

[Report 1965] / Medical Officer of Health, Totnes Borough.

Contributors

Totnes (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1965

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n9d29p2s>

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>

1

BOROUGH OF TOTNES

Library



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1965

MOIRA McQUAID, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (I) D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AND STAFF	2
SECTION A. STATISTICS	3
SECTION B. HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA	5
SECTION C. INFECTIOUS DISEASES	7
SECTION D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	8
SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	10
SECTION F. HOUSING	13
APPENDIX A. FACTORIES ACT. ADMINISTRATION	14



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

1

INTRODUCTION

2

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AND STAFF

3

SECTION A. STATISTICS

5

7

8

10

13

24

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30192651>

TOTNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for 1965. During that time Dr. McQuaid was your Medical Officer of Health.

My thanks are due to Mr. Elliott, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Foster Pearson, Engineer, for a great deal of the contents of the Report, and also to Miss Taylor who collected and correlated the information.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. Walker.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Alderman W.C. Bennett.
VICE CHAIRMAN	Councillor Mrs.G.P.Dunwoody.
	and
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor F.W. Foster-Turner,J.P.
ALDERMEN	Mrs.L.B.Gray. D.W.Mitchell.
COUNCILLORS	J.F.FitzGerald. Mrs.J.M.Gilbert. Mrs. D.M.E. Heal. R.J.Holland. A.G.Phillips. Mrs. H.M.Sargent. G.V. Wood.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Moira McQuaid, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (I) D.P.H.
Medical Department,
Municipal Offices,
Totnes.

Tel. Totnes 2335

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss W.J. Taylor.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F.B. Elliott, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Totnes.

Tel. Totnes 2109

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E.P.G. Bennett, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTOR

G. Robertson.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS

Area	1,421 acres
Number of inhabited houses	1,910
Dwellings owned by the Council (31st March, 1965)	503
Council dwellings per 1,000 population	90.1
Rateable value (1st April, 1965)	£208,496
Estimated product of ld. rate	£845
Estimated mid year population (June 1965)	5,660
Population at 1961 census	5,502

Births

Live births (32 males and 34 females)	66
Illegitimate births (2 males and 3 females)	5
Illegitimacy rate	7.57%
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	11.66
Still births	Nil
Corrected birth rate	13.87

Infant Mortality

Total infant deaths	3
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	45.4

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

Deaths

Total deaths (37 males and 48 females)	85
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	15.01
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	7.95

<u>Classification of Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3	7
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	6
Coronary disease, angina	6	4	10
Other heart disease	4	6	10
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	19	26
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Total	37	48	85

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town. The Totnes and District Hospital is a general practitioner hospital and has 24 beds. Broomborough Hospital has 135 beds for chronic cases. It has a maternity wing with 13 beds and cots; this unit serves a wide area outside the town. There are also 43 beds available for residential cases under Part III of the National Assistance Act.

2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders, and the after care of such persons.

Two district nurse/midwives work in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held on the first, third and fifth Monday in the month at the Borough Park Clinic, and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The home help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has been made available for the handicapped, the aged, and expectant mothers. The ambulance service is operated by voluntary organisations. A 'meals on wheels' service is provided by the W.V.S.

3. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water, and ice cream, are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

4. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Totnes every Wednesday fortnight and was based on the Coronation Road Car Park. The attendance for the year was as follows:-

General practitioner referrals	138
Tuberculin positive reactors	42
Contacts to tuberculin positive reactors	17
Contacts	5
Students	4
Hospital Staff	16
School Staff	28
General public	361
Total	611

Here below is a breakdown of the abnormalities discovered:-

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm	1	-	1
Non malignant neoplasm	-	1	1
Congenital cardio-vascular disease	-	1	1
Acquired cardio-vascular disease	6	4	10
Pneumoconiosis - simple	1	-	1
Bronchiectasis	-	2	2
Pulmonary infections	2	1	3
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	4	9
Other significant abnormalities	1	-	1
Non significant abnormalities	7	2	9
Total	23	15	38

5. Home Help Service

The full time home help organiser, who is responsible for the service in the town, has her office at 14, Midvale Road, Paignton, but she has the use of an office in the Municipal Offices when she visits Totnes each week. It is hoped that in 1966 a permanent office in Totnes will be established. The demand for this service is ever increasing, and provides essential domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity. It is not free, but those unable to pay the full charges are assessed according to their means.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. Diseases notified during the year

94 notifications were made during the year as follows:-

Measles	91
Puerperal pyrexia	2
Erysipelas	1

2. International Vaccination Certificates

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated during the year as follows:-

Smallpox	166
Cholera	21
Typhoid	4

These figures refer to the whole of No.10 Devon County Area, that is, Totnes Borough, Totnes Rural District, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Urban Districts.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1 Water

1849 dwellings receive a piped supply from the South West Devon Water Board. Two dwellings are served by a standpipe and fifteen dwellings have their own private supply.

All samples taken from the main supply have been satisfactory but one taken from a private supply was not up to standard.

2. Refuse Collection and Disposal

A weekly refuse collection has been regularly maintained throughout the Borough and no further complaints have been received of any nuisance occurring from the method of disposal at Mockwood tip.

3. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Other Properties including business	Agricultural
Properties inspected as a result of notification	5	26	17	-
Properties inspected in the course of survey or otherwise inspected	6	79	61	13
Properties found to be infested				
a) common rat	8	33	39	-
b) house mouse	2	10	21	-
Total inspections carried out	15	115	88	13

4. Pet Animals Act

There is one premise registered under the Act.

5. Common Lodging Houses

There is no common lodging house in the town.

SECTION II.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. Water

1889 dwellings receive a piped supply from the South West Down Water Board. Two dwellings are served by a standpipe and fifteen dwellings have their own private supply.

All samples taken from the main supply have been satisfactory but one taken from a private supply was not up to standard.

2. Refuse Collection and Disposal

A weekly refuse collection has been regularly maintained throughout the Borough and no further complaints have been received of any nuisance occurring from the method of disposal of household refuse.

3. Prevention of Disease by Public Act, 1929.

Type of Property				
Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Other Properties including business	Agricultural	
5	20	17	-	Properties inspected as a result of notification
6	7	6	13	Properties inspected in the course of survey or otherwise inspected
8 2	33 10	30 21	-	Properties found to be infected a) common rat b) house mouse
12	115	88	13	Total inspections carried out

4. Pest Animals Act

There is one premises registered under the Act.

5. Common Lodging Houses

There is no common lodging house in the town.

6. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Remedial measures have now commenced. A new pump has been installed in the Pumping Station to assist the old gas sewerage pump. Immediate steps have now been taken which will result in storm water overflows being made to operate efficiently. Also at the Outfall Works new sludge lagoons will be under construction, and the spray gun irrigation method will be used to disperse the effluent. This work constitutes remedial measures taken as an emergency. The Consultants, during the forthcoming year, will produce specifications and tenders for the construction of a new Pumping Station and Outfall Works.

With regard to the main system of sewers, it is hoped these will be made efficient through contract at the same time as the main disposal scheme is progressing.

Provisions	1954	1955	1956	1957
Butcher	8	5	8	8
Grocery	3	1	3	3
Flour	1	-	-	-
Confectionery	13	13	-	-
Ice and produce	15	15	15	15
Coffee and biscuits	14	12	14	14
Excesses	3	2	3	3
Schools and industrial	3	3	3	3
Food factories	4	4	4	4
Other provisions	2	-	-	-

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There has been a marked improvement in the standard of the food premises during the year but work is still required to bring them up to the required level.

Food premises - type of	No.	Comply with Reg. 16	To which Reg. 19 applies	Comply with Reg. 19
Grocery and general provisions	24	20	24	24
Butchers	8	5	8	8
Greengrocers	3	1	3	3
Fishmongers	1	-	-	-
Confectioners	13	13	-	-
Licensed premises	15	15	15	15
Cafes and hotels	14	12	14	14
Bakehouses	3	2	3	3
Schools and industrial canteens	3	3	3	3
Food factories	4	4	4	4
Slaughterhouses	2	-	-	-

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

During 1965 the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned ham	187 lbs. 11 ozs.
Tinned ox tongue	30 lbs. 5 ozs.
Tinned lamb liver	10 lbs.
Tinned pork kidney	6 lbs.
Tinned jellied veal	12 lbs.
Steak	86 lbs.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	123	-	3	1502	65,732	-
<u>All Diseases Except T.B. and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	249	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	-	-	75	5,940	-
% no. inspected affected with disease	9.7	-	-	4.9	9.04	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	6	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2,260	-
% no. inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.45	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Registered food premises (no. on Register at 31.12.65) - 49

Storage and sale of Ice Cream - 40

Manufacture of sausages etc. - 11

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Class of premises	Premises registered during 1965	Total no. of registered premises at end of 1965	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during 1965
Offices	2	42	6
Retail shops	2	94	18
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	3	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	8
Fuel storage depots	-	2	1

SECTION F.

HOUSING

1. Housing inspections

Thirty four visits were made in connection with housing defects and forty three on improvement grant work.

From the inspections made it became obvious that the housing conditions in some districts of the town were very poor, and that a complete survey of all properties was required in order to obtain a complete picture of the general conditions.

2. Unfit houses

A Closing Order was placed on a terraced house and the family rehoused by the Local Authority.

3. Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants	a. Applications received	8
	b. No. completed	12
	c. Amount paid in grant	£2,944
Standard Grants	a. Applications received	2
	b. No. completed	6
	c. Amount paid in grant	£763

4. Visits and Inspections by P.H.I.'s during 1965

Refuse collection and disposal	16
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	146
Rodent Control	5
Housing	34
Improvement Grants	43
Nuisances and complaints	11
Food hygiene	47
Building byelaws	6
Meat Inspection	407
Moveable dwellings	2
Scrap metal	3
Drainage	14
Dangerous buildings	1
Slaughterhouse hygiene	2
Factories	2
Water	1
Petroleum	3
Miscellaneous	15

APPENDIX A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1965 FOR THE

BOROUGH OF TOTNES IN

THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1961.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	-	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	1	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	8	-	-	-
Total	51	1	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making of Wearing apparel	1	-	-	-	-	-

