

BAILIWICK OF JERSEY

Statistics

Area (acres)	28,717
Population (1991 Census - Resident population)	84,082
Population - estimated year end population 1992	84,644
Population for departmental work purposes	120,000 approx

Structure of Community Health Services

See attached sheet.

ISLAND TOPIC

Disposal of liquid & solid waste

1. Liquid waste

Sewage disposal and disposal of waste liquid in Jersey is achieved by two methods:

- (a) a network of sewers and pumping stations to a purpose designed sewage treatment works, and
- (b) a conservancy system of septic tanks and soakaways, treatment plants and tight tanks serviced by a fleet of tankers.

The waste disposal authority is the Public Services Department which operates the sewage treatment plant (liquid waste) and the incinerator plant (solid waste).

The Jersey New Waterworks Company is the public utility which provides mains water services from compounding reservoirs and aquifers beneath Jersey. Not all properties are served by mains water or main drainage, and the situation and relationship between soakage of sewage effluent into the ground and the abstraction of water by private individuals through boreholes, wells, springs and by catchment is closely monitored, currently by a reactive and proactive monitoring programme for bacteriological and chemical quality.

The Island slopes from high ground in the north to the south, and because of the topography of the Island there are many pumping stations to lift sewage over high points.

Some drains are still combined - that is they take both foul and surface water. During heavy prolonged rainfall they may run at or above capacity and occasionally dilute sewage may discharge to sea. This may affect oyster beds located off the east coast of the Island. Again, this is closely monitored for bacteriological quality in accordance with EC Directive parameters.

In addition to the above, for the last three years (1991 - 1993) the Environmental Health Section, jointly with the Public Services Department, has monitored the quality of bathing beach water. The quality at 12 sites is excellent, the only failure being at the short coastal outfall to the sewage works. Recent installation of ultra violet treatment for final effluent after primary and secondary treatment has produced an effluent basically free from bacteria, and the works are leading the way in Europe.

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2. Solid waste

Due to the lack of land for landfill sites and changes in the nature and bulk of solid waste, the States of Jersey took a positive decision to incinerate most of its solid waste. This, in my view, was the correct option.

The present incineration plant comprises three streams, two older and one more modern, which it is intended to upgrade still further by 1996 to meet stack emission requirements of the EC. This is applaudable since Jersey is not a member of the EC and its Directives are therefore not binding on the government of Jersey.

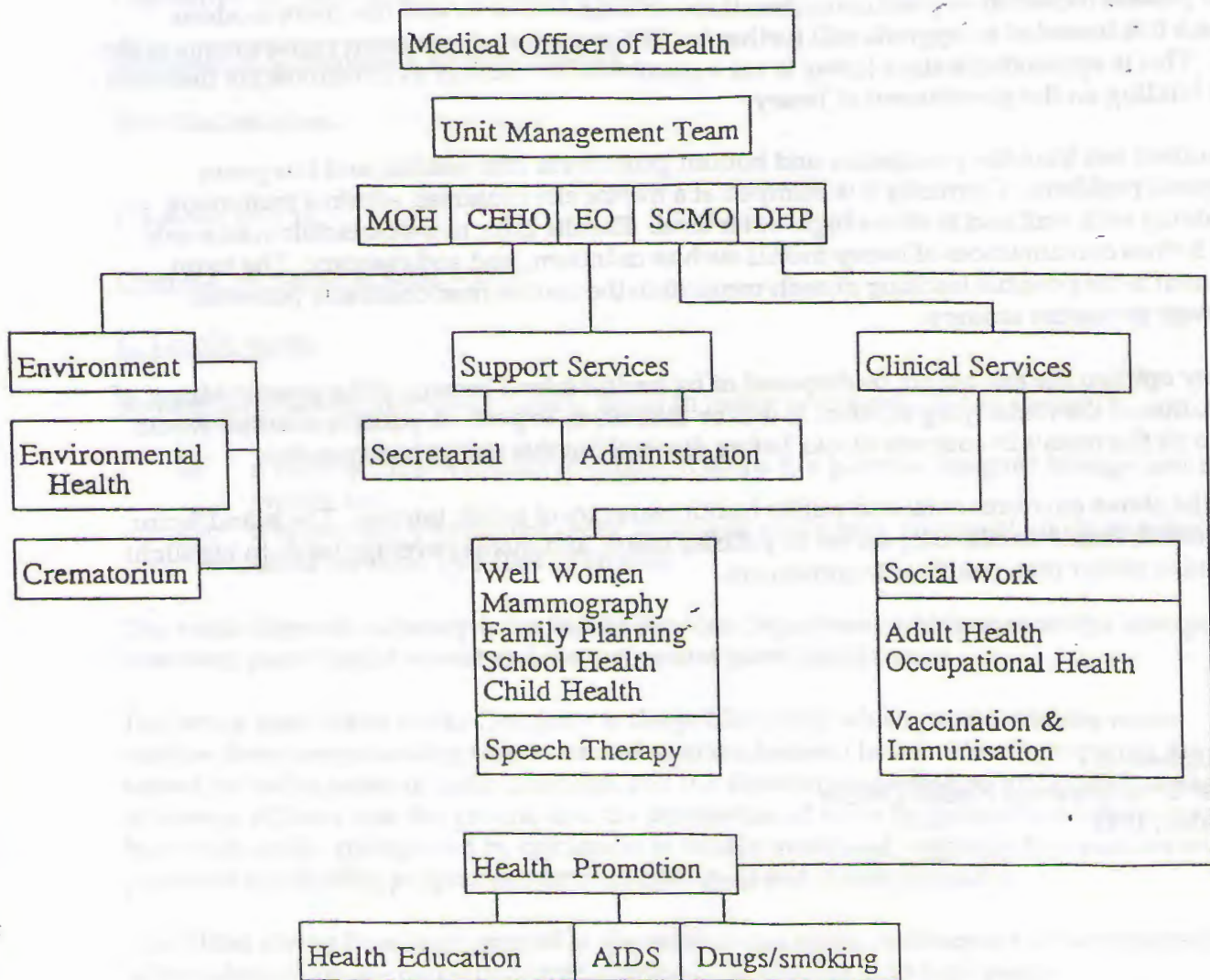
Resultant ash from the precipitators and bottom grates form 10% residue, and this poses disposal problems. Currently it is dumped at a marine site contained within a man made retaining rock wall and is above high water level. The site is for non-putrescible waste only but it does contain traces of heavy metals such as cadmium, lead and mercury. The main concern is the possible leaching of such metals into the marine food chain and potential damage to marine ecology.

In my opinion the ash cannot be disposed of by landfill inland because of the greater danger of pollution of the underlying aquifer. It will be difficult to export. A possible solution would be to fix the metals in concrete blocks before disposal but this would be expensive.

All the above environmental and public health issues are of public interest. The island factor of a small, closed community serves to polarise issues, and media coverage tends to highlight negative rather than positive circumstances.

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Chief Environmental Health Officer
October, 1993

STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES



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