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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(From May 1969 to May 1970)

Chairman: Councillor W.T.H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G.E. Berry



Alderman J.S. Oliver, A.C.I.L., J.P. (Mayor)

Alderman A.L. Merrifield, J.P. (Deputy Mayor)

Alderman A.G. Robertson, J.P.

Councillor J.E. Abbott

Councillor S.L. Deakin

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Councillor D.A.L. Eccleshall, L.S.I.A.

Councillor Mrs. J.H.G. Green

Councillor F.S. Horner

Councillor R.A. Pugh, F.R.D.

Councillor R.D. Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.

Councillor Miss D.N. Scawen, J.P.

Councillor K.R. Norman Smith

Councillor B.G. York

**BOROUGH OF WATFORD**

**Annual Report**

(From 10th November 1969 to May 1970)

of the

Chairman:

Councillor W.T.H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Members:

and

Alderman J.S. Oliver, A.C.I.L., J.P. (Mayor)

Alderman A.L. Merrifield, J.P. (Deputy Mayor)

Alderman A.G. Robertson, J.P.

Alderman Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Alderman F. Mackenzie, B.E.M.

Councillor J.E. Abbott

Councillor A.R. Boot, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Councillor S.L. Deakin

Councillor W.G. Everett

Councillor Mrs. J.H.G. Green

Councillor R.W. Jackson

Councillor R.D. Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.

Councillor Miss D.N. Scawen, J.P.

Councillor K.R. Norman Smith

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

for the year

**1970**

PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

1970-1971

**A. SHAW**

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Chairman:

Councillor W.T.H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Members:

Alderman F.A. Wilson

Councillor J.E. Abbott

Councillor F.A. Allan, M.A. Cantab.

Councillor A.R. Boot, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Councillor J.S. Bryden, F.Inst. L.Ex.

Councillor S.L. Deakin

Councillor W.G. Everett

**K. H. MARSDEN**

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Councillor Mrs. J.H.G. Green

Councillor M. Hogan

Councillor R.S. Horner

Councillor R.D. Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.

Councillor A.G. Robertson, C.Eng., M.I.E.E., A.F.R.A.E. Sec.,

A.M.B.I.M.

Councillor G. Wareham



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1970

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A. SHAW

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

K. H. MARSDEN

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

## BOROUGH OF WATFORD

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

(From May to October 1969)

Chairman: Councillor W.T.H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G.R. Berry

Members:

Alderman J.S.Oliver, A.C.I.I., J.P. (Mayor)  
Alderman A.L.Merrifield, J.P. (Deputy Mayor)  
Alderman A.G.Dillingham, J.P.  
Councillor J.E.Abbott  
Councillor S.L.Deakin  
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd  
Councillor D.A.L.Eccleshall, L.S.I.A.  
Councillor Mrs. J.H.G.Green

Councillor R.S.Horner  
Councillor R.W.Jackson  
Councillor R.A.Page, E.R.D.  
Councillor R.D.Reith, C.Eng. M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.  
Councillor Miss D.N.Scawen, J.P.  
Councillor K.R. Norman Smith  
Councillor B.G.York

### PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(From 10th November 1969 to May 1970)

Chairman: Councillor W.T.H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G.R. Berry

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Alderman Mrs. H.M.Dodd  
Alderman F.Mackenzie, B.E.M.  
Councillor J.E.Abbott  
Councillor A.R.Boot, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
Councillor S.L.Deakin

Councillor W.G.Everett  
Councillor Mrs. J.H.G.Green  
Councillor R.S.Horner  
Councillor R.W.Jackson  
Councillor R.D.Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.  
Councillor Miss D.M.Scawen, J.P.  
Councillor K.R.Norman Smith

### PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

1970-1971

Chairman: Alderman W.T.H. Price, S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman Mrs. H.M.Dodd

Members:

Alderman P.A.Wilson  
Councillor J.E.Abbott  
Councillor P.A.Allan, M.A.Cantab.  
Councillor A.R.Boot, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
Councillor J.S.Bryden, F.Inst.L.Ex.  
Councillor S.L.Deakin  
Councillor W.G.Everett

Councillor Mrs. J.H.G.Green  
Councillor M. Hogan  
Councillor R.S.Horner  
Councillor R.D.Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.  
Councillor A.G.Robertson, C.Eng., M.I.E.E., A.F.R.AE.Soc.,  
A.M.B.I.M.  
Councillor G.Wareham



## STAFF

### Medical Officer of Health

A. Shaw, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Department, Town Hall, Watford.

Phone: Watford 26400

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health

F. Barasi, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### Chief Public Health Inspector

K.H. Marsden, F.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5

### Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

G.F. Willcox, M.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5

### District Public Health Inspectors

J.L. Willoughby	1, 3, 4, 5	Michael J. O'Brien, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3
T.B. Rosamond (Resigned 31.10.70)	1, 3, 4	Paul Bailey, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3
Joseph Brown, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3, 5	Peter Wright, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 14.12.70)	2

### Senior Meat Inspector

J.L. Mackenzie 1, 3, 6

### Authorised Meat Inspectors

J. O'Brien Brian Christie

### Student Public Health Inspectors

Pamela Jones	Resigned 30.6.70.
Peter Montandon	
Andrew Edmunds	Appointed 19.10.70.

### Chief Clerk

Mary Sherlock

### Senior Clerk


Marion Johnson

### Clerks

Doreen Roberts Olive Topping Betty Maxfield

1. Certificate, Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Joint Board.
2. Diploma, Public Health Inspectors Examination Board.
3. Meat and Other Foods Certificate, Royal Society of Health.
4. Certificate of Sanitary Science, Royal Society of Health.
5. Diploma in Smoke Inspection, Royal Society of Health.
6. Higher Certificate of the Institute of Meat.





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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Watford.

September 1971.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Vital statistics**            1970 was an unexceptional year in terms of births, deaths and infectious disease. The vital statistics of the borough are considered in the body of the report and are an indication that the town compares favourably with the country as a whole.

**Reform of the National Health Service**            Change is all about us. Local Government reform is due to be completed by 1st April 1974 and the next 3 years will be anxious ones for many. The Green Papers of 1968 and 1970 on the reorganisation of the National Health Service were followed in May 1971 by a Consultative Document confirming the Government's intention to set up a two-tier system with 14 regional authorities and 70 district authorities co-terminous with the new local authority areas. Unification of the three arms of the National Health Service - hospitals, general practice and public health is long overdue but the fear which many medical people have is that the enormous financial demands of the hospital service will overwhelm the preventive services. Local authorities have a great deal to be proud of after their 120year stewardship of the preventive medicine services. Over this period members who have been sensitive to the health needs of their communities have helped to make the British public health service the best and most efficient in the world. This state of affairs could crumble overnight unless strong and informed voices are raised about local needs. The Consultative Document in its present form rejects the principle of giving the new health area authorities a representational basis and proposes the setting up of Community Health Councils which would have the right to be consulted on plans for their area. The document stresses the importance of a strong management structure and rejects a representational body because this "would have led to a dangerous confusion between management on the one hand and the community's reaction to management on the other". It will be thought that somewhere the patient's voice should be heard.

## Mental Health

In accordance with my terms of reference as your Medical Officer of Health to bring to your notice any factors which adversely affect the health of the population, I must report to you the concern that is being expressed by many about the sinister influence which our entertainment industry exerts on the mental health of the community. It is said that a visitor from another planet, judging us on our entertainment media would see a pretty ghastly, awful picture concerned mainly with violence, sex and dishonesty. Insofar as violence is concerned, our screen heroes fight, are regularly knocked senseless and equally regularly recover in seconds after punishment which would hospitalise a Hercules. Should there then be any wonder that the young thug, striking an old woman over the head and lacerating her brain in the furtherance of theft pleads that he only meant to 'knock her out'?

Only three films on release in 1971 need to be selected out of many similar showing violence and perversion so explicitly and unnecessarily that in a sane society the authors would be hounded from the company of normal people. One film shows in a vignette the act of fellatio, another shows a rape scene the culmination of which is the hacking-off of a girl's breast and another depicts the heroine being entered simultaneously from the front and rear. Many other examples could be quoted without searching very far. Is it any wonder then that the number of offences against the person rises year by year, that divorce increases, that the number of emotionally disturbed, maladjusted children in our schools goes up, or that some of these bewildered children grow up clutching at a drug-comforted existence?

And yet the authors, producers, publishers, directors and actors cynically protest (all the way to the bank) their artistic integrity.

We have reached the stage where people who have the courage to declare publicly their opposition to this current madness are made to look like figures of ridicule by the same media. The name of Mrs. Mary Whitehouse can be guaranteed by comedians to raise a snigger and the same fate is building up for Lord Longford. We should ask ourselves who stands to gain by this manoeuvre — certainly not the parents of impressionable children and adolescents, whose worries about the influences exerted on their young multiply year by year, not the police or divorce courts who have enough to do, and not the mental hospitals, which are overloaded. It is, however, a boom time for the producers of entertainment dealing with theft, brutality and perverse sexuality.

This being the case the only thing to do to put a stop to it, is to protest, to protest loudly and on every necessary occasion. Such a course of action, if followed up by enough people, would be sufficient to prove to the entrepreneurs that there is no further profit in it, and it would, more importantly go some way to improving the mental health of the community.

I am grateful to members of the Council, fellow chief officers and colleagues in public health, hospital and general practice, for much help, courtesy and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. SHAW

*Medical Officer of Health*

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Births** 1,400 children were borne by Watford mothers in 1970. 103 (7.4%) were illegitimate which is lower than the national figure. The standardised birth rate was 17.8 per 1,000 home population.

**Perinatal mortality** Perinatal mortality is an index used to measure the death rate of infants from the end of the 28th week of pregnancy (stillbirths) to the end of their first week of life independent of the mother's body. There were 21 stillbirths and 12 deaths during the first week of life and this results in a perinatal mortality rate of 23, which is the same as the national figure.

**Infant deaths** Infant mortality, that is to say deaths before the first birthday are a sensitive indicator of the health of a society. Table IV shows that there were 18 such deaths in 1970, 14 of which were before the end of the first month of life. The infant mortality rate was thus 13 per 1,000 live births as against the national figure of 18.

I have referred in a previous report to the effect of as yet unknown influences operating during pregnancy to bring about foetal abnormalities and when introducing new food additives, pesticides and drugs it should be ensured that thorough biological testing has been completed.

**Death rate** There were 901 deaths at all ages giving a standardised death rate of 11.1 per 1,000 home population.

**Cancer** 206 deaths, or 23% of all deaths were due to cancer. There were 53 lung cancer deaths, 42 in men and 11 in women; 23 of these deaths were in people under the age of 65. There were 21 deaths from cancer of the female breast (27 in 1969) and 10 deaths from cancer of the uterus. These three conditions are mentioned specifically because they are either preventable, as in the case of lung cancer, or if detected at an early stage are susceptible to treatment.

**Cervical cytology** As a result of representations by the Council to the Hospital Management Committee it was possible to expand the cervical cytology service. Previously the service had been limited by the number of smears the laboratory could take from the public health service, but an improvement in laboratory staffing resulted in a quadrupling of the number of specimens they could accept from us. Consequently, it was possible to send out teams to factories employing female staff.

The Registrar General divides the population up into five social classes on the basis of employment, social class I being professional and managerial and social class V unskilled workers, with classes II, III and IV graded intermediately. It is usually social classes I, II and possibly III who come to the clinic at the Avenue, but unfortunately it is social classes IV and V who stand most in danger of cervical cancer. It is therefore important to take the service to them.

At the same time as the cervical smear is taken a pelvic examination is made, the breasts are examined, the technique of breast self-examination is taught and the urine is tested to screen for kidney function. The medical officer carrying out these examinations reports a much bigger number of women in factories with untreated female complaints than is the case with the clinic patients. Many more women had cervical polyps, cervical erosions, fibroids, vaginal discharge and menstrual irregularities in factories than in clinics. One woman had a profound anaemia as a result of heavy periods over the course of two years, the heavy periods being caused by fibroids which could have been treated many months before.

All this leads inescapably to the conclusion that some patients because of modesty or ignorance of the normal working of the body will suffer unnecessary discomfort and pain in the reproductive organs and points to the need for more and better health education. Meanwhile, those women wise enough to attend the cervical cytology clinic have the benefit of the other limited screening procedures mentioned earlier.

Deaths between  
the ages of 1 and  
45 years

Excluding infant deaths, there were 32 fatalities under the age of 45. 10 of these were accidental, a further 11 were due to cancer and 2 were the result of coronary disease.

Deaths between  
the ages of 45 and  
65 years

22.4% of all deaths occurred between the ages of 46 and 65. 76 were due to cancer and 61 to coronary disease. In this age group there were 21 lung cancer deaths. A distribution of causes is given below :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis – respiratory	1	-	1
Cancer	45	31	76
Benign neoplasms	3	1	4
Diabetes	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	2	1	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	3	4
Hypertensive disease	2	1	3
Ishaemic heart disease	49	12	61
Other heart disease	1	2	3
Cerebrovascular disease	10	5	15
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	-	5
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis & emphysema	7	-	7
Asthma	-	1	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	1	2	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Other diseases of genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Diseases of Muscular-skeletal system	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other external causes	2	-	2
	<u>139</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>202</u>

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table VIII shows the number and age distribution of cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, notified in Watford in 1970.

**Measles** In accordance with the old pattern of an epidemic every two years, 1970 was destined to be a period of low incidence of measles and, in fact, only 189 cases were notified. The pattern over the previous ten years has been :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of cases of measles notified</u>
1960	675
1961	734
1962	214
1963	803
1964	380
1965	1,131
1966	457
1967	1,072
1968	152
1969	229

It will be seen that there have been fairly well-defined 'measles years' in 1961, 1963, 1965 and 1967. The pattern was disturbed in 1969 as a result of measles vaccination. It is suspected that the incidence in 1971 will be higher than in 1969 because the acceptance rate for measles vaccination was less than 50% for children born in 1970. This was the result of adverse publicity for measles vaccination and although efforts are being made to raise the acceptance rate considerably more children are unprotected than in 1969 and in the natural course of events can be expected to catch the disease, together with those who were not vaccinated in 1969 and who escaped because of a high degree of herd immunity.

**Rubella** It was recognised only 30 years ago that rubella during the first three months of pregnancy could lead to severe defects of vision, hearing and the nervous system in the unborn child. Efforts to produce an effective vaccine against rubella bore fruit in 1970 when such a vaccine was generally released. The vaccine has been offered to all girls in their thirteenth year and during the year 1,004 girls were protected.

This is a significant development in medico-social policy. All other vaccines are given with the express intention of protecting the individual from the immediate unpleasant effects of the disease and this is the first one intended to prevent long-term ill effects on unborn children.



The present policy is to immunise girls only and so there will continue to be a pool of infectors consisting of all the males in the community. There is, therefore, no possibility that the disease will be completely eradicated, and so expectant mothers who have not been immunised will remain at risk. The possibility of foetal damage is taken so seriously that if a case occurs in one of our own schools where a teacher is in an early stage of pregnancy, the teacher is either sent on sick leave or transferred to another school where rubella is not present.

The alternatives open to the expectant mother who is infected during early pregnancy are abortion (and this is usually done readily if serological tests are positive) or bearing a child who has a high risk of congenital deafness, blindness or nervous disorder. Parents are therefore urged to accept the vaccination when it is offered. They would be extraordinary parents who would decline this opportunity for the future peace of mind of their daughter.

**Dysentery**                    There were only 7 notified cases of dysentery as against 63 in 1969, when outbreaks occurred in a number of schools.

**Food poisoning**            9 different types of salmonella were isolated from the 14 confirmed cases of food poisoning. These were salmonella enteritidis (4), saint paul (2), typhimurium (2), infantis, laroche, agama, richmond, haifa and chester. The variety again indicates that a lot of food poisoning organisms are present in foodstuffs and those unlucky enough to get a big dose are the victims of defective food hygiene either at home or in catering premises.

The food hygiene regulations are enforced by routine snap inspections of premises preparing or serving food. If an establishment shows signs of falling below the standards set then more frequent inspections are made until the standard is met and sometimes prosecution is necessary. However, the public health inspector cannot be on the premises all the time and members of the public are urged to report undesirable food hygiene practices which they witness.

**Paratyphoid**                Two cases of paratyphoid were notified during the year, one in a Pakistani and one in a Spaniard. Both patients had arrived in the country incubating the disease. Testing and surveillance of contacts proved negative.

**Infective hepatitis**        This virus disease has been on the increase recently. 36 cases were notified in 1970 compared with 17 in 1969. A case occurred at Beechwood Day Nursery and it was considered desirable to give all of the other children attending a dose of gamma-globulin, after which no further cases occurred.

The department is currently co-operating with the Reader in Virology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who is an international authority on this disease, in obtaining blood specimens from early cases for research purposes.

**Whooping Cough**

The indications are that we are acquiring mastery over this disease. The number of notified cases was again 5, although there is cause for concern that two of the cases occurred in children under the age of 12 months, which is a dangerous time for a child to contract the disease.

**Tuberculosis**

30 cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1970; 23 of the lung and 7 in other sites. There was one death from tuberculosis of the lungs.

It is a pleasure to record thanks to Dr. P. Watney Roe, chest physician, Dr. B.R. Eaton, Director of the Public Health Laboratory and Dr. C. Karran, physician at Watford General Hospital, for their co-operation, help and advice during the year.



TABLE I

## VITAL STATISTICS, NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

		<u>1970</u>		<u>Average</u>
				<u>1960/69</u>
Area in acres	.....	.....	5,275	
Estimated mid-year population	.....	.....	76,740	
Number of inhabited dwellings	.....	.....	25,262	
Rateable value	.....	.....	£6,571,185	
Sum represented by penny rate	.....	.....	£26,800	
Number of births	.....	.....	1,400	1,410
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	.....	.....	18.2	18.6
Area comparability factor	.....	.....	0.98	-
Standardised birth rate	.....	.....	17.8	18.3
Number of illegitimate births	.....	.....	103	101
Percentage of illegitimate births	.....	.....	7.0	7.1
Number of deaths	.....	.....	901	861
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	.....	.....	11.7	11.4
Area comparability factor	.....	.....	0.95	-
Standardised death rate	.....	.....	11.1	11.0
Natural increase of population (excess of births over deaths in year)	.....	.....	499	494
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year	.....	.....	18	25
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....	13	17.8
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	.....	.....	14	19
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 month per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....	10	13.2
Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	.....	.....	12	17
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....	9	11.7
Number of stillbirths	.....	.....	21	21
Stillbirth rate (rate per 1,000 births, live and still)	.....	.....	15	14.9
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and early neonatal deaths per 1,000 births, live and still)	.....	.....	23	26.4
Number of maternal deaths (including abortions)	.....	.....	-	0.6
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	.....	.....	0.0	0.44

TABLE II

TABLE SHOWING VARIOUS STATISTICAL DATA FOR WATFORD 1960-1969

Year	Population	Number of Births	Crude Birth Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Birth Rate	Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Death Rate	Natural increased Population
1960	74,340	1,232	16.6	1.0	16.6	781	10.5	0.98	10.3	451
1961	75,000	1,329	17.7	1.0	17.7	865	11.5	0.98	11.3	464
1962	75,540	1,353	17.9	1.0	17.9	859	11.4	1.0	11.4	494
1963	75,780	1,399	18.5	0.98	18.1	909	12.0	0.98	11.8	490
1964	76,340	1,474	19.3	0.98	18.9	845	11.1	0.98	10.9	629
1965	76,470	1,518	19.9	0.98	19.5	833	10.9	0.95	10.4	685
1966	76,350	1,499	19.6	0.98	19.2	882	11.6	0.96	11.1	617
1967	76,310	1,485	19.5	0.98	19.1	869	11.4	0.93	10.6	616
1968	76,790	1,429	18.6	0.98	18.2	883	11.5	0.95	10.9	546
1969	76,700	1,378	18.3	0.98	17.6	887	11.6	0.95	11.0	491
Average		1,410	18.6		18.3	861	11.4		11.0	494

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Infant mortality Rate	Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	Neonatal mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	Early Neonatal mortality	Number of stillbirths	Stillbirth Rate	Perinatal mortality	Number of maternal deaths	Maternal mortality Rate
1960	19	15.2	10	8.1	9	6.5	22	17.5	23.8	-	0.00
1961	19	14.3	15	11.3	14	10.5	22	16.3	26.6	4	2.96
1962	24	17.6	18	13.3	15	11.1	24	17.4	28.3	-	0.00
1963	24	17.2	16	11.4	15	10.7	23	16.2	26.7	1	0.70
1964	29	19.7	23	15.6	20	13.6	20	13.4	26.8	-	0.00
1965	30	19.8	24	15.8	21	13.8	24	15.6	29.2	-	0.00
1966	28	18.7	18	12.0	15	10.0	18	11.9	21.8	1	0.70
1967	35	23.6	30	20.2	28	18.9	26	17.2	35.7	-	0.00
1968	25	17.0	19	13.3	18	12.6	15	10.0	23.0	-	0.00
1969	20	15.0	15	11.0	13	9.0	18	13.0	22.0	-	0.00
Average	25	17.8	19	13.2	17	11.7	21	14.9	26.4	0.6	0.44

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS OF WATFORD, HERTFORD COUNTY  
AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	Watford	Hertford County	England and Wales
Live birth rate	18.2	15.6	16.0
Area comparability factor	0.98	0.94	1.00
Standardised birth rate	17.8	14.7	16.0
Stillbirth rate	15	10.7	13
Infant mortality rate	13	14.9	18
Legitimate	14	14.1	17
Illegitimate	-	27.3	26
Neonatal mortality rate	10	10.7	12
Early neonatal mortality rate	9	9.3	11
Perinatal mortality rate	23	20.0	23
Maternal mortality rate	0.0	0.06	
Death rate	11.7	9.6	11.7
Area comparability factor	0.95	1.13	1.00
Standardised death rate	11.1	10.8	11.7

TABLE IV

MAIN CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS 1970

Cause of death	Number under 4 weeks of age	Number between 4 weeks and 1 year of age	TOTAL
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1
Congenital anomalies	3	2	5
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	4	-	4
Other causes (mainly prematurity)	5	-	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>

TABLE V

DEATHS 1970

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	-
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	1
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	16	8
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	5	6	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
Leukaemia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
	F	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	M	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	4	11	3
	F	31	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	5	6	14
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Avitaminoses, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of blood etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental disorders	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Meningitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Multiple sclerosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years									
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over	
Other diseases of nervous system	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
	F	9	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	5	3	-
Hypertensive disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
Ischaemic heart disease	M	111	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	11	38	31	29	-
	F	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	24	35	-
Other forms of heart disease	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	11	-
	F	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	25	-
Cerebrovascular disease	M	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	12	35
	F	72	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	13	53	-
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	9	5	-
	F	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	15	-
Influenza	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Pneumonia	M	38	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	21	-
	F	42	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	35	-
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	22	16	-
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	-
Asthma	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Peptic ulcer	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Cirrhosis of liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other diseases of digestive system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-
Diseases of Musculo-skeletal system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Congenital anomalies	M	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1



Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Motor vehicle accidents	M	6	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
All other accidents	M	12	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	3	4
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other external causes	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Total all causes	M	461	4	3	-	3	2	5	9	35	104	142	154
	F	440	10	1	2	2	1	1	7	19	44	107	246

TABLE VI

HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases now to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health are :-

Acute encephalitis	Leprosy	Scarlet fever
Acute meningitis	Leptospirosis	Smallpox
Acute poliomyelitis	Malaria	Tetanus
Anthrax	Measles	Tuberculosis
Cholera	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Typhoid fever
Diphtheria	Paratyphoid fever	Typhus
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Plague	Whooping cough
Infective jaundice	Relapsing fever	Yellow fever

To this list the local authority should add any disease made notifiable in its area under an order made under Section 147 of the Public Health Act 1936 or Section 52 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

TABLE VII

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN  
(PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED)

	Children born in 1968 and vaccinated by 31.12.70			Children under 2
	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Smallpox
England and Wales	79	81	79	35
Hertfordshire	94	96	97	55

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF CASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
(EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN WATFORD 1970

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Paratyphoid	Encephalitis		Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
								Infective	Post-infective			
Under 1 year	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1-	11	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	37	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-	32	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-	25	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	63	1	5	-	-	7	-	-	1	1	-	-
10-14	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	2	-	1	2	2	12	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 & over	3	-	-	9	3	12	1	1	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

TABLE IX

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	RESPIRATORY		MENINGES & CNS		OTHERS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-4	-	-	-	-	-	1
5-9	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	1	-	-	-	1	-
20-24	1	1	-	-	-	-
25-34	1	3	-	-	1	-
35-44	1	-	-	-	1	1
45-54	3	4	-	-	2	-
55-64	3	1	-	-	-	-
65-74	1	2	-	-	-	-
75 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

TABLE X

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE – 1970

MONTH	RAINFALL		DAY TEMPERATURES (°C)	
	m.m.	% of Average	Highest	Lowest
January	74.2	130%	9	0
February	54.1	124%	12	3
March	50.8	151%	13	1
April	58.1	122%	15	4
May	22.0	41%	22	14
June	18.1	34%	27	18
July	53.2	84%	29	16
August	43.3	73%	26	15
September	49.1	65%	24	12
October	15.3	23%	24	9
November	166.3	229%	16	5
December	36.8	60%	11	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>641.3</b>	<b>94%</b>		

These measurements were taken at Watford Fields and supplied  
by the Water Engineer.

## REPORT ON THE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. J.R.Collins, C.Eng., F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E., M.R.S.H., M.B.I.M., the Borough Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information :—

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity through the year.
2. 1,624 million gallons were supplied during the year averaging 4.448 million gallons per day and the supply on the maximum day (8th June 1970) was 5.757 million gallons.
3. The population supplied was approximately 81,100, the average consumption for domestic, trade and industrial purposes was 54.24 gallons per head per day. 131 new supplies were connected during the year.
4. All water going into supply was softened to approximately 200 parts per million.
5. Fluoridation was carried out at both pumping stations, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Security. The fluoride content of the supply was regularly tested and shown to be at the optimum level of 1 part per million.
6. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination of all water supplied was carried out at both pumping stations. Chlorine residuals were regularly tested to ensure that the sterilisation processes were operating correctly.
7. 156 bacteriological analyses were made of the water drawn from various parts of the supply system, and of the raw and untreated water from both pumping stations and these indicated that the supply was at all times of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.
8. Chemical analysis also indicated satisfactory chemical quality of the untreated and treated water. There was no plumbo-solvency.
9. A survey of water supplied to temporary dwellings within the water supply area revealed the following situation :—

227, Horseshoe Lane

One caravan was occupied by one family with one stand pipe and one Elsan toilet for part of the year but has now been removed.

289, Sheepcot Lane

One caravan occupied by one family for part of the year with one stand pipe and one toilet connected to the sewer but without flushing apparatus.

275, Sheepcot Lane	Six caravans occupied by six families with two stand pipes and two flush toilets.
106, High Road, Leavesden	Two caravans occupied by one family with one stand pipe and two flush toilets.
'Rosebarn', Lady Capel's Wharf, Hempstead Road.	One caravan occupied by one family with piped water supply and one flush toilet.
'Rosevilla', North Orbital Road	Four caravans - two vacant and two occupied by two families with one stand pipe and two Elsan toilets.
82, High Road, Leavesden	One caravan empty with one stand pipe (water turned off) and with one Elsan toilet for part of the year but has now been removed.

10. There was one permanent dwelling within the water supply area without main water supply piped into the premises. This was 'Rosevilla', North Orbital Road, where a stand pipe and flush W.C. were available.

Water Department,  
Watford Field Road,  
WATFORD, Herts.

8th March 1971

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### Introduction

For almost 100 years public health inspectors have been employed by local authorities to safeguard the public from various health hazards in our environment. Just as the society in which we live has become larger and more complex so also has the code of protective health legislation.

Despite the obvious improvements that have been made in our environment the purpose of European Conservation Year 1970 was to spotlight the dangers to life from rapidly increasing urbanisation, new industrial developments and pollution by effluents. Whether or not this campaign was helped or hindered by a prolonged strike of refuse collectors is not known but measures had to be taken to prevent the large and unsightly accumulations of refuse in Watford from becoming a public health nuisance.

The National shortage of solid smokeless fuels became more serious during the year and there was no possibility of the Council resuming its smoke control programme. Watford was fortunate to the extent that it was not necessary to suspend any smoke control orders as occurred in many other towns.

The establishment of General Improvement Areas in Watford under the Housing Act 1969 is a challenging problem. A careful study is therefore being made to ensure the success of the first area by selecting one which will provide the most significant improvement of the houses and their environment.

The report that follows is a summary of the work that has been done by the public health inspectors. It concerns the places where people live and work and the food they eat. Most of this work is confidential in nature and therefore rarely makes "head line" news.

## HOUSING

**Unfit Dwellings**            The Council made a Demolition Order on 290 High Street and Closing Orders on number 3 The Crescent and an underground dwelling at 55 Durban Road.

**Disrepair**                With few exceptions the standard of maintenance of houses in Watford is good and only occasionally is it now necessary for the Council to use its statutory powers to enforce repairs. The new powers under Section 72 of the Housing Act 1969 were used to enforce the repair of a dilapidated house that was not unfit for human habitation. The elderly owner/occupier was without means and the Council carried out the works in default at a cost of some £550.

**Improvement of Houses**        Work proceeded during the year on the completion of housing improvements in the four improvement areas established under the Housing Act 1964 where the tenants are willing to pay the higher rents.

                                  The five-year period on a number of suspended improvement notices expired during the year and the Council decided to take no further action to enforce any of these notices.

                                  In March officers of the Council discussed with officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the establishment of General Improvement Areas as defined in the Housing Act 1969. The Council accepted their recommendation that an exploratory investigation be made in an area in North Watford of 157 houses whereby public health inspectors would interview the occupiers to find out what support might be forthcoming if the Council proceeded with a General Improvement Area scheme. 64 houses had not been improved (of which 25 were owner-occupied). Forty-one of the householders were not interested in the improvement of their house or the environment; almost all were old people who did not wish to be disturbed. The major difficulty in the preparation of a scheme to improve the environment is the large number of cars parked in the streets and the inability to provide alternative car parks in the foreseeable future.

                                  The Council decided that the first general improvement area should be established in some other part of the town where there were better prospects of a successful scheme. To this end they directed that a sample survey be made of all the pre-1920 houses on the lines indicated in the Dennington Report "Our older Homes".

                                  The tenants of 11 houses made representations to the Council under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 to enforce the owners to improve their house. One of the owners required the Council to buy the house.

Applications for improvement grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer.

The more attractive improvement grant provisions of the Housing Act 1969 undoubtedly promoted the substantial increase in the number of applications for grants during the year, particularly from the landlords of rented houses—70 compared with 37 during 1969. 181 applications were made by owner-occupiers compared with 140 during 1969.

A statistical summary of the action taken by the Council since 1964 to enforce the improvement of houses is shown in Table IV in the Appendix.

In addition to a local press publicity campaign officers of the Council and the Rent Officer met estate agents and surveyors to discuss improvement grants, qualification certificates and the implications of the Housing Act 1969.

#### Overcrowding

Most of the overcrowding of houses in Watford is caused by the sub-letting of rooms, many of which are occupied by immigrants.

The Council made 11 Directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 and served 2 notices under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1957 to control or reduce the number of persons occupying houses in multi-occupation. There are 79 such houses under supervision where the Council has taken statutory action under this legislation and night inspections are necessary.

The sample housing survey, to which reference has been made above, will be used to obtain information on houses that are occupied by members of more than one family.

#### Caravans

The number of residential caravans in Watford has been reduced to 5 on 4 licensed sites; three of these sites are also used by travelling showmen during the winter months.

The Council authorised legal proceedings under a Hertfordshire County Council Act against the occupiers of 2 residential caravans which had been placed on land without consent. They were removed before the proceedings were taken.



## FOOD

**Food Hygiene**            Apart from daily visits to the slaughterhouse, inspections were made of food premises of all kinds and of market and other stalls and of vehicles, to check compliance with the relevant hygiene regulations.

The proprietors of 2 restaurants were convicted of offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations (see Table IX). Authority was given for legal proceedings for offences under the Regulations in another restaurant which, however, was subsequently closed. All these businesses were carried on by immigrants.

### **Food Inspection**    (a)    Meat

A man was convicted for an offence in connection with meat delivery (Table IX).

Meat inspection was carried on satisfactorily through the year.

The Council continued to charge for meat inspection at the maximum rate, but the service is nevertheless carried out at some cost to the ratepayers.

The slaughterhouse manager has continued to permit students of meat inspection to gain practical experience in the abattoir. Such facilities are very limited and local authorities over a wide area are indebted to him for the opportunity for their staff to receive the required training.

### Slaughter of Animals Act

Nineteen licences to slaughter all classes of animals except horses were issued; 3 of them enabled the holders to slaughter animals only under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman.

### (b)    Milk

Only 7 complaints were received and these were referred to the Public Health Departments of the districts in which the milk was bottled or dealt with informally.

### (c)    Unsound Food

Eighty-two complaints were received of food (other than milk) sold in an unsatisfactory condition. 40 complaints referred to foreign bodies, 21 of which were in bakery products. Staleness, mould growth or decomposition

accounted for 33 reports. All complaints are thoroughly investigated and, wherever possible, means are sought to prevent a recurrence of the unsatisfactory circumstances which led to the complaint.

The Public Health Committee authorised legal proceedings (Table IX) in 6 cases reported to them and instructed warning letters to be sent in 14 cases. Of the prosecutions authorised, one did not proceed for lack of the necessary evidence from the complainant.

A condition not previously encountered was in a tin of strawberries which apparently contained no fruit. The breakdown of the berries which had been canned was attributed to the action of the heat-resistant mould bissochlamys fulva.

#### Food Poisoning

Thirteen cases of food poisoning were notified. All were Salmonella infections, 3 of which were contracted overseas – in West Africa, Italy and Asia.

One man became quite ill after attending a wedding reception in Manchester. He was treating this as an attack of influenza, without medical attention, until the Medical Officer of Health received notification from Manchester that other guests at the reception had developed food poisoning.

Careful investigations of the other cases failed to reveal any common source of food or drink. The staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Watford, have again been most helpful in these investigations.

A tabular statement of the notified cases is set out in Table X in the Appendix.

#### Composition of Food and Drugs

Informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr J.D. Curzon, as follows :—

Food samples:	130	Drug samples:	39
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Routine food samples included Meat and Fish Products, Preserves, Cheeses, Dried fruits, Colouring and Flavouring Agents, Spices, Sauces, Chutneys, Confectionery and Soft Drinks.

Excess preservative in apricots and incorrect labelling of Swiss pate, whisky flavour and an ointment were reported and appropriate action taken.

All the other routine food and drugs samples were satisfactory.

Of samples submitted because of complaints from consumers or other special circumstances the following were found to be unsatisfactory :—

Damaged containers caused spoilage of corned beef, vegetable salad and cheese.

Starch and rancid oil were found in potato crisps and a fungoid mass in tinned peaches.

Bacterial action on albumen in an iced cake resulted in a cheesy flavour.

A "chicken and mushroom" pie contained no filling.

The above results were communicated to the persons concerned.

Cigarette ends in bread and a sweet gave rise to legal proceedings (Table IX).

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Industrial Pollution

Since 1st April 1969 the Council has had greater powers of control over the height of new chimneys serving the larger furnace installations as defined in the Clean Air Act 1968. 3 applications were made to the Council for the approval of chimney heights and these were approved subject to specified conditions.

With few exceptions the boiler plants in Watford are modern installations burning oil or gas. 12 excessive smoke emissions from chimneys were recorded during the year and action was taken to stop nuisances from frequent bonfires at 5 commercial premises.

In December the Council received notification from the Central Electricity Generating Board of their proposal to construct a new 150 MW gas turbine generating station on the site of the derelict generating station in Cardiff Road, Watford. At their first meeting with the Board's design engineers it became apparent to officers of the Council that every consideration was being given to the avoidance of nuisance from chimney stack and noise emissions.

### Smoke Control Areas

Smoke Control Orders Nos. 6 and 7 came into operation on 30th September and 1st April 1970. Order No.8 comes into operation on 1st October 1972.

The number of dwellings covered by the eight confirmed smoke control orders in Watford is 8,094 with a total acreage of 2,003.

Throughout the year the Council have been concerned about the forecast serious shortage of solid smokeless fuels. In April representations were made to the Minister of Fuel and Power urging him to take action to prevent the closure of the Eastern Gas Board premium coke producing plant at St. Albans. Householders in smoke control areas were advised not to install solid fuel appliances. In fact 85% bought gas or electric room heaters.

In October the Council gave delegated power to the Chairmen of the Public Health and Management Committees to apply to the Minister for suspension of smoke control orders if it became apparent that a serious shortage of smokeless fuels was developing in Watford.

It is most unlikely that the smoke control area programme for the Borough will be resumed until the Council are satisfied that the shortage of smokeless fuels has been permanently resolved.

## PLACES OF WORK

**Factories** In the great majority of factories in Watford mechanical power is used and almost all the health provisions of the Factories Act are, therefore, enforced by the Factory Inspectorate.

From time to time factories are visited by a public health inspector in connection with health legislation which is enforceable by the Council, namely :-

- (i) food hygiene in canteens and in food factories;
- (ii) atmospheric pollution from chimneys and factory processes;
- (iii) noise and other nuisances;
- (iv) the storage of petrol and petroleum mixtures.

A summary of the inspections made under the Factories Act and of the "outwork" which is done in workers' homes is set out in Table XIII in the Appendix.

**Offices, Shops and  
Railway Premises  
Act 1963**

### 1. Registration and Inspection

The number of premises in Watford newly registered during the year and on the register at 31st December 1970 with the numbers of persons employed therein are as follows :-

	<u>Number of premises newly registered during the year</u>	<u>Registered premises</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	44	470	8,837
Retail shops	26	658	5,143
Wholesale shops and warehouses	2	55	710
Catering establishments and Canteens	4	77	991
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>76</u>	<u>1,261</u>	<u>15,687</u>

(7,452 males and 8,235 females)

In considering the above figures it must be borne in mind that many persons are employed in the above classes of business which are not registered by the Local Authority, namely :-

- (1) Businesses in which only the employer's relatives work;
- (2) Businesses in which employees work less than 21 hours;
- (3) Businesses which are registered by the Factory Inspector, e.g., offices in factories, Local Authority and Government Buildings, certain railway premises, etc.

It appears that almost 7 years after the Act came into force occupiers of premises are still not aware that they are required to register the employment of persons under the Offices and Shops Act. The public health inspectors have always to be on the lookout for unregistered premises and the majority of the premises registered in 1970 were as a result of a visit by the inspector.

During the year 328 general inspections of registered premises were made by the public health inspectors and 209 other visits and inspections.

## 2. Prosecutions

There were two prosecutions under the Act :-

- (a) An employee at a grocer's shop who was under the age of 18 was injured when cleaning a bacon slicing machine and part of his finger was severed by the blade. The firm pleaded not guilty to the charge but the Magistrates found the case proved and imposed a fine of £20. The firm were also prosecuted for failure to notify the accident and to this they pleaded guilty and were fined a further £20. Costs of £13.13.0 were also imposed.
- (b) A considerable number of infringements of the Act were found in newly occupied shop premises. The defendants pleaded guilty to 11 summonses dealing with cleanliness, refuse accumulation, ventilation, lighting and other matters. They were fined a total of £110 costs, and were ordered to pay £10 costs.

## 3. Accidents

Since the 25 accidents that were notified during 1970 occurred in a few large stores in Watford it seems that despite publicity and information that had been made available in all registered premises the majority of occupiers are unaware that they should notify certain accidents.

## 4. Hoists and Lifts Regulations

The operation of these Regulations has presented no difficulties in Watford.

The Public Health Inspectors are also appointed as Shops Act Inspectors. It is the general practice to check that there is compliance with the conditions of employment provisions of the Act when shops are inspected under other legislation.

From time to time there are infringements of the Closing Hours provisions but I have made reference in previous reports to the complicated nature of this law and the difficulties of enforcement.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Petroleum Storage**        The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as authorised officer for the purposes of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936.

152 premises were licensed for the keeping of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures. There are now six post payment self service filling stations in the town and one pre-payment station that is unattended during night time. 303 inspections were made of licensed petroleum stores.

There was one serious incident during August when a petrol pump on the forecourt of a garage became defective. This defect was unnoticed until the early evening when a dangerous accumulation of petrol was discovered in the basement of a car showroom on the site. With the efficient co-operation of the Shell Petroleum Company and the local Fire Brigade the basement was cleared of petrol and the premises made safe within 4 hours of discovery of the leakage.

**Nuisances**        The abatement of public health nuisances continues to be an important part of the environmental health work of the public health inspector.

Most of the 824 complaints that were made to the Department during the year were about nuisances of one kind or another – obstructed and defective drains and sewers; housing disrepairs; accumulations of refuse; insect pests and a number of other matters that are dealt with elsewhere in this report. Altogether over 2,000 inspections were made but a number of these were of emergency dumps established during a strike of refuse collectors.

Disturbance and annoyance to nearby residents was caused by noisy activities in 17 commercial and industrial premises and 2 houses. Most of these concerned noise during the night or early morning hours and at weekends.

Initially the complainants are asked to keep a diary of the times and days when the noise causes a nuisance; by this means abortive night inspections are reduced to a minimum.

In only 2 cases was it necessary to take enforcement action by way of service of abatement notices.

The considerable and ever-increasing noise from road, air and rail traffic overshadows all other sources of noise but surprisingly few people complain about it. One exception was a petition to the Council from residents in Leavesden concerning noise from commercial aircraft using a nearby airfield in the area of the Watford Rural District Council.



Prevention of  
Damage by Pests  
Act 1949

The Council continue to provide a free service for the destruction of rats and mice on domestic premises. Rodents on commercial and industrial premises and wasps nests on occupied premises are dealt with on payment of a fee which for wasps nests is 12/-.

A commercial undertaking laid Sodium Fluoroacetamide poison baits in those sewers which have been found in the past to be rat-infested.

There is no evidence of resistance to Warfarin poison by rats in Watford but it is not effective against mice.

Table XIV sets out details of rat and mice infestations treated during the year. 149 wasps nests were destroyed.

APPENDIX

RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1970

TABLE I

Complaints	824
<b>DWELLINGS</b>	
Public Health Act (disrepair)	469
Housing Act (disrepair)	309
Housing Act (improvement)	248
Housing Act (overcrowding)	322
Movable dwellings	17
<b>PLACES OF WORK</b>	
Power Factories	71
Non-power factories	9
Building sites, etc.	10
Outworkers	6
<b>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963</b>	
(a) Offices	82
(b) Retail shops	191
(c) Wholesale shops, Warehouses	17
(d) Catering establishments and canteens	36
(e) Fuel Storage Depots	1
Revisits	209
Shops Act	52
<b>FOOD</b>	
Food inspection	191
Slaughterhouse	299
Food factories	44
Ice cream premises	37
Restaurants, canteens, public houses	368
Retail food shops	321
Public Market	52
Mobile shops, stalls	35
Other food premises	30
Food (adulteration) samples	176
Food (bacteriological) samples	28
<b>AIR</b>	
Industrial Smoke Control	101
Smoke Control Areas	806

Cont'd.....

<b>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT</b>	
Drainage	769
Refuse	706
Insect Pests	69
Conveniences	27
Nuisances	629
Infectious disease	248
Schools	20
Swimming Pools	5
<b>OTHER ACTS</b>	
Pests Act	284
Animals Acts	11
Petroleum Acts	303
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
Interviews	301
Attendance at Court	7
Lectures	27
Unclassified visits	232
Water samples	20
	8,195
	8,195

## HOUSING

### TABLE II

Number of new dwellings erected by the Council during 1970 .....	.....	63
Number of new dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1970 .....	.....	52
Total number of dwellings built by Council since 1945 .....	.....	5,252
Total number of dwellings built by private enterprise since 1945 .....	.....	3,401
Number of Council dwellings occupied on 31st December 1970 .....	.....	6,865

## HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND OTHER UNFIT HOUSES

### TABLE III

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS	Nil	Nil	Nil
HOUSES DEMOLISHED NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
As a result of formal procedure under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED			
Under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	1	1	1
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957	1	1	1
UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED			
After informal action by Local Authority	46		Nil
After formal Notice under :-			
(a) Public Health Acts	17		Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act 1957	1		1



FOOD

Types of Food Premises within the Borough at 31st December 1970

TABLE V

Retail Food Shops	...	...	...	...	313
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	44
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	75
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	...	...	...	72
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	39
Clubs	...	...	...	...	19
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	11
Wholesale Food Merchants	...	...	...	...	18
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	5
Public Market	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	1

All these premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, where applicable.

Food Premises Registered by the Council under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	2
Ice Cream Dealers	...	...	177
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	...	39

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963/65

Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were held as follows :-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licences
Untreated Milk	14
Pasteurised Milk	64
Sterilised Milk	44
Ultra Heat Treated Milk	31

All licence holders are registered as milk distributors.  
One distributor is registered solely for the sale of cream.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED  
IN WATFORD DURING 1970

TABLE VI

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	12,394	1,566	681	28,506	74,406
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	9	15	16	112
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6,538	1,023	36	6,021	35,139
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	52.8	65.8	7.5	21.2	47.3
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	139
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.19
Cystercosis					
Carcases in which cystercosis was found	101	9	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	101	9	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

## LOCATION AND NATURE OF CYSTERCERCUS BOVIS INFECTIONS

TABLE VII

110 cases of cystercercus bovis were discovered in the 13,960 cattle slaughtered in Watford. This gives an incidence rate of 0.79%. The location of the cysts were as follows :-

	Head	Heart	Skirt
Viabie cysts	2	2	1
Degenerate cysts	37	78	5

The cysts in 5 cases (4.5%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin.

## ICE CREAM SAMPLES

TABLE VIII

### Bacteriological Samples

Satisfactory	Grades 1 and 2	8
Unsatisfactory	Grades 3 and 4	15
After an unsatisfactory sample equipment and methods are inspected and repeated samples are taken from the same source until a satisfactory result is obtained.		



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

TABLE IX

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD

No.	Section	Alleged Offence	Result	Fines	Costs payable by Defendant
1	2	Sale of bread containing cigarette end	Conviction	£15	£. s. d. 10. 10. 0
2	2	Sale of sweet containing cigarette end	Conviction	£25	10. 10. 0
3	2	Sale of loaf containing finger dressing	Conviction	£40	10. 10. 0
4	2	Sale of decomposed ham	Conviction	£30	-
5	2	Sale of sandwich containing mould	Conviction	£25	10. 0. 0
6	13	Restaurant - 6 offences against Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	Conviction	£60	12. 12. 0
7	13	Restaurant - 7 offences against Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	Conviction	£140	-
8	13	Meat delivery - cap not worn	Conviction	£5	-

FOOD POISONING

TABLE X

	No.	Number of Cases		Organism Responsible	Food suspected
		Notified	Otherwise Ascertained		
Family outbreaks	1	1	1	Salmonella Enteritidis	Unknown
Other outbreaks	1	1	Several	Salmonella Enteritidis	At wedding reception in Manchester
Single cases	2	2	Nil	Salmonella Typhi-Murium	Unknown
	2	2	Nil	Salmonella Saint Paul	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Infantis	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Enteritidis	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Larochelle	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Agama	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Richmond	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Haifa	Unknown

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

TABLE XI

Infringements of Act in 327 premises inspected during 1970

Uncleanly condition of premises	.....	.....	.....	18
Inadequate provision for maintaining reasonable temperature	.....	.....	.....	6
Inadequate light or ventilation	.....	.....	.....	16
Unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences or washing facilities	.....	.....	.....	6
Inadequate hot water, clean towels etc. for hand washing	.....	.....	.....	5
Inadequate provision for accommodating clothing	.....	.....	.....	4
Defective condition of floors or stairs	.....	.....	.....	13
Inadequate fencing of dangerous parts of machinery	.....	.....	.....	3
Inadequate first aid equipment	.....	.....	.....	20
Failure to display prescribed Abstract of the Act	.....	.....	.....	28
No thermometer	.....	.....	.....	23
Inadequate facilities for eating meals	.....	.....	.....	3
Other matters	.....	.....	.....	8
				<u>153</u>

TABLE XII

Analysis of Causes of Accidents notified during 1970

Machinery	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Falls of persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Stepping on or striking against objects or person	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Handling of goods	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Struck by falling object	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Use of hand tools	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Not otherwise specified	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
					<u>25</u>

FACTORIES ACT 1961

TABLE XIII(i)

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	13	1	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	459	45	2	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	478	50	2	Nil
2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Unreasonable ventilation (see 4)	1	1	Nil	Nil
Insufficient sanitary conveniences (see 7)	1	1	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

TABLE XIII(ii)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list notified to Local Authority
Wearing apparel (Making, alterations etc.)	24
Making of paper receptacles	24
Artificial flowers	1
Racquet and tennis balls	1
TOTAL	50
There were no cases of default in sending lists of outworkers as required by Section 133(i)(c).	



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

TABLE XIV

1.	Number of properties in district	32,000
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	516
	(b) Number infested by :—	
	(i) Rats	338
	(ii) Mice	64
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	Nil
	(b) Number infested by :—	
	(i) Rats	Nil
	(ii) Mice	Nil







