



Revealed - the worst areas in Birmingham for rat infestation

By Matt Cannon, 10 January 2016, Birmingham Mail, Birmingham, England



Northfield is the most rat-infested area in Birmingham according to the number of pest control call outs, new figures have revealed.

A total of 707 calls were made by rodent-wary residents in the B31 postcode last year, more than any other part of the city.

This means that on average pest control teams were dealing with rats twice a day in the area.

But latest statistics revealed via a Freedom of Information request suggest there are significant rat problems in Erdington and Sparkhill, too.

Coun Debbie Clancy (Con, Northfield), said she was surprised over the figures but had noticed a problem with hoarders in her district.

"This is news to me but during our public advice bureaux we do get some enquiries about pest control," she said.

"We give an individual response to each complainant and refer the problem to the housing team."



She added: “In particular I’ve had some enquiries about nuisance neighbors who may be hoarders.

“Often in cases of hoarders it’s not as easy as telling someone to clean up because there can be psychological issues there making pest problems worse.

“In fact, I’ve submitted a written question to the council on how to deal with hoarders and I intend to follow this through.

“Clearly more needs to be done and this is on the top of my mind as well as my colleagues.”

Rats also seem to be a problem in Erdington and Sparkhill.

People living in the Erdinton B23 postcode made 593 rat-related calls in 2015, while in Sparkhill the total was 591.

King’s Heath in the south of the city had the least number of calls at just 435.

Overall the total number of call outs to deal with pests in Birmingham was down from 16,500 in 2014 compared with 11,980 calls last year.

Rats were the biggest pest problem facing Brummies but others contacted the city's vermin control team complaining of cockroaches, bedbugs and mice.

Across the city people also made complaints about wasps, squirrels and ants.

A spokesman for Birmingham City Council said: "There has been a reduction in call outs and we provide a pest control service for both commercial and domestic properties in Birmingham.

"For domestic customers who live in Birmingham our pest control service is free for the pests we treat. If you have a rat in your house we will be with you on the next working day.

"Although B31 was the highest, call-outs were down almost 20 per cent for this postcode on the previous 12 months."

*Last year The British Pest Control Association revealed that Birmingham was the worst in the country for rat infestations with 14,812 call outs to deal with infestations of the rodents.