



Prisoners terrorised by GIANT RATS running across their beds and sitting on desks

By Mark Branagan, 5 January 2016, Mirror, England

A jail has been invaded by a swarm of giant rats - terrorising inmates in their cells.

More than 800 men have now been cooped up for ten months with rodents nearly a foot-long and are no longer scared of prison guards.

The rats infested the jail back in February and began gorging themselves on discarded prison grub.



Vermin: Rodents are swarming the prison

Now prison bosses accused of hushing up the scandal are being forced to spend nearly £21,500 of tax payers' money on getting rid of them.

Nearly 100 rats are being trapped every week at HMP Humber, a medium security jail north of Hull, which can house more than 1,000 inmates, many of them violent offenders.

Pest control firm Rentokil usually only comes to the prison once every three months, until rats started swarming the jail from the surrounding fields.



Invasion: Pest controllers have been called in at HMP Humber

Doubling the visits failed to get rid of the plague and now bosses plan on calling the firm two or three times a week for the next three months.

The rats have grown so bold that the everyday racket of life behind bars no longer scares them. Prison officers have found them scurrying around their ankles and sitting on desks.

One source said: "They are seen all day every day - but it gets worse at dusk. Once upon a time, a staff member could walk down the corridor and rattle your keys and they would scarper.

"Now they are not bothered. One prisoner was kicking off after one ran across the bed in his cell. Staff has found them on their desks around their feet.

"If you have rats in your house you can go out. But this lot is stuck behind bars with them. The problem is just enormous. They are literally everywhere."

National POA press officer Glyn Travis felt the union had been kept in the dark. He said: "I'm completely taken aback.

"Any infestation of rats is a major concern and this one seems to be very, very severe and costly.

"The governor's efforts to control it is commendable - but the question is how long is it going on?"

"There is always a risk to health from such a large infestation. We are extremely concerned this has not been reported in any of the formal meetings with the management.

"I have been in the service for over 30 years and this is the first time I have seen such a detailed pest control plan. They must have a real problem.

"Rats are one of the most prolific carriers of weils disease - which is a killer. This is costing taxpayers significant amounts of money and endangering the health of staff and prisoners.

"There needs to be more action to deal with it as it has been going on for nearly a year and needs to be resolved."

A prison service spokesman said: "There have been some pest control issues but this has had no impact on the operational running of the establishment."