



# Dudley takeaway owners fined after rat droppings found in kitchen

Darren Campbell, 18 OCT 2017

The former owners of a Dudley takeaway have been fined after rat droppings were found in the kitchen.

New Pepitos was closed down by environmental health officers in December last year after anonymous complaints of rats at the premises.

In addition to the rat droppings, a court heard inspectors found the New Street takeaway also had dirty surfaces and equipment, while there was no hot water to a hand wash basin.

Officers immediately shut down the premises using emergency closure powers, followed by a court order which forced the business to stay closed for six days while pest control work was carried out.



The owners at the time, Mohammed Khaliq and Mohammed Zamir, admitted numerous breaches of health and hygiene regulations at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on October 5.

The court heard they had only taken over the business a few days before the inspection and they were inexperienced.

The duo both pleaded guilty to nine offences, including having a lack of adequate pest control procedures and failing to maintain the premises and equipment in good repair and condition.

They also admitted failing to register the food business, failing to implement a food safety management system and failing to train staff in food hygiene matters.

The duo were ordered to pay nearly £1,000 each, including a fine of £450, costs of £485 and a £30 government victim surcharge.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing at Dudley Council, said: “Conditions found at this premises were most unsatisfactory, which led to these prosecutions.

“We much prefer to work with businesses to secure compliance with the law, but we will not hesitate to take legal action against the minority of food businesses proprietors who fail to meet their legal responsibilities and put the health of the public at risk.

“Over half of all food outlets in the borough are achieving the top hygiene rating of five and the vast majority achieve a satisfactory rating of three or more.

“I would urge consumers to check out hygiene ratings online as these will give consumers a glimpse of what is going on in the kitchen when they eat out, or behind the scenes at the places they shop.”

Khaliq and Zamir no longer run the takeaway, which is now trading under a new name and run by new proprietors not connected to the case.