BPCA
British Pest Control Association

PREVENTION PROTECTION PROFESSIONALISM

A manifesto for public health pest management in Wales



bpca.org.uk/policy
Driving excellence in pest management

POLICY ON A PAGE

We want the next Welsh Government to commit to prioritising public health, and reducing the distress caused by inadequate pest control. The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) asks politicians to support four key actions:

Protect homes from pests

- Some renters and homeowners are living with entirely preventable pest infestations, making them ill and miserable
- Lazy landlords can leave tenants open to infestation through poor maintenance, slow action on repairs and inadequate waste management facilities
- Only social tenants have adequate protections.

Ensure that the Welsh Housing Quality Standard is applied to the private rented sector, so that all tenants in Wales can live in decent homes.

Drive the TrustMark scheme

- All government estates require some element of public health pest management
- Government already has an approved scheme for quality pest control companies: TrustMark
- Council homes, hospitals, prisons and government buildings do not universally require TrustMark businesses (where available)
- Improve consumer confidence in tradespeople by championing TrustMark
- 80% of all pest management work is carried out by a TrustMark registered company.

Specify that all Welsh government-controlled estates must choose a TrustMark registered pest management company, wherever possible.

Restrict professional tools to professional users

- Pest management work is largely unregulated
- Public health pesticides have the potential to harm wildlife, birds of prey, aquatic life, pets, and human health
- Pest control products can have serious animal welfare concerns when used incorrectly
- Professional-use pesticides and traps can be accessed with little or no training
- Individual licensing schemes exist for certain products, but not for individual pest professionals
- Many pest management companies choose to self-regulate by becoming BPCA members.

Require professional pest controllers to be licensed in order to practice. Set a licensing standard equivalent to the voluntary standards that 80% of the sector already adhere to.

Encourage new entrants to the sector

- Climate change will exacerbate the number of pests, and the issues they cause
- More skilled and newly qualified professionals are required to meet the growing challenges to Welsh public health

Work with the sector to encourage pest management as a skilled and rewarding career, supporting the future of public health.

By making decisive policy decisions regarding pest management, governments can make a real-world contribution to the protection of public health and safety in and around homes and businesses.

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Introduction

Professional pest management is an often overlooked and undervalued sector of the Welsh Economy but one that is actually playing a vital role in protecting public health, the food supply chain and food security, and contributing to biodiversity through managing dominant or invasive species. With climate change, these threats will only grow.

This manifesto is about how Wales can best utilise the skills and experience found within our sector, for the benefit of all others.

How we can best ensure that people have liveable homes that safeguard both their physical and mental health; their access to safe and nutritious food; as well as how we safeguard our natural heritage from invasive non-native species, and our built heritage from physical damage by pests.

Even if you have never experienced an infestation before, you will have benefited from the unseen work of many pest management professionals. This manifesto is how we ensure that their work can continue as effectively and sustainably as possible.



Protect homes from pests

Landlords have a greater role to play in the protection of their tenants from pests than just calling a pest controller in a timely manner; they must follow the advice given by pest controllers. This could include improved management of communal waste disposal, the repair of defects in the building, or anything else for which the landlord alone has responsibility for.

In response to Awaab's law Wales introduced changes to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard; due to come into force prior to the election in April it applies only to tenants in social housing, with no promise of protections for those in the private rented sector. It should not matter where your home is, or who owns it: the risks posed by pests are the same.

Rodents in the UK spread diseases like leptospirosis (Weil's disease), Salmonella spp., and Listeria; being transmitted to humans through rats' urine or direct contact with food preparation areas. Rodents must gnaw to keep their teeth in shape – gnawed pipes and wire can cause floods and electrical fires.

Cockroaches, flies and other insects can spread pathogens, infect your food, and damage your belongings.

We don't accept these conditions from restaurants for the risks to health it poses, so why do we allow those exact same conditions in people's homes?





"It should not matter where your home is, or who owns it: the risks posed by pests are the same."

BPCA asks that the next Welsh Government:

- **Recognise the danger that pests pose to the health and wellbeing of tenants**
- **Ensure protections for all renters –** all those who live in social rented, private rented, or temporary accommodation should be protected.

Restrict professional tools to professional users

The tools used by professional pest controllers if misused have the ability to cause unnecessary harms to wildlife, the environment, and human health. Wales must continue to keep them out of the hands of the general public, and ensure access only to licensed professionals.

Wales has lead the way in animal welfare protections, with the **Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023** restricting the availability of professional tools to the public. However, it has also restricted their availability to professionals, those who can use them humanely and effectively in line with best practice and an integrated pest management approach. The ability of our sector to protect public health has been degraded.

Protecting public health, animal welfare, and Wales' biodiversity requires a comprehensive reform of how our sector and our tools are regulated. The current mix of self and piecemeal government regulation is insufficient, and inefficient.

- Glue traps - banned from use yet legal for the public to buy and to own, this leads to confusion about their legality and leaves them available for the public to misuse
- Other traps - can be acquired and set by anyone without training in their safe use
- Rodenticides - can be purchased by anyone with a certificate following an hour long online course and multiple-choice quiz
- Insecticides - no specific requirement other than the user being 'trained and competent' with reputable suppliers having to assess what that means on their own, other suppliers may not make any assessment at all.



92% of professional pest controllers believe that the sector as a whole needs licensing, and 80% have chosen to self-regulate by becoming BPCA members.



"Protecting public health, animal welfare, and Wales' biodiversity requires a comprehensive reform of how our sector and our tools are regulated."

BPCA asks that the next Welsh Government:

- **Require professional pest controllers to be licensed –** set the standard to be equivalent to the standard that 80% of the sector already adheres to
- **Restrict all professional tools to licensed pest controllers**
- **Ensure licensed professionals have the tools necessary to protect public health –** stop the licensing of individual products and streamline regulation, allowing licensed professionals to access and use them as required to protect public health.

Drive the TrustMark scheme

All government estates require pest control, but in a system where pest professionals are unlicensed it is difficult to ensure that taxpayer's money is being spent on quality services. TrustMark simplifies that process.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to keep rodents in their areas under control. Hospitals, schools, prisons and parliament buildings too will all have agreements with pest professionals for proactive and reactive pest management, normally in the form of a contract through a tendering process.

Specifications of these processes will vary wildly, making it difficult to ensure that money is being spent on quality services.

The UK government has already developed an approved scheme for quality pest control companies: TrustMark. Started in 2005, it is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to raise standards and help consumers choose a trusted tradesperson.

TrustMark registration signifies adherence to industry standards and codes of conduct, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in the provision of pest management services.

Making registration a requirement to bid for contracts on government estates will help elevate standards within the industry, and empower consumers to make informed decisions when seeking assistance.



There is no statutory requirement for Local Authorities in Wales to offer pest control services or have their own departments, but they do have duties to keep pests like rats under control.



BPCA asks that the next Welsh Government specify that all government-controlled estates must choose a TrustMark registered pest management company, wherever possible

Encourage new entrants to the sector

Pests and the risks they to Welsh homes, businesses and public health will be a continuing and ever-present challenge. Our sector can manage those risks today, but what about in 10 or 20 years time.

Climate change will exacerbate the number of pests as environmental conditions become more favourable to them, and subsequently the level of risk they pose to our communities will also increase.

Meeting that challenge and protecting public health must therefore mean encouraging more entrants into a career in pest management.

BPCA is actively supporting employers of all sizes to take on new entrants, whether they be school leavers or those looking for a career change, offering:

- an all-inclusive onboarding process for new entrants, with training towards Level 2 qualifications
- dedicated HR, Health and Safety, and tax support
- our own pest control jobs board
- guidance for offering work experience to young people
- an Open Door Charter to foster an open, inclusive, and diverse workforce

BPCA has also launched a new PestCareers site to promote the value of a career in pest management. But further support is required from the Welsh Government and Careers Wales to ensure the future of public health in Wales.





BPCA asks that the next Welsh Government support efforts to encourage new entrants and employment in the professional pest management sector.

COUNCIL TENANT CALLS FOR HELP

"The kids are traumatised by the whole thing. It is hell and I don't want come to come home anymore."

Wales Online / 15 October 2025

About our members

P&P Pest Control Ltd is an Abergavenny-based business serving communities across South Wales and Herefordshire. For many years, they've supported both domestic and commercial clients, including housing associations, schools, healthcare sites and local businesses. Their work is rooted in problem-solving, working with people, and protecting public health.

Sustainability sits at the heart of the business. It not only shapes how treatments are carried out but also informs wider operational decisions, such as expanding the number of electric vehicles within their fleet.

The company continues to grow and now employs 17 people. With a proactive recruitment approach, P&P Pest Control has successfully brought more women into what has traditionally been a male-dominated industry.

They are a strong example of the progress being made across the sector, supported by BPCA and its member-led Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, to position pest management as a skilled, inclusive and forward-thinking profession.



About us

BPCA is the UK's not-for-profit membership organisation for the professional pest management sector. We represent over 700 companies and individuals, ranging from family-run businesses to multinational service providers.

The Association advocates for elevated standards and professionalism in the industry. BPCA focuses on safeguarding public health, promoting consumer confidence, and ensuring that the effectiveness of pest management continues to improve by utilising innovative solutions and new technology.

BPCA's overarching aim is to professionalise the industry, emphasising the vital role of pest professionals in public health management. BPCA calls on the Welsh Government to keep homes safe, improve the regulation of our sector and keep tools out of the hands of untrained users, and to promote the use of TrustMark registered companies.

By working collaboratively, BPCA's member community strives to create safer and healthier communities – free from the threats posed by pests.

If you'd like to support BPCA's Manifesto and the professionals who prevent and protect us from pests, contact us today.





"The Association advocates for elevated standards and professionalism in the industry."

BPCA launched their PestCareers Hub, supporting the future of the sector by encouraging new entrants into a skilled profession.



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