

[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Ulverston U.D.C.

Contributors

Ulverston (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1959

Persistent URL

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH



ULVERSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

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FOR THE YEAR
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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959.

Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

September, 1960.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for the year 1959.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1951	10,076
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1959	10,420
Number of inhabited houses	3,273
Rateable Value	£116,695
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£417.232

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of
industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture
of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, light engineering
and clothing manufacture. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community
and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the
surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1959 and for the preceding five years are
given on page 2.

Of the 142 births registered during 1959, 75 were males of which 6 were
illegitimate and 67 were females of which 2 were illegitimate.

Approximately 75% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The
principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 60, Vascular lesions of nervous
system 32 and Malignant growths 20. Of the 60 deaths from Heart disease, 34 were
due to Coronary Artery disease.

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality.			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1959	142	x13.6	158	x15.2	1	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1958	139	13.4	157	15.1	1	7	Nil	Nil	3	21.6	2	14.4
1957	150	14.4	112	10.8	8	51	1	6.33	1	7	1	7
1956	158	15.3	131	12.6	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	38	6	38
1955	142	13.8	110	10.7	1	7	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7
1954	133	13.0	124	12.1	2	15	Nil	Nil	2	15	2	15
Average 5 years 1954-58	-	14.0	-	12.3	-	21	-	1.27	-	17.7	-	16.3

x Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.01) - 13.8 per 1,000
 Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.84) - 12.7 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.		Ulverston Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1959	16.5	11.6	13.8	12.7
1958	16.4	11.7	13.5	13.6
1957	16.1	11.5	14.5	10.0
1956	15.6	11.7	15.6	11.8
1955	15.0	11.7	14.1	9.3

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.
Grange-over-Sands Urban District.
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I.
Meat and Other Foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A laboratory of the Public Health laboratory service was opened at Preston in April, 1959 and the Hospital laboratory at Barrow ceased to undertake Public Health work. In conjunction with other local authorities in the area arrangements were made to use the Preston laboratory and in spite of the distance involved they are working very satisfactorily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Councils water works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand filtered before storage in a service reservoir of 2½ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity during the year.

Ten bacteriological examinations were made of the public water supply, four of the raw water and six of the treated water and all proved satisfactory. Four bacteriological examinations were made of an untreated private supply, three of which proved unsatisfactory.

During the year 30 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,234 houses were supplied direct to the houses. 7 were supplied by standpipes and 11 from private supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A full account of sewage disposal system was given in the report for 1957. The system has continued to function satisfactorily, and no alterations have been made to it. There have been no serious break-downs in the intricate plant, and everything works automatically as designed.

Since the system began to operate two years ago, there have been no cases reported of sewers flooding following heavy rain storms. Moreover, since there are now no old and obsolete storm water overflows working, the Town Beck is a much cleaner stream.

At 31st December, 1959 there were approximately 3,250 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 5,000 water closets.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service was opened at Pennington in April, 1959 and the Hospital Laboratory at Barrow ceased to undertake Public Health work. In conjunction with other local authorities in the area arrangements were made to use the Preston Laboratory and in spite of the distance involved they are working very satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats.</u>
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(a) By local authority	13	Nil
(b) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(c) By other bodies or persons	17	Nil
1. <u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>		
(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).		119
(b) Number of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose.		224
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
(a) Number found during the year		1
(b) Estimated number at end of year - (69 occupied)		126
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.		17
2. <u>Houses Demolished :-</u>	<u>Houses Demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u> <u>Persons.</u> <u>Families.</u>
In Clearance Areas:		
Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil Nil
Not in Clearance Areas:		
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957.	3	1 1
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	12	46 16
3. <u>Unfit Houses Closed:-</u>	<u>Number</u>	
Under Sections 16(4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957.	3	5 1
4. <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in Which Defects were Remedied:-</u>	<u>By Owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(1) After informal action by local authority	17	---
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	1	Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
5. <u>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-</u>		Nil
6. <u>Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement:-</u>		Nil

7. Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement Grants, etc.

	No. of Schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.
Action during the year:-		
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	12	12
(b) Approved by local authority	12	12
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	5	5
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 Standard Grants.

	No. of Schemes.	No. of Dwellings or other buildings affected.
Action during the year:-		
(a) Submitted to local authority	12	12
(b) Approved by local authority	12	12
(c) Work completed	2	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1947-52.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

Notifications of Infectious Disease.

Disease.	Number of cases in year					1959		
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	12	7	1	0	2	1	0	0
Measles	98	46	5	30	337	139	0	0
Whooping cough	35	4	7	10	10	1	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	0
Para-typhoid fever	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Meningococcal infection	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	147	63	13	48	360	142	1	0

The outbreak of measles occurred during the fourth quarter of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1959.

Age periods years.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0						
1-	0	0						
2-	0	0						
5-	0	0						
10-	0	0						
15-	0	0						
20-	0	0						
25-	1	0	Nil		Nil		Nil	
30-	2	2						
45-	1	0						
55-	0	1						
65-	0	0						
75 and upwards.	0	0						
TOTALS	4	3						
	7							

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston during the past 11 years.

Years.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959.

Inspection for purposes as to health including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority.	5	4	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	66	61	1	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority, excluding outworkers premises.	3	4	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned acts during the year.

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The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Year.	Factories.	Other premises.	Factories.	Other premises.	Year.
1959	0	1	0	2	1951
1958	0	2	0	2	1950
1957	1	0	2	0	1949
1956	0	0	0	1	1948
1955	0	0	0	0	1947
1954	0	0	0	0	1946
1953	0	1	0	1	1945
1952	0	0	0	0	1944
1951	0	1	0	2	1943
1950	0	0	0	4	1942
1949	0	0	0	2	1941
1948	0	0	0	2	1940
1947	0	0	0	2	1939
1946	0	0	0	2	1938
1945	0	0	0	2	1937
1944	0	0	0	2	1936
1943	0	0	0	2	1935
1942	0	0	0	2	1934
1941	0	0	0	2	1933
1940	0	0	0	2	1932
1939	0	0	0	2	1931
1938	0	0	0	2	1930
1937	0	0	0	2	1929

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1959.

HOUSING.

Re-housing of families from unfit houses and closing or demolition of the property continued to be one of the most pressing items of public health work. 1959 concluded the fourth year of the five year slum clearance programme adopted by the Council whereby it was intended to demolish 161 houses and 40 M.A.P. bungalows considered to be unfit for habitation.

During the past year three houses and 12 M.A.P., bungalows were demolished; three houses closed for habitation; and 17 families comprising 47 persons re-housed from unfit property.

The slum clearance position at this stage may be briefly summarised as:-

Out of 80 houses proposed for demolition in clearance areas, 19 have been demolished and 20 other houses are included in confirmed clearance areas and awaiting demolition, and;

Out of 81 houses included in the proposals for demolishing as individual unfit houses, 25 have been demolished.

The position at the approach of the final year is not as favourable as the original proposals envisaged although clearance of the 40 M.A.P., bungalows has proceeded at a steady pace. Only three families now await re-housing and 1960 should see this site completely cleared and proposals for redevelopment of the land well in hand.

Slum clearance carried out since 1955 has almost solely consisted of houses provisionally scheduled during the late 1930's as unfit property. A recent housing survey has shown that at least another 100 unfit houses will be added to the list by 1965 and it is obvious that housing will continue to be a pressing problem for many years.

The response to improvement of houses by means of grant aid is not very encouraging. 12 applications for improvement grants and 12 standard grants were approved. The latter scheme was designed to provide standard amenities in a simple manner and, considering that at least 350 of the approximate 1,000 sub-standard houses are suitable for improvement and capable of having their useful life extended, is not assisting the housing problem to any appreciable extent. Almost all applications are for owner-occupied houses whereas the greatest need for improvement is usually in the tenanted house.

Applications from tenants for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act 1957 numbered only two, both of which were later cancelled when the defects were remedied. It seems apparent that many tenants prefer to enjoy low rents to the extent of depriving themselves of the benefit of a fit house with modern amenities.

Although 370 premises were inspected necessitating 720 visits, only 55 defects or nuisances were discovered and from which 17 informal and one formal notice in respect of unfit houses were served. In no case was it necessary to take legal procedure.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Following many meetings between the Council, butchers and others concerned with meat or livestock, and references made in previous reports about the unsatisfactory conditions at the Gill public slaughterhouse, a new public slaughter house has been approved and will be opened in March, 1960. The Council has taken a bold step forward which will be amply repaid by the production of clean and wholesome meat in hygienic and modern premises.

The total number of animals slaughtered during 1959 was slightly higher than the previous year, largely due to additional sheep brought in at the end of the long dry summer. Very little disease was found as the table following shows. Cysticercus Bovis was less evident (although one animal was condemned for generalised cysts) and Tuberculosis was localised in one cow and one pig. The majority of calves condemned are for immaturity and mainly slaughtered as casualties.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	665	135	45	3,631	618
Number inspected	665	135	45	3,631	618
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	3	-	7	7	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	17	11	-	10	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.....	3%	8.1%	15.5%	0.5%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	1	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	0.15%	-	-	-	0.16%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.....	1	-	-	-	-

FOOD SHOPS AND PREMISES.

Food premises whether used for manufacture or sale are inspected as frequently as possible and 232 visits were made under the Food Hygiene Regulations or other legislation. In one instance, food preparing rooms were found to be unsatisfactory and following a warning, summonses on ten offences were issued all of which were found proved. The magistrates imposed fines totalling £57 on the following contraventions -

Preparing food in unhygienic premises.
Sanitary convenience not kept clean.
Failure to have a notice requesting persons to wash their hands after using the w.c.
No constant supply of hot water to the sink.
No constant supply of hot water to the hand washing basin.
Failure to provide soap, towel and nailbrush.
Preparing room walls not clean.
Preparing room walls not kept in good repair.

In eight other cases minor infringements were found at other premises and two warning letters sent concerning failure to comply with part of the Regulations. One food premise closed down as a result and in the other cases the necessary items were remedied without delay.

During the course of inspection of food premises 340lbs. of tinned and various other articles of food were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation as being unfit for human consumption.

Although 24 houses are registered for picking shrimps less than half are regularly used during the season and 21 visits were made. The time of picking varies daily and it is often difficult to make periodical inspections coincide with the actual picking operation. No cause for complaint was found during the year.

Informal sampling of water, ice cream and picked shrimps has been carried out to a larger degree than in previous years. The public water supply samples have all been "highly satisfactory" and well above the limits suggested for a public water undertaking. 13 samples of milk submitted for analysis were all found to be free of tuberculosis and satisfied the requirements of the methylene blue test for cleanliness. Ice cream samples judged over the year were satisfactory although some individual samples did not by themselves reach the highest standard. However advice and the conscientious endeavour of the manufacturer remedied any fault there may have been and the latest results have been excellent.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Routine work in the destruction of rats and mice under rodent control has proceeded and necessitated a total of 365 treatments and re-treatments of property and land. The majority of business premises and farms are under contract or have arranged for periodical visits and no formal action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act has been necessary.

Offensive trades are now limited to three rag and bone dealers following the closing down of a gut scraping establishment. No undue nuisance has arisen.

15 observations of the five factory chimneys were made under the Clean Air Act, 1956. One hospital chimney was found to be emitting dark smoke beyond the stipulated quantity and following complaints made by the Council to the Regional Hospital Board an improvement resulted in no further action being taken.

23 Council houses and 12 other houses were disinfected during the year for insects. Only two houses were found with bugs, the remainder being cockroaches, infestation of ants in in pantries or routine treatments during the change of Council tenants.

Some 68 miscellaneous visits were made to the licenced knackers yard and various other premises following complaints or investigations ranging from barking dogs and wasps nests to welfare of children and old persons.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

J.K.YATES.

Public Health Inspector.

