

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Postcode Based Geography Extract 2012/2 Release: Important information

4 September 2012

Dear Customer,

Please find enclosed the latest version of our Postcode Index and digital postcode boundary dataset. The data is based on the July 2012 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF).

The Postcode Index links current and terminated postcodes to administrative, health, statistical and other areas. It also contains the Gridlink®/NRS 1 metre grid reference.

This version contains:

- 183,450 live and deleted small user records; and
- 48,207 live and deleted large user records of which 27,587 are PO Boxes and 1,454 unmapped postcodes.

The number of outstanding postcodes without a digital boundary is 2:

HS6 5AJ Eilean Siar
PA80 5LQ Highland

What's new in 2012_2

1. New Boundaries

1.1 A new field has been added:

- 2010 Settlement and Locality

1.2 NRS has made corrections to the [Mid-2010 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities](#) since their original publication, none of which affect the assignment of postcodes to these areas. More information about the corrections is available in a note accompanying the publication on the NRS website.

2. Change to Community Health Partnerships (CHP)

2.1 Mid Highland Community Health Partnership, North Highland Community Health Partnership and South East Highland Community Health Partnership have amalgamated into a single Highland Health and Social Care Partnership, new code - S03000044.

Data Quality

3. Postcodes without a grid reference

- 3.1 There are 261 postcodes without a grid reference and a digital boundary. These postcodes tend to be new, or postcodes Royal Mail have introduced in one quarter but deleted in the next.
- 3.2 It is possible to assign postcodes without a grid reference to higher geographies based on the values of surrounding postcodes and we're planning to have all the 261 postcodes coded from 2013_1 onwards.
- 3.3 In the meantime customers enquired about the following postcodes. The higher area values have been assigned to these postcodes based on the nearest alphabetical surrounding postcode:

Postcode	CHP 2011	CHP SUB SECT 2011	SPARLCON 0511	SPARLREG 0511
DD8 3ND	S03000038	S26000035	S16000081	S17000014
G72 7FP	S03000030	S26000028	S16000141	S17000010
G72 8HL	S03000030	S26000028	S16000141	S17000010
IV18 0RH	S03000026	S26000024	S16000086	S17000011

4. Important change to the Postcode Index product

- 4.1 Two versions of the NRS Extract have been produced, a 'cut' version and a 'full' version. The 'cut' version excludes the following Royal Mail (RM) information: Delivery Point Count (DPC), Delivery Point Count Non-Residential (DPCNR) and Household Count (HC). The 'full' version of the Extract includes that information. By removing RM information the amount we pay to RM in royalties is reduced.
- 4.2 All customers will receive the 'cut' version unless the 'full' version has been specifically requested. The full version will be available to customers on request. Customers receiving the full version will have 'full' stamped across the top of this Bulletin. The cost of the full version is £40 per user.
- 4.3 From 2013_1 we plan to create a single all Scotland product comprising
- Scotland boundaries Format: Shapefile or MapInfo
 - Scotland PC Index and Metadata Format: Access or Text
 - Scotland PGDB
 - Data Dictionary, License and Bulletin
 - A technical 'How to' guide: a simple guide informing customers how to select specific records from the Boundaries and Postcode Index and a 'User guide' providing general information about the data.
- 4.4 The change reduces the administrative burden on NRS and allows us to continue to supply postcode data largely free of charge for non commercial users. Our 'How to' guide will help users extract specific data and our geography customer services team will also be on hand to provide help and advice.

5. Future supply arrangements

- 5.1 Customers will soon be able to download postcode data directly from the NRS Geography web page, both postcode boundaries and PC Index. We plan to introduce this formally from 2013_1 but some data will be available to download from 2012_2. Customers who wish to continue receiving data on CD can do so if they prefer.

6. 2011 Census

- 6.1 A range of census geography products will be produced and are likely to include:
- 2011_1 census version of the Postcode Index.
 - 2011 Output Area to higher areas index and look ups.
 - A file linking 1991OAs:2001OAs:2011OAs.
 - 2011 Output Area (OA) boundaries.
 - Boundaries for the census geographies.
 - Metadata and supporting information.
- 6.2 A census geography prospectus will be published early next year.
- 6.3 Please direct requests for information not listed above to:
geographycustomerservices@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

7. Enquiries

7.1 Contact Us

To get in touch with the Geography team please contact:

Geography Customer Services Team
National Records of Scotland
Room 1/1/3
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH
EH12 7TF

Tel: 0131 314 0380

email: geographycustomerservices@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Cut version

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Full version

Details are available in the license document provided on CD.