Scottish Postcode Directory 2018/2

August 2018

Introduction

The Scottish Postcode Directory (SPD) bulletin contains specific information about each release of the Postcode Index and accompanying spatial data.

The Postcode Index links live and deleted postcodes to administrative, health, statistical and other areas. It also contains the Gridlink® one metre grid reference as well as National Records of Scotland (NRS) assigned grid references. The SPD is produced by NRS Geography, who provides geographic support to the Scottish Government (SG) and its associated agencies, as well as other organisations.

NRS have implemented the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes for statistical geographies into the SPD. The SG maintains the 'Standard Geographic Codes Register – Scotland' and is responsible for assigning new geographies with a nine character code for Scotland. The register is available on the 'Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Reference Documents' section of the Scottish Government website. Customers are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard to be used for National Statistics publications. More information on National Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website.

Latest Statistics

The data is based on the July 2018 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF) and contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	237,797	157,666	80,131
Small User	189,633	151,309	38,324
Large User	48,164	6,357	41,807
Small User Linked[1]	*19,217*	*4,008*	*15,209*
PO Boxes	*28,947*	*2,349*	*26,598*
The number of live, digitised small user postcodes[2] is 150,104.			

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[1] Small User Linked: The Small User postcode that contains the grid reference of the Large User postcode.
[2] Live digitised small user postcodes: There are 1,205 live, undigitised small user postcodes. These postcodes were planned for 'administrative' purposes; we could not digitise the small user postcodes as they had no distinctive geographical position.

1.   Updates since 2018/1

1.1   Geographies
The following geographies have been updated on the SPD Postcode Index:

- CouncilArea2018Code
- ElectoralWard2018Code
- HealthBoardArea2018Code
- IntegrationAuthority2018Code
- LAU2018Level1Code
- Locality2016
- NUTS2018Level2Code
- NUTS2018Level3Code
- Settlement2016
- UrbanRural6Fold2016Code
- UrbanRural8Fold2016Code

1.2   Boundaries
The attributes found on the postcode boundaries for Council Area and Electoral Ward have been updated to reflect the new versions.

2.   Known Errors

Corrections and identified omissions to the data content of the SPD Index and/or Spatial data are included on the subsequent SPD release.

There were no errors identified in the SPD 2018/1 release.

3.   Differences in Scottish data between the Scottish Postcode Directory (SPD) Postcode Index and the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory (ONSPD)

3.1   Postcode History
The SPD Postcode Index provides full postcode history; the ONSPD provides the most current version of the postcode only (as shown below).

SPD Postcode Index:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Date of Deletion
G31 4QD	01-Aug-73	01-May-95
G31 4QD	20-Apr-12	06-Jul-12
G31 4QD	17-Apr-13	07-Aug-13
G31 4QD	16-Jan-14	

ONSPD:

Postcode	Date of Introduction	Date of Deletion
G31 4QD	201310	

3.2   Postcode Updates
Due to differing update regimes exiting between ONS and NRS, the dates for introduction and deletion can differ. The SPD Postcode Index contains quarterly PAF updates, whereas the ONSPD contains monthly PAF updates.

3.3   Split postcodes
Unlike the SPD Postcode Index the ONSPD does not recognise split postcodes. Instead the ONSPD holds the postcode as a whole record.

3.4   PO Box postcodes
Users are reminded that grid references for PO Box addresses are assigned to the local Royal Mail sorting/delivery office and are deemed low quality

4.   Supply arrangements

4.1   Data Formats
The 'Cut Version' of the Scottish Postcode Directory is available for free download from the Scottish Postcode Directory page of the National Records of Scotland website.

- o   Boundary files   Shape format
  One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA) members only

- o   Index files   CSV, or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format

- o   Lookup files   CSV, or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format

4.2   Full Version
The 'Full Version' of the Scottish Postcode Directory can be supplied for a charge (a royalty payment to Royal Mail), please contact the Geography Customer Services team.

5.   Licence and Copyright Statements

5.1   Postcode Boundaries and Grid References
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5.2   Postcode District and Sector Boundaries and Grid References
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5.3   Scottish Postcode Directory - Postcode Index
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6.   Enquiries

Please contact our Geography Customer Services team if you need any further information.

E-mail: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk