



Terrified young woman and children forced to leave rat-infested home

“We ended up finding rat poo and urine in the floorboards. They had clawed at it to get through”

BY **TOM BELGERS** SOCIAL AFFAIRS REPORTER

12:34, 19 NOV 2017

NEWS

This is a modal window.

A family were forced to move out of a rat-infested home where the children were too terrified to sleep in their own room.

Hannah Jay Collins, 24, said there had been rats in the terraced house in Walton since February.

She said there were droppings and urine all over the toys of her two nieces, aged seven and nine, who she cares for.

She told the ECHO the girls were so scared of the rats they refused to eat at home, having their meals at a friend’s house nearby instead.

Contractors from Liverpool Housing Trust (LHT) and pest control officers had been out several times but struggled to tackle the problem, she added.

This week she finally decided she had no choice but to move out, paying more for privately rented accommodation **in Anfield** .

She criticised LHT for not offering her another property, and said she hoped sharing her story might help stop other families having similar ordeals.

She said: “It was horrible - I got quite depressed over it.



VIEW GALLERY

“When we first moved in, everything was fine. But then we started hearing scratches about a month in. It sounded like something was living with the kids’ toys.



Hannah Jay Collins, 24, said there had been rats in the terraced house in Walton since February

“We ended up finding rat poo and urine that stinks in the floorboards. They had clawed at it to get through.

“And we switched bedrooms as the droppings were over their toys - I had to bin some of their arts and crafts stuff, dolls and knitting wool.

“You can smell it really badly when you are in the room. I reported it to LHT as soon as I heard it.

“Pest control came out and put poison down between April and June, and visited three times.

“But then it got to the point where we had to leave, as the kids saw a rat in the bedroom and were terrified.

“I saw one too - they are definitely rats and they’re huge, like a size five shoe. I was petrified too seeing it.

Hannah Collins said she had to leave her home because of a rat problem, which left her nieces terrified. She shared photos of rat droppings and urine across the house.

“First we had to pay a friend to stay with them in June, but couldn’t afford to stay and moved back in two months ago.

“Now we’re in a new place, which is much better even if it costs more.”

A Liverpool Housing Trust spokeswoman said: “Pest problems should always be reported to the local authority. Liverpool Housing Trust has paid for a private specialist contractor to visit the property on two occasions to investigate and lay bait.



Hannah Collins said she had to leave her home because of a rat problem, which left her nieces terrified.

“As a landlord our priority is to identify how the rats are getting in to the property and our team has been working to pinpoint and fill all potential entry points.”