



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
OLDHAM
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: KHM/PARK02002/02162079

26 October 2016

Dear Dr Wilkins

Further to my letter of 28th September regarding Oldham Council Resolutions, please find enclosed the Ministerial response I have received in answer to my representations on your behalf regarding 'super rats'.

I hope that you find this response useful. As ever, if there is anything further I can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

DEBBIE ABRAHAMS MP
Oldham East and Saddleworth

Debbie Abrahams MP is proud to represent the people of
Alexandra, Lees, Saddleworth, Shaw & Crompton, St Mary's, St James' and Waterhead

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25 OCT 2016

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department
for Environment
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Debbie Abrahams MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: KHM/PARK02002/02162079
Our ref: MC413344/AD

18 October 2016

Dear Debbie

Thank you for your letter of 28 September to the Secretary of State on behalf of Dr Wilkins and Oldham Council about 'super rats'. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

We agree that rats can be a problem; that is why there are powers available to local authorities and other authorised persons to kill or take rats. Professional pest controllers with a specialist skill in this area are likely to be the most suited people for this task.

Responsibility for dealing with problems caused by wild rats in England normally rests with the occupier of the land concerned. To address public health risk, the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 obliges local authorities to ensure that their districts are kept, as far as is practicable, free of rats and mice. To enable them to do so, the Act empowers local authorities to serve a notice on landowners or occupiers requiring them to take such steps as may be specified in the notice to destroy rodents on their land.

Rats may become resistant to certain chemical control measures if they are overused and ineffectively deployed such that resistance is allowed to build up in targeted populations. The control of rat populations should never rely solely upon the use of chemical control measures. In addition to the use of chemical control measures, a control programme may also use trapping; environmental and habitat management (restriction of access to food, water and harbourage); and proofing, exclusion and restriction of movement.

Yours sincerely,

Thérèse

DR THERESE COFFEY MP

