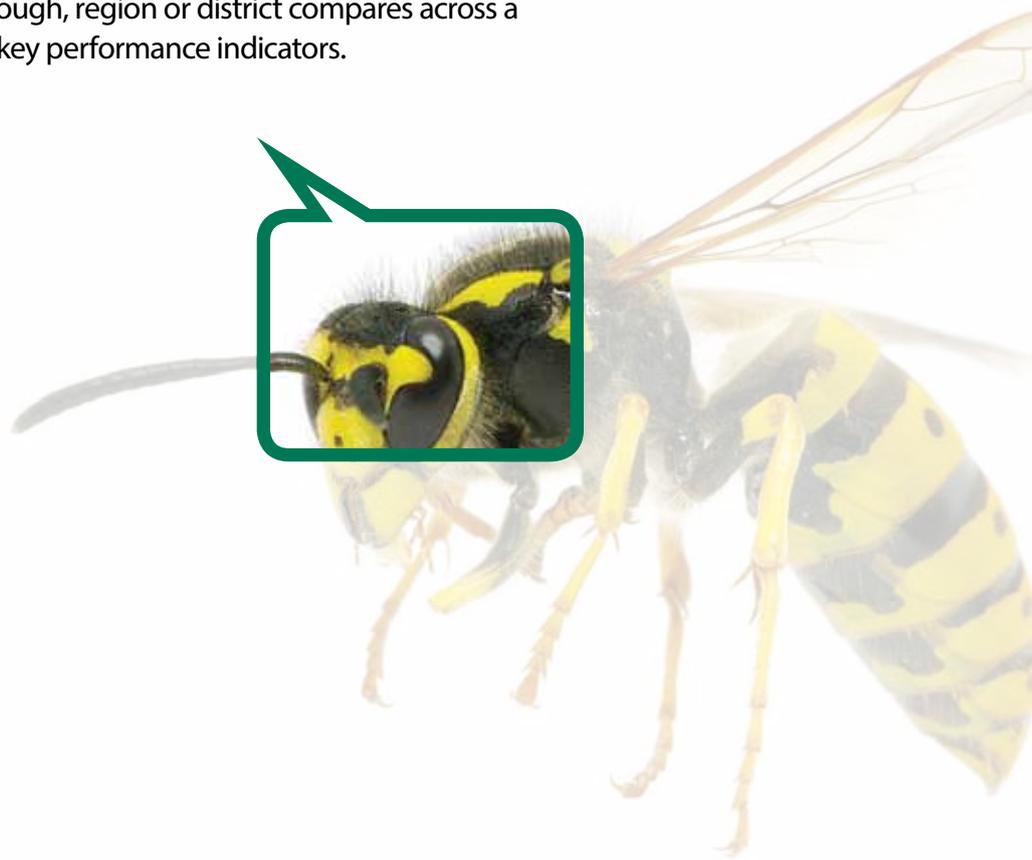




A rigorous survey of local authorities throughout the UK. With a 100% response rate, coupled with a wide range of pest species covered, this research is the only comprehensive analysis of UK pests. Includes detailed ratings for every local authority, so it's easy to see how each borough, region or district compares across a range of key performance indicators.





ABOUT BPCA

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) is a not for profit organisation representing the interests and development of its members; companies involved in public health pest control. BPCA members carry out around 70% of work, and employ over 7,000 people in the UK. Formed in 1942, BPCA is the lead body for the pest management industry in the UK. Our 500+ company members protect public health, property and the environment.

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RESEARCH SUMMARY

This is the only comprehensive analysis of the main UK pests. It has been gathered under Freedom of Information Act requests from every corner of the UK, and analysed by BPCA to give detailed information on pests and how we deal with them. The research shows data for 2011-12 and compares it with the previous year's data set, gathered in exactly the same way. The survey provides statistics on how each nation, borough, region or district compares across a range of key performance indicators.

The full report contains detailed information on all 406 local authorities, district councils, and unitary bodies from all four home nations.

The information is broken down by area, pest species and head of population, and the full report allows further analysis. The research also analyses the resources available to all authorities including the pest control services they offer and the staffing levels therein.

Trends and specific pests

We can provide trend data for geographic areas, plus comparisons of specific pest types including:

- Rats
- Wasps
- Bed bugs
- Ants
- Mice
- Birds
- Cockroaches
- Other insects and mammals

The authors would like to thank the local authorities who gave their data and support to this project.

How the research was collated

The information for the survey was gathered by submitting requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to all local authorities in the UK, giving us a 100% response rate. The data sets act as a benchmark for future research, allowing us to annually establish a national pest picture and begin to analyse how the landscape of public health pest control is changing. Budgets have been cut almost across the board, and local authorities are in the main dealing with the problems of public health pests as they did before.

Clearly there will be specific issues that have caused one local authority to come out above or below another, and reasons for changes in the data between the years. It may be that the survey period included a pest 'plague' for that area, or that the local authority is extremely efficient at treating pests, and so picks up the lion's share of work in an area. Similarly, where the local independent pest control professionals are well organised, they may be handling a larger proportion of pest treatments than elsewhere. And finally, in the current economic climate there are significant changes afoot in the size and scope of local authority pest control. Some councils have taken on commercial contracts, for example for large RSLs and housing ALMOs, where others have seen changes in housing stock or boundary changes that have affected their results. What is apparent is that local authority pest controllers are continuing to deliver excellent pest control to their residents despite the difficulties they face.

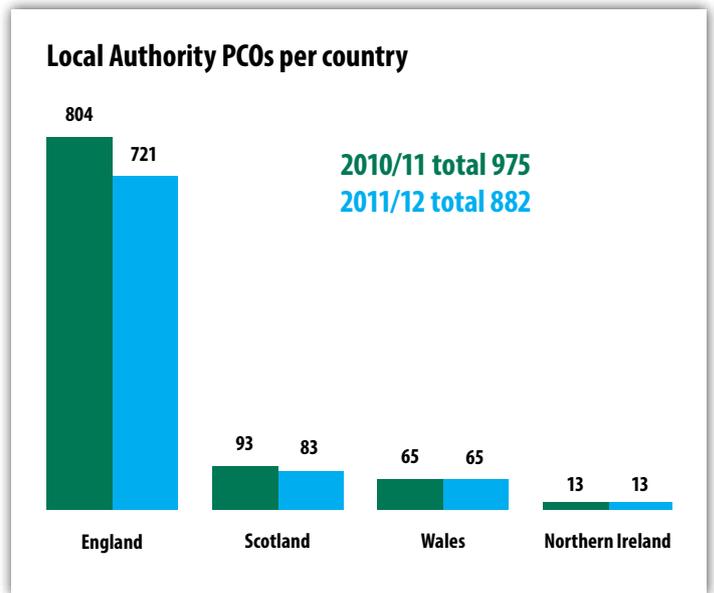
Survey overview

Our national survey results has demonstrated that Government austerity measures and local authority cuts continue to have adverse effects on public health pest control services. We found that many services are under threat from future cutbacks, and in most cases these cuts have already been felt in terms of pest control staffing and services - all of which may have a knock-on effect on response times, pest infestations and control.

Until recently, the overwhelming majority of local authorities provided pest control services in-house as part of their core public health responsibilities. Our survey shows that just under 85% are still providing some form of pest control service either in-house or, more commonly, contracted out. However, 15% of local authorities have decided to discontinue their services due to the current austerity measures and changes to local authority financial models. This is a 3.5% increase on our 2012 National Survey results.

The full effects of Government changes are still yet to be determined, but we anticipate this 15% figure to increase considerably over the coming years. We also expect a further reduction in staffing levels for those authorities who maintain some form of pest control service. Indeed, the trend shows there has been a 15% cut in staffing nationwide, with 21% of local authorities losing pest control staff, and now a full 18% contract out their pest control services to a third party.

More and more local authorities are cutting or discontinuing their pest control activities, and those continuing to deliver a facility are increasingly charging the public for services whilst cutting core



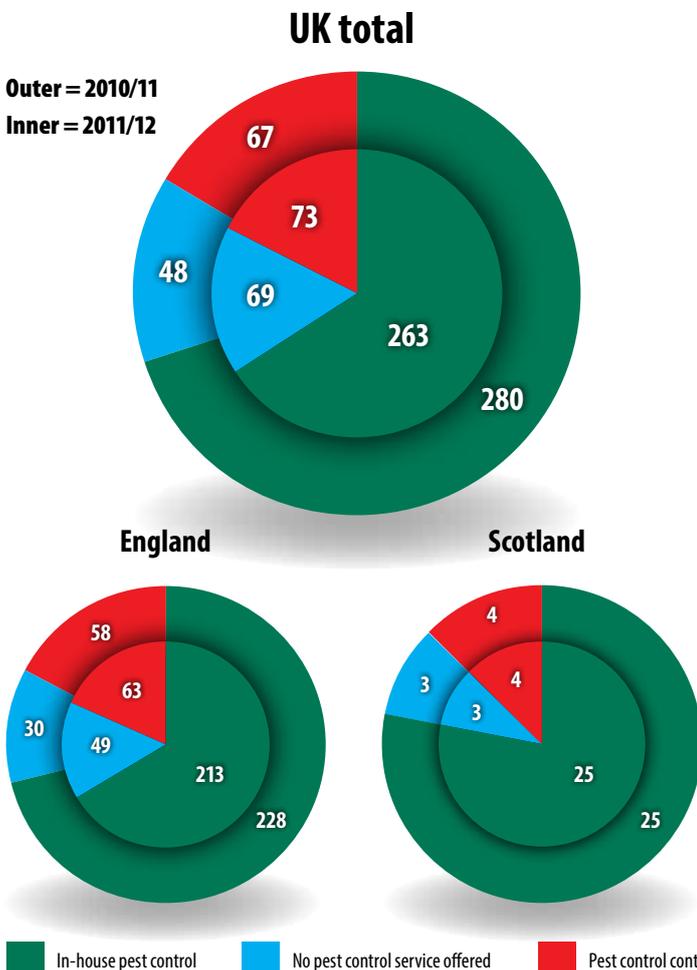
expenditure such as staffing in order to meet budget requirements.

35% (143) local authorities do not currently have an in-house service, and with another 8% unsure as to the future of their service, we could soon see more than 4 in every 10 councils without the traditional in-house service.

The general public are lagging behind the reality – the majority still think their first port of call for pest-related problems are their council (CIEH research, 2013, Public Perception: Statistics that prove the essential value of public health pest control), and so many will find their calls rejected by councils which no longer provide such services.

10 years ago almost all local authorities offered free or subsidised pest control to their residents. Only 7% of councils with an in-house service are able to continue to offer free treatments. For those who sub-contract the work to a third party, around a quarter offer free or subsidised pest control.

The average number of callouts for pest issues fell by around 10% - possibly due to the increase in local authorities having to charge for services that were previously free.

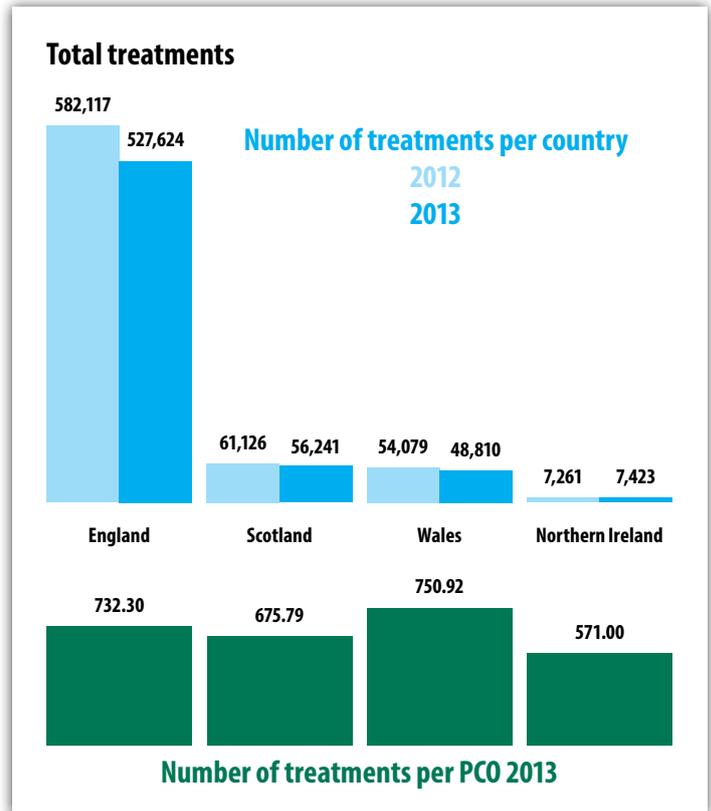
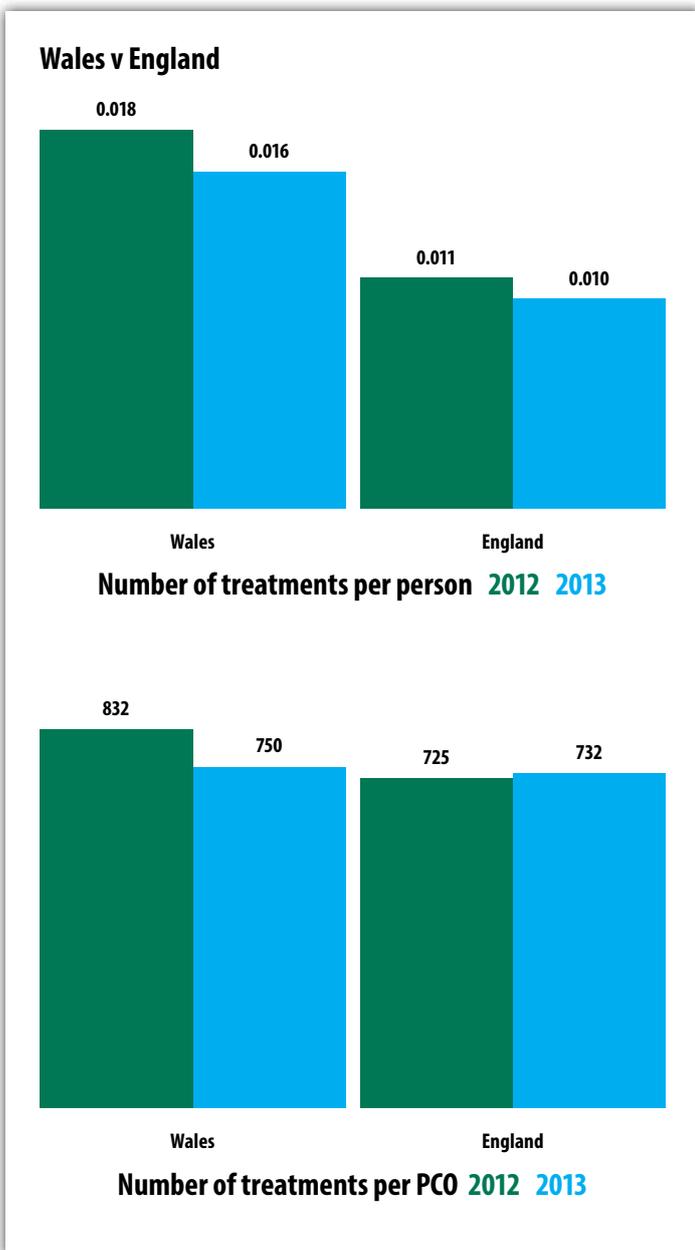


OVERVIEW

The research has highlighted that, despite the fact that most pest control treatments were administered in England, overall there were more treatments undertaken in Wales per person than in any other country, equating to 0.0016 treatments per person, compared to 0.010 treatments in England. Also, for the second year running, pest controllers working for local authorities in Wales administer more treatments a year (750 per pest controller), than any other country.

Once again this years' results has shown Greater London has the most pest control operators per square kilometre and per one thousand people, and almost more pest controllers than Wales and Scotland put together. However, the results have highlighted that despite this difference in resource, there were over 25,000 more treatments administered in Wales and Scotland than there were in Greater London.

Nationally, we have seen a rise in the number of treatments administered by pest controllers by an average of 0.17%, despite the decrease in treatments overall by 9.15%. This may be due to a decrease in staffing, which has put further pressure on the local authority pest controllers to keep with public demand. England, Northern Ireland and Scotland all increased the amount of jobs administered by their local authority pest controllers by up to 3%, while Wales reported almost a 10% drop in the jobs done by their local authority pest controllers.



Further analysis has shown that collectively the North East and North West based local authorities have seen unexpected increase in the number of treatments administered by their pest controllers. This increase was despite the collective decrease in pest control operators by 15.29% on the previous years results.

Treatments per PCO and percentage change, per region in England 2013

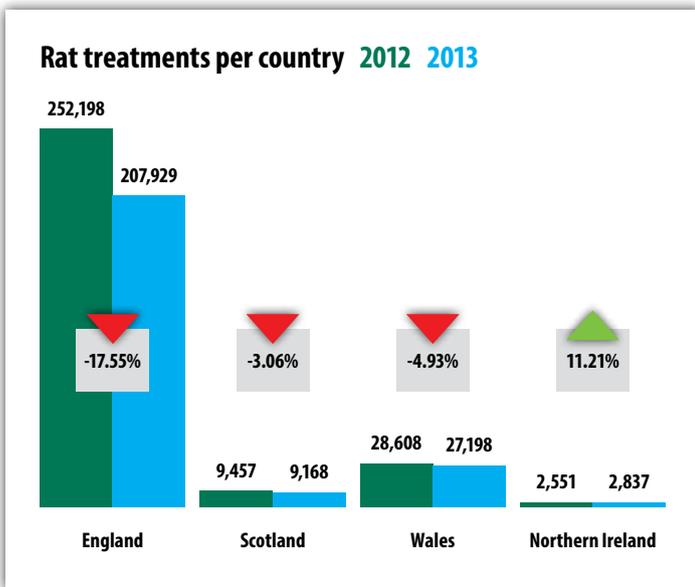
East	924.82	5.56%	South East	919.15	4.16%
East Midlands	673.37	-7.36%	South West	639.33	-3.43%
Greater London	690.43	-20.46%	West Midlands	976.93	-0.55%
North East	992.03	12.14%	Yorkshire / Humberside	543.78	7.72%
North West	724.38	20.93%			

Rats

Rat treatments equated to 38% of all pest services in the UK. Overall there were 247,132 rat treatments undertaken in the UK over 2011-12. Although these figures may seem high, this was actually a 15.6% decrease on the 2010-11 figures, clearly showing cuts in local authority resources is having an impact on the amount of pests councils are able to treat.

Even though a large proportion of the 247,132 treatments were administered in England, the data has shown for the second year running, rats were heavily controlled in Wales, our welsh local authorities dealt with over three times more rat call-outs than Scotland, and over eleven more than Northern Ireland.

Rats are more common in built-up and urban areas, so there was no great surprise that there were 16,055 rat treatments undertaken by the authorities in the whole of Greater London. However this was an unexpected decrease of 30.81% on the previous year's results. On the other hand, these were low in comparison to the West Midlands local authorities which dealt with a staggering 48,555 rat treatments.



Rat treatments and percentage of whole, per region 2013

Northern Ireland	2,837	1.15%
Scotland	9,168	3.71%
Wales	27,198	11.02%
East	11,729	4.75%
East Midlands	11,173	4.53%
Greater London	16,236	6.58%
North East	18,399	7.46%
North West	40,584	16.45%
South East	25,423	10.30%
South West	18,019	7.30%
West Midlands	48,555	19.68%
Yorkshire / Humberside	17,429	7.06%

Fastfacts



- Rats have long incisor teeth which grow continually throughout their life, meaning they must gnaw materials to wear the teeth down, potentially causing huge problems when they gnaw through wiring or water pipes
- The Norway or common brown rat is the most abundant rat in the UK and it is often found in burrows and sewer systems
- Norway rats can jump vertically to a height of 77cm, and more than 120cm horizontally
- Norway rats will avoid any new or strange object for 10 to 14 days, termed a 'new object reaction' (neophobia)
- Up to 50% of Norway rats carry Leptospirosis (Weils disease), which is transmitted through the rats urine and can result in flu like symptoms, jaundice, kidney failure and even death (one recent high-profile fatality was Olympic gold-winning rower Andy Holmes)

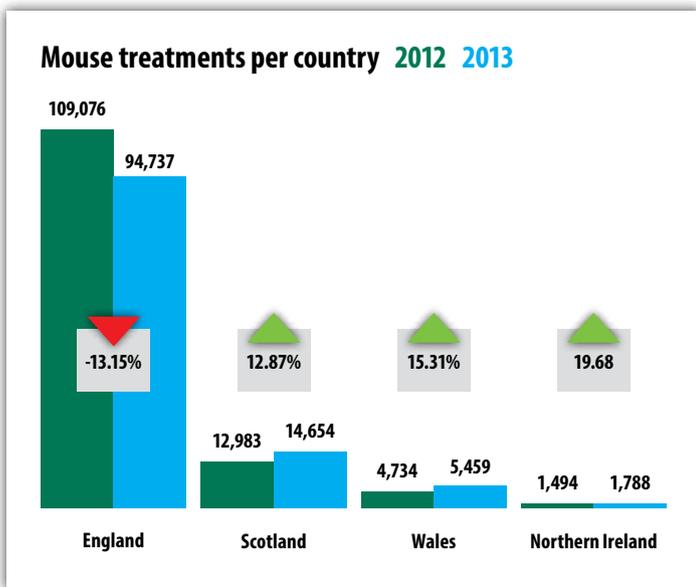


Mice

The total number of professional mouse control treatments administered by all UK local authorities in 2011-12 was 116,638, which was an 9.08% drop in treatments on 2010-11.

The overwhelming majority of local authorities always used to provide rodent (rats and mice) control free as part of their public health responsibilities. However over the past couple of years, we have seen more and more local authorities either cutting their service provision or changing their treatment policies and criteria altogether, therefore dealing with less call-outs.

This years research has highlighted a trend that although the 'West Midlands' dominated the rat treatment tables, they rarely featured on the mouse treatment tables and were over shadowed by Greater London local authorities that delivered a staggering 28,513 mouse treatments, which was almost double the amount of rat treatments they did, and actually a 30.79% decrease in mouse treatments on the previous years figures.



Mouse treatments and percentage of whole, per region 2013

Northern Ireland	1,788	1.52%
Scotland	14,654	12.43%
Wales	5,459	4.63%
East	3,803	3.23%
East Midlands	4,368	3.71%
Greater London	30,081	25.52%
North East	10,318	8.76%
North West	23,145	19.64%
South East	8,974	7.61%
South West	4,508	3.83%
West Midlands	6,130	5.20%
Yorkshire / Humberside	4,624	3.92%

Fastfacts



- House mice are inquisitive and will openly investigate new objects
- House mice are incontinent and produce approximately 80 droppings in a day, contaminating wherever they are active
- House mice are light, intermittent and erratic feeders, eating small amounts of food from large number of areas, which can lead to the contamination of many foods by a single mouse
- Mice like to climb, so will often enter a building and live in the upper floors – even at the top of tower blocks
- Mice can take all the water they require to survive from the foods that they eat



Our local authorities in the North East reported the largest increase in mice treatments they administered. This area of the UK reported an almost 40% increase in treatments, while our other local authorities in the East of England experienced a 25% decrease in treatments. On initial view you may be conned into thinking the mice are migrating north - this is highly unlikely. We believe this contrast in results is due to different financial pressures, varying consumer attitudes, treatment criteria and reporting methods these local authorities are working with.

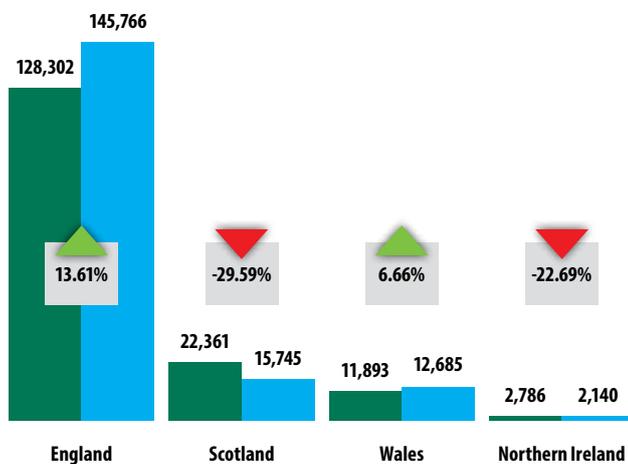
In another strange contrast, while our local authorities in England reported a 13.15% decrease in mouse treatments overall, these figures were not emulated by Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which all reported an increase in treatments.

Wasps

The total number of wasp control treatments administered by all UK local authorities in 2011-12 was 176,336, which was a 6.66% increase on 2010-11, and the only pest figures to have increased in this years results. BPCA expect this figure to drop dramatically in next years survey results due to the terrible Summer we, and our wasps endured in 2012.

Scottish local authorities undertook more wasp treatments per head of population in the whole of the UK. Northern Ireland is the worst country to live in for wasps due to the lack of wasp treatments administered by local authorities, with only 11.8 wasp treatments administered per 10,000 people.

Wasp treatments per country 2012 2013



The North East saw the biggest percentage rise in wasp treatments, which was 62.73%, giving them a total of 10,335 treatments. This pales insignificance to the South East which topped the wasp charts, with the local authorities administering a staggering 24,123 treatments during 2011-12.

Wasp treatments and percentage of whole, per region 2013

Northern Ireland	2,140	1.21%
Scotland	15,745	8.92%
Wales	12,685	7.18%
East	13,732	7.78%
East Midlands	16,042	9.09%
Greater London	11,642	6.59%
North East	10,335	5.85%
North West	20,519	11.62%
South East	24,123	13.66%
South West	11,526	6.53%
West Midlands	22,751	12.89%
Yorkshire / Humberside	15,317	8.68%

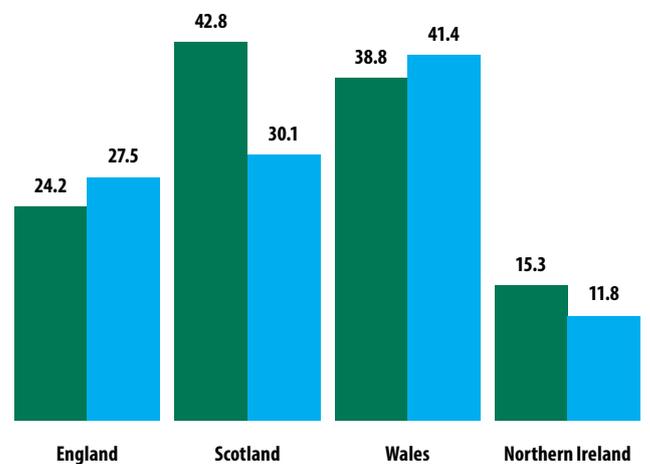
Fastfacts



- By late Summer a normal wasp nest can contain between 3,000 and 5,000 wasps
- Wasps become more active when exposed to light, so if you have a nest in your attic, don't go up there with a torch!
- Wasp colonies survive for one season in the UK, with nests dying off in Autumn/Winter
- Old wasp nests are never re-used by wasps, but in favourable nesting sites new nests can be built next to old ones
- Fertilised queens are the only members of the nest to survive, hibernating over Winter, ready to start new colonies in the Spring



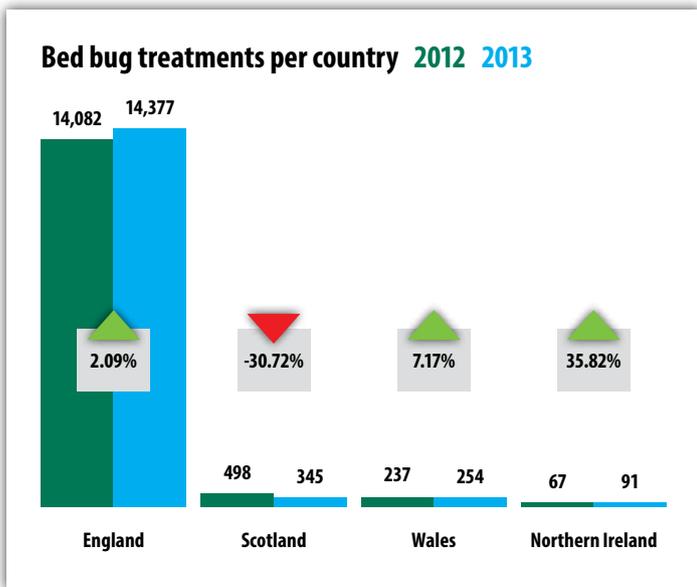
Wasp treatments per 10,000 people by country 2012 2013



Bed bugs

In recent years there has been a resurgence of bed bugs within the UK. This is due to several factors, but mainly through increased international travel and the lack of public awareness about bed bug prevention methods.

The total number of bed bug control treatments administered by all UK local authorities in 2011-12 was 15,067 which was a 1.23% increase on 2010-11, and equates to 2.3% of the total pest control treatments administered by all local authorities across the UK.



With 95.4% of bed bug treatments being administered by English local authorities, it was no surprise that our hardworking local authorities in London accounted for 47.8% (7,221 out of 15,067 treatments) of the total bed bug treatments administered by councils throughout the UK. This is due to a number of factors such as high levels of tourism and housing density in the capital.

A special commendation should go to East London based local authorities (most notably Tower Hamlets, Newham and Southwark) as between them they administered 29% of the total UK bed bug treatments undertaken by all councils throughout the UK. However, we could be facing much larger figures next year as BPCA expect these figures to increase dramatically due to the influx of tourists we received during the summer 2012, when London hosted the 2012 games.

A concerning trend the survey highlighted was that the East and West Midlands experienced the largest increase in bed bug treatments across the UK, with the local authorities collectively increasing treatments by 71.4% on the previous years results.

Bed bug treatments and percentage of whole, England 2013

East	952	6.57%
East Midlands	857	5.92%
Greater London	7,339	50.66%
North East	390	2.69%
North West	935	6.45%
South East	1,302	8.99%
South West	365	2.52%
West Midlands	1,708	11.79%
Yorkshire / Humberside	640	4.42%

Fastfacts

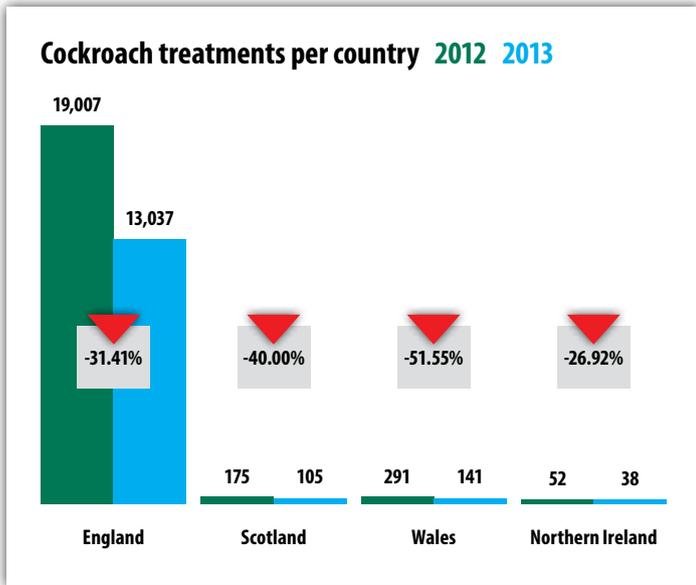


- Bed bugs are a nocturnal parasite that feed on the blood of mammals, especially humans
- Female bed bugs will lay approximately 200 eggs in just five days in cracks and crevices around bedrooms and properties
- Bed bugs do not fly or jump – they are spread through luggage, second hand furniture, laundry or by simply crawling from one infested property to a neighbouring one
- Bed bugs are not known to be frequent carriers of disease, but the irritation caused by bites can be severe
- Any property can suffer from bed bug activity – it is often bad luck and not a sign that a property is dirty or in a poor state of repair

Cockroaches

Even though cockroaches aren't as common in this country as they used to be, there were still 13,321 treatments administered by local authorities across the UK. Although this figure sounds relatively high, this was actually a 31.77% decrease on the 2010-11 responses.

For the second year running yet again England delivered the majority (13,037 / 97.9%) of the 13,582 cockroach treatments administered in 2011-12.



Cockroach treatments and percentage of whole, per region 2013

Northern Ireland	38	0.28%
Scotland	105	0.77%
Wales	141	1.04%
East	286	2.11%
East Midlands	677	4.98%
North East	300	2.21%
North West	1,107	8.15%
South East	510	3.75%
South West	106	0.78%
West Midlands	968	7.13%
Yorkshire / Humberside	505	3.72%



The Greater London local authorities handled the most cockroach problems within the UK.

Fastfacts



- Oriental cockroaches love warm environments such as heating ducts, refuse tips and drains
- Cockroach egg cases are called ootheca
- Oriental cockroach ootheca contain approximately 16 eggs and can lay dormant for three months or longer before hatching
- Cockroaches tend to hide by day, becoming very active at night
- German cockroaches are smaller than oriental cockroaches and prefer warmer conditions
- German cockroaches are fantastic climbers and will often infest the higher levels of flats and premises

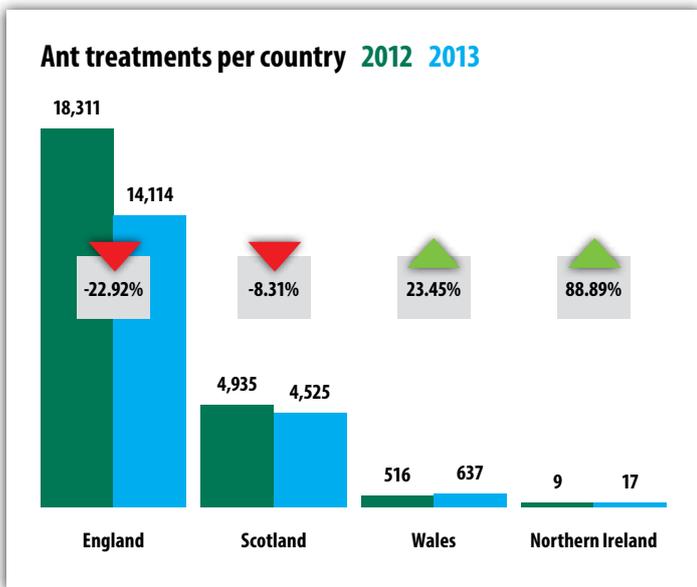
Again, just like bed bugs an overwhelming majority (65%) of the cockroach treatments were administered in the Greater London area. This might seem like an alarming figure, but our Greater London local authorities actually saw an overall decrease of 36.9% on the previous years results.

This years survey has shown that cockroach treatments decreased across almost all areas of the UK last year. This could be a drop in actual cockroach numbers currently infesting the UK, however we feel this drop is unlikely, and is probably due to resource demands and government cuts to public health services which has led to residents and local business owners having to seek help from a private pest control company.

Ants

An old foe of the pest control industry, ants still manage to cause problems across the UK. Ant treatments in the UK equated to 3.01% of all pest control services provided by local authorities.

There were 19,293 ant related treatments in 2011-12, which was a 18.84% drop on ant treatments on the previous year.



Although there were 19,288 ant treatments administered by all local authorities in the UK during 2011-12, only 17 were dealt with in Northern Ireland.

Ant treatments and percentage of whole, per region 2013

Northern Ireland	17	0.09%
Scotland	4,525	23.46%
Wales	637	3.30%
East	239	1.24%
East Midlands	296	1.53%
Greater London	2,853	14.79%
North East	3,691	19.14%
North West	3,886	20.15%
South East	181	0.94%
South West	226	1.17%
West Midlands	1,144	5.93%
Yorkshire/ Humberside	1,593	8.26%

Note that this section of the survey includes garden ants, Pharaoh ants, ghost ants, and many other pest ant species found in the UK.

Fastfacts



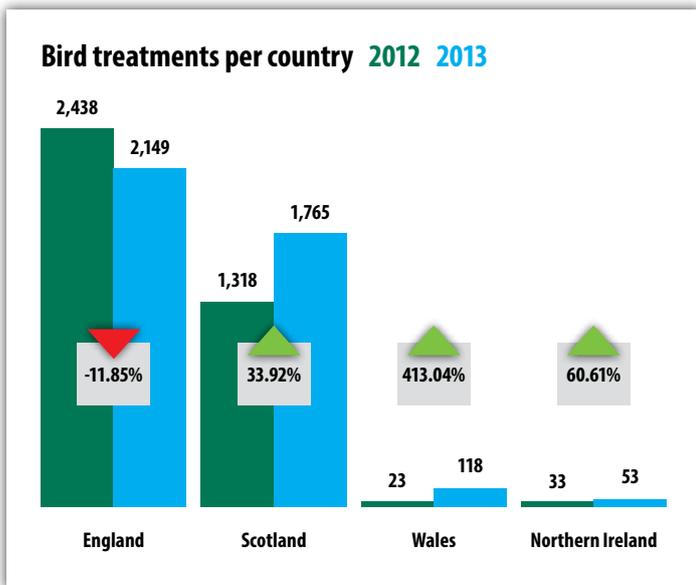
- Although the common black ant is regularly discovered indoors in Summer, most nests are located out doors under paving stones and in gardens – the ants are simply foraging for food
- In late Summer winged sexually mature males and females will ‘swarm’ in large numbers to mate, after which the males usually die, and a small proportion of mated females survive to start new colonies
- Garden ants feed on a wide variety of foods, including sweet substances, seeds, insects and aphid secretions known as ‘honey dew’, which the ants farm
- Although garden ants are not associated with the spread of disease, some tropical species that only survive in heated buildings such as the Pharaoh’s ant, can carry disease organisms and will contaminate sterile materials
- Garden ant colonies can ‘trail’ for considerable distances to a food source, often complicating control measures as the nest can be difficult to locate



Birds

Bird control is more of a specialist area of pest control in UK, that can be extremely costly to administer. Therefore there are very few local authorities in the UK that are willing to deal with them, as part of their core pest control service offering.

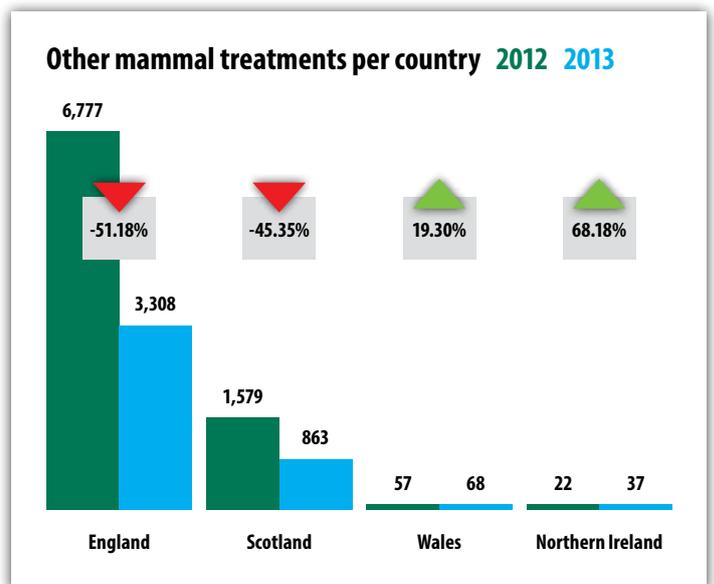
The survey results show that in 2011-12 there were 4,085 bird control treatments undertaken by UK local authorities. Even though this seems a relatively low number, this is actually an 8% increase on our 2010-11 figures.



Other mammals

There are a variety of other mammal pests we could have included in our research such as foxes, rabbits, squirrels and moles. However, due to relative low occurrences, the difference in issues due to geographical surroundings, and the services in which councils offer these pests were all put together into this one category.

Our 2011-12 figures show an almost 50% (49.2%) drop in treatments administered on our 2010-11 figures. There are a number of reasons for this such as resource cuts, a change in public attitudes towards these pests, or a skills shortage in these specialist areas in local authority pest control teams.



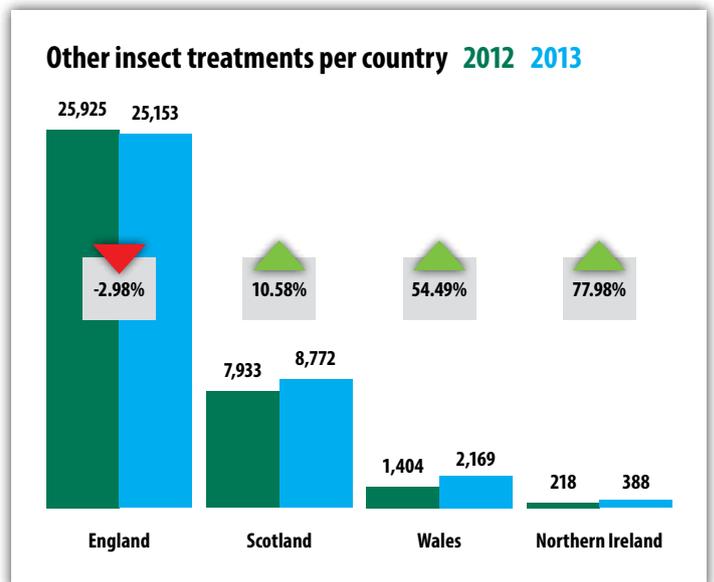
Fastfacts

- All bird species in the UK are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Special licences are issued by the Government to deal with specific bird pests
- Feral pigeons are transmitters of diseases such as ornithosis and salmonellosis
- Bird and pigeon debris can be very destructive, as droppings can erode surfaces such as stonework, and nests can block gutters and gullies, encouraging flooding
- Bird nesting sites are reservoirs of infestation for a number of insect pests such as clothes moth, spider beetles, flies and mites
- Bird droppings around your property can be a potential health and safety risk as they can be very slippery in wet conditions



Other insects

There are a number of other insect pest species that could have featured in the survey such as lice, fleas, flies, beetles and moths to name a few. However, due to the varied styles of local authority reporting it would be very difficult to obtain any useful comparable data, so these pests were grouped into one section, 'other insects'.



TEN TOP TIPS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 1** Do not presume that you will never have a problem. Pests such as mice and cockroaches are life's great opportunists, and even the cleanest of properties can suffer from a pest infestation.
- 2** If you think you have a problem, act quickly! Pests such as mice are only pregnant for a very short period of time so if you don't treat them immediately you could be quickly overrun.
- 3** If you feed wild birds or keep pets in the garden, rodents could be attracted to your property. Try to use enough food for birds to consume in a day without leaving food standing overnight.
- 4** Compost heaps are good sources of food and warmth for pests. Try to locate them as far away from your house as possible and monitor them for signs of pest activity.
- 5** Rats do not like change, and prefer areas and gardens where items are long standing and undisturbed. If you keep your garden trimmed and tidy it can help to discourage rodents.
- 6** If you hear noises in the loft, don't presume it is birds! Rats, mice and squirrels will all nest in loft spaces, and because rodents need to gnaw to keep their teeth from overgrowing, their presence within properties can lead to fires, floods, explosions and electrocutions.
- 7** Bird activity on your property can be incredibly damaging. Pigeons for example carry a host of diseases, can damage property with their acidic droppings, and their nests are reservoirs of infestation for insects. If you are having problems with birds, make sure you consult a professional.

If you think you have a problem, act quickly!

- 8** Keep your properties well maintained. Mice, for example can squeeze through a gap the size of a pen top, so try to ensure any obvious gaps are blocked to make intrusion as difficult as possible.
- 9** Insects such as bed bugs can be picked up in luggage or on second hand furniture. By carefully inspecting luggage and furniture you may be able to avoid long and costly treatments to get rid of these pests.
- 10** It's easy to get out of your depth when trying to control pests as their treatment is often specialised and complicated. Every year members of the public not only waste millions of pounds on their failed treatments they've administered themselves, but in some cases are prosecuted for the inhumane treatment of pests that they trap and kill themselves – if you don't know the law or what you are doing, employ a professional member of BPCA to guarantee safe, effective and legal treatment.

Why choose a BPCA member?

By choosing a BPCA member you are ensuring the use of a contractor who can provide a professional and consistent service.

All BPCA members meet our strict membership criteria, hold the relevant pest control insurances, and are fully qualified and trained to deal with your pest problems.





SUMMARY

Although this report provides an accurate review of all pest control treatments completed by all local authorities in the UK, this doesn't take into account the treatments undertaken by private companies and the public themselves.

This means our report figures significantly underestimate the full scale of pest numbers in the UK. BPCA will be undergoing further analysis of the UK market to give a full overview in due course.

Despite the economic pressures to date, we still see the majority of UK local authorities continuing to provide professional pest services. Although for how long they will be able to do so is still to be answered. Even with further cutbacks on the horizon in response to national austerity measures, we have seen what could well be the start of a further decline in in-house service provision and increase in the proportion of local authorities no longer providing any sort of pest control service.

The Association has significant concerns about the ongoing viability of this stance where public health issues are concerned, and our position is that any local authority which has or intends to reduce its public health pest control should ensure that this remit is picked up by professional pest controllers, and that its residents are aware to avoid the unscrupulous and amateurs which may prey on disadvantaged consumers.

In order to address this, we suggest local authorities only recommend commercial pest control companies which are members of the British Pest Control Association – a full listing is available from www.bpca.org.uk



the full report



Do you want to know more?

Then look no further, you can have your own copy of the research reports for free, allowing you to use this as a benchmarking and analysis tool for your own organisation. Simply go to www.bpca.org.uk/research to download the documents.

Do you need further analysis?

We can provide you with further, in-depth analysis of a specific region, district, authority or pest if required. Please contact us with your research specifications by sending an email to enquiry@bpca.org.uk

The future of the report

We will produce this report annually, so the industry has a clear benchmarking tool and accurate assessment of the UK's pest control treatments, local authority services and level of pest species.

Find out more at

www.bpca.org.uk/research



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