

Exterminator says rat problem is on the rise across Bedford town centre, despite falling complaints

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After BoS reported the rat spotted in Shish, a pest control expert says the problem lies in Bedford town centre

A TOWN centre rodent problem is on the rise and business owners are struggling to keep them out according to a pest control expert.

Last week, we reported that a rat was spotted by customers in the Shish restaurant in Castle Lane, Bedford, and now owner Mahibur Alom has said the restaurant does not have a persistent problem.

He told BoS this week: "As you can see by the picture, the pest came in through the front door with customers, was contained by the staff near the front door and ushered out within five minutes of being discovered."

He pointed the blame to the streets of Bedford where he claims the rat population is rising, which was agreed by Darryl Hatfield-Shaw, from Pest Force, who said "I have seen the numbers rise steadily over recent years, and as much as businesses are doing what they can to keep their premises c rodent free, they are getting in off the streets due to our disposable lifestyles.

"I can only advise them to have brush strips under their doors, keep their bins locked and their premises clean, but the issue on the streets is getting worse."

But when this was raised with Bedford Borough Council, a spokeswoman said they had actually seen a 'reduction in rat complaints' over the past few years.