

Takeaway ordered to close after evidence of rat infestation found

By Laura Love, 13 NOV 2017

Takeaway was ordered to close last week after evidence of a rat infestation was found.

College Pizza in [Stokesley](#) was shut down on Tuesday, November 7, after a food hygiene inspection by Environmental Health Officers from Hambleton District Council found serious concerns for public health.

Three days later magistrates granted an order to keep the business closed until officers are satisfied it no longer presents a health risk.

Paul Staines, Director of Leisure and Environment said: “The closure of food businesses in Hambleton is rare. However, protecting consumers is our top priority. We only take this action when it is absolutely necessary - and in premises where we find that food is being stored, prepared and served in unhygienic conditions.”

Using emergency powers under the [Food Safety and Hygiene \(England\) Regulations 2013](#), a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice was served on November 7.

It required the immediate closure of the takeaway after officers found evidence of a widespread rat infestation in the kitchen, very poor standards of cleanliness and other breaches of food hygiene laws. They described the conditions as being an imminent risk of injury to the health of the takeaways customers.

On November 10 the council was granted a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order by Northallerton magistrates which will keep the business closed until officers are satisfied

conditions no longer present a health risk. College Pizza's Owner, Mr Alireza Ansari, did not appeal against the council's enforcement decision.

"Environmental Health Officers routinely visit food outlets in the district where they check that good hygiene standards are being maintained and award a hygiene rating," said Councillor Stephen Watson, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling.