stores	98
Bakehouse Inspections	10
Prevention of Nuisances	211
House Drainage	64

Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	151
Rats and Mice Destruction	412
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	42
Miscellaneous Inspections	114

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Statutory Notices served	12
Informal Notices served	188
Notices complied with	194
Houses demolished (sec. 11)	-
Undertakings given by owners under sec. 11	-
Houses rendered fit as result of formal action	-
Houses rendered fit as result of informal action	62
Houses roofs renewed or repaired	14
House windows repaired	18
House chimneys repaired	10
House floors renewed or repaired	31
House ceilings renewed or repaired	22
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	12
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	41
Internal wall plaster repaired	38
House drains relaid or repaired	153 yds.
Gullies fixed	10
Intercepting traps fixed	2
New sinks fixed	16
Sinks renewed or repaired	8
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	24
W.C. roofs repaired	2
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	6
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	98
New baths fixed	6
Inspection chambers built	6
Inspection chambers repaired	6
New vent shafts fixed	6
New F.A.I. fixed	14
Water Service pipes repaired	72
Dampness remedied	12
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	14
Hot Water systems renewed or repaired	-
Staircases repaired	2
Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	38
Accumulations or rubbish removed	36
Houses disinfected	3
Bakehouse floors cleansed	1
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	2
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	1
Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired	1
Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed	5
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites	4

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	89
Plans and applications withdrawn	3
Plans and applications approved	74
Plans and applications disapproved	12
Approved for new houses	13
Approved for other buildings	53
Approved for change of user	2
Approved for advertisement signs	2
Approved for use of land	4
New houses completed:-	
By local authority under Housing Acts	37
By other Authorities (County Council)	2
By private enterprise	11
Other buildings completed	53
Drains laid to above	1,984 yds.
Gullies laid to above	118
Connections to sewer	28
Vent shafts fixed	68
Inspection of Chambers built	97
Water closets fixed	63
Intercepting traps fixed	28
Baths fixed	58
Sinks fixed	62
Lavatory basins fixed	68
Dustbins provided	62

SECTION D

Housing

During the year 37 new traditional brick houses were completed under the Council's Housing Programme and became occupied. Of these, 23 houses were of the 3 bedroom type, 2 houses of the 2 bedroom type, and 12 were 2 bedroom flats.

Eleven new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

The number of properties for which Improvement Grants were approved during the year was 8.

Slum Clearance Programme

Implementation of the Slum Clearance Programme was proceeded with and the following areas were inspected and information laid before the Council in respect thereof:-

Area No. 8 comprising Nos. 5, 7 and 9 Barkway Street.

Area No. 9 comprising Nos. 11, 13, 15 and 17 Barkway Street and Nos. 1/3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 The Warren.

Area No. 10 comprising Nos. 17, 19, 21/23, 25, 27, 29 and 31 The Warren.

Area No. 11 comprising Nos. 5, 6 and 7 Fish Hill.

Area No. 12 comprising Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 York Terrace and Nos. 10, 12, 14 and 16 London Road.

Area No. 13 comprising Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 The Fleet and Nos. 2 and 4 The Fleet.

Clearance Orders were made by the Council in the case of all the above areas, and the following were confirmed by the Minister:-

Areas Nos. 8, 9 and 11.

Objections were received in respect of Areas Nos. 10, 12 and 13, and public inquiries were pending at the end of the year.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are four milk producers in the district, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the district.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of the Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the district from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the district and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the district during the year.

Food Premises in the District

The number of food premises, classified according to type is given in the following list. Owing to the method of classification, it follows that the actual number of premises is less than the total shown as some traders sell a number of classes of foodstuffs, and so their premises are included more than once.

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	6		
Cafes	4		
Grocers	18	1	1
Sweets	21		1
Cakes	6		2
Bread	3		
Greengroceries	5		5
Wet Fish	2		1
Beer (Off Licence)	1		
Public Houses	15		
Wines and Spirits	2		

Premises registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream premises 15, with 2 vans not subject to registration in this area.

Fish fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this area.

Sweets being an article of food according to the Act, there is one food factory in the district, Messrs. Barratt & Company's sweet factory.

Various improvements at food premises were carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/56, including the provision of washbasins, sinks, hot and cold water supply, improved lighting and ventilation, renewal of floors and walls, additional W.C. accommodation, clothing lockers and cupboards, and provision of towels, brushes, soap at sinks and washbasins.

No educational activity such as clean food guilds or classes has been undertaken. The opportunity of personal instruction to shopkeepers and food handlers is taken during inspections.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected and the following certified as unfit for human consumption:-

Leg of Lamb - 8 lbs. Pork Sausages - 12 lbs. Cod Fillets - 4 stone.

Other Foods

Meat and other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Tinned and Packaged Food

Cooked Lunch Tongue	5 tins (6 lb.)
Pork Luncheon Meat	1 tin (4 lb.)
Pork Luncheon Meat	10 tins (12 oz.)
Corned Beef	11 tins (6 lb.)
Corned Beef	2 tins (12 oz.)
Stewed Steak	7 tins
Ox Tongue	1 tin (6 lb.)
Minced Beef Loaf	1 tin
Chicken	1 tin
Irish Stew	1 tin
Soups	5 tins
Herring Roes	5 tins
Sardines	2 tins
Pilchards	5 tins
Crab	3 tins
Salmon	4 tins
Tomatoes	24 tins
Sliced Beetroot	1 tin
Peas	13 tins
Plums	2 tins
Pineapple Cubes	5 tins
Pineapple Juice	1 tin
Grapefruit	1 tin
Oranges	1 tin
Raspberries	1 tin
Apricots	1 tin
Fruit Cocktail	1 tin
Peaches	13 tins
Pears	5 tins
Evaporated Milk	7 tins

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

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

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	13	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	30	12	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers).	2	3	-	-
Total	41	28	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	8	8	-	-	-

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifications of infectious disease during the year (after correction) numbered : Measles 160, and Whooping Cough 2. No notifications of any other disease were received.

Being geographically fairly isolated, Royston had escaped Measles for 3 - 4 years and the second quarter outbreak of such was consequently more widespread and heavy in incidence.

Diphtheria was again absent from the district during the year. Nevertheless the offer of immunisation for protection against this formerly dreaded disease continues to be accepted by a good proportion of parents; for infants under two years the offer of combined immunisation against both diphtheria and whooping cough continued particularly popular.

---oo0oo---

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1956.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	2 (2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2 (1)	1 (1)	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	3 (1)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	5 (2)	4 (3)	1	2 (1)	1	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar General after final transfers					2	-	-	-

Foot Note: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

Comment: Four new notifications of respiratory forms are shown from the local population and two of non-respiratory forms. Two deaths (both male) are finally allocated to the district for the year.

VICTOR R. WALKER

July, 1957.

District Medical Officer of Health.

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
Births, Live	2	Other Foods	9
Building Byelaws	6	Outbreaks of Food Poisoning	9
Clearance Areas	6 - 7	Poisoning, Food	9
Comment on Vital Statistics	3	Preface	1
Control over, and Prevalence of Infectious Diseases	12	Premises, Food	8
Deaths	2	Premises registered under section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955	8
Deaths, Infants under 1 year	2	Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases	12
Diphtheria	12	Programme, Slum Clearance Provision of Health Services	6 - 7 3
Extracts from Vital Statistics	2	Refuse Disposal and Removal	4
Factories Act, 1937	10 - 11	Rodent Control	4
Food & Drugs Act, 1955 - Premises registered under section 16	8	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	3
Food Inspections	9	Sanitary Inspections	4 - 6
Food Poisoning Outbreaks	9	Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	3
Food Premises in the District	8	Slum Clearance Programme	6 - 7
Food, Supervision and Inspection	7	Statistics, Local	1
Green Plunge Swimming Pool	10	Statistics, Vital:- Comment on	3
Health Services, Provision of	3	Extracts from	2
Housing	6	Stillbirths	2
Immunisation	12	Supervision and Inspection of Food	7
Infectious Diseases	12	Swimming Pool, Green Plunge	10
Inspection and Supervision of Food	7	Tinned and Packaged Food	9
Inspection of Factories	10 - 11	Town and Country Planning	6
Inspection of Food	9	Tuberculosis	13
Inspections, Sanitary	4 - 6	Vital Statistics:- Comment on	3
Live Births	2	Extracts from	2
Local Statistics	1	Water Supply	3
Measles	12	Whooping Cough	12
Meat	8		
Members and Chief Officers	(i)		
Milk	7		



