



## **Poundland slapped with £100k fine after MOUSE droppings and urine are found on baby clothes and biscuit packets**

Health inspectors discovered mouse urine alongside gnawed and soiled packets of biscuits, nuts, sweets and popcorn

By Chloe Kerr, 1st September 2017

POUNDLAND has been slapped with a £100k fine after MOUSE droppings and urine were found on baby clothes and biscuit packets.

The chain was handed one of the biggest ever retail food safety fines after it was plagued by an uncontrolled rodent infestation in one of its stores.



Mouse droppings and evidence of urine were found on food shelves alongside gnawed and soiled packets of biscuits, nuts, sweets and popcorn.

Droppings were found throughout the store and in behind-the-scenes storage areas of the discount store, including on baby clothes.

The retail giant is now counting the cost of ignoring the major mouse infestation at its flagship store in Wands worth, south London after being hit by magistrates with what is believed to be one of the country's highest retail food safety fines.

The company pleaded guilty to four offences and in addition to the £100,000 fine, Poundland was also ordered to pay £12,368 towards Wands worth Council's costs in bringing the case to court.

Magistrates heard how the store in Southside shopping centre had to be closed using emergency powers in January last year after food safety inspectors uncovered the infestation.

Cllr Jonathan Cook, community safety spokesman, said: "This was a very serious rodent infestation in a busy and popular retailer so there was a very real and significant risk to public health.

"When our inspectors uncovered the scale of the problem they had absolutely no option other than use their emergency powers to order the entire store's immediate closure.

"It was not permitted to reopen until the company was able to prove it had dealt with the problems and taken adequate steps to prevent it happening again.