



## **Dead rats found at Worcester's YMCA**

By Grace Walton



**A YOUNG man is shocked after finding dead rats at the YMCA.**

Jordan Cornes, aged 20, said he found eight 'decomposed' rats after he ripped off the bottom of the kitchen cupboards when he could smell 'something weird' inside the city's hostel.

Mr Cornes, who is a former resident at the hostel but still visits his girlfriend who is 20 weeks pregnant, said he complained to the YMCA on Saturday (March 14) after he discovered the vermin.

Mr Cornes said: "There was a weird smell in the kitchen. I ripped off the bottom of the cupboards in the kitchen downstairs where I found eight dead rats. I didn't even bother checking upstairs as I had seen enough.

"The rats had decomposed. A couple of them had wasted away. It looks like they had been left dead there for months – you could see their bones."

A spokesman for YMCA said it took action to remove the rats.

He said: "YMCA **Worcestershire** remains open and will continue to house and support the young people that live with us.

"The property is located in a central city location and located near to several catering outlets. In addition to this the recent flooding and as a result led to an increased risk of infestation.

"We responded to this report the following day to ensure that this was rectified.

"We have also taken further preventative action to reduce the risk of this happening again. Since then, we have received an external pest control report confirming there were no signs of vermin.

"The property is cleaned every daily and we are asking other residents to be vigilant and report any issues immediately."

Mr Cornes added: "My girlfriend is pregnant. She doesn't want to be there.

"She can't be living in that environment. Especially with this coronavirus - I have got to keep her and my baby safe, we can't be having dead rats there.

"If they put a rat trap down, they need to also check it and clear it up and put down a new one if needed."

Mr Cornes received this email from the YMCA following his complaint: "The YMCA will endeavour to get pest control out to deal with the situation as soon as possible. Hopefully this will be tomorrow but as its Sunday we may not be able to get pest control out until Monday. Rest assured the situation will be dealt with as soon as possible."