

Scottish Postcode Directory 2016/1

March 2016

Introduction

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

The Scottish Postcode Directory contains the

- Postcode Index;
- Digital postcode boundaries (which correspond to the live small user postcodes);
- Lookup tables;
- Data Dictionary; and
- This document, the News Bulletin.

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 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 Scottish Government (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 SG 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 January 2016 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF).

This version contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	234,709	156,502	78,207
Small User	186,017	148,310	37,707
Large User	48,692	8,192	40,500
<i>Small User Linked</i>	19,063	4,343	14,720
<i>PO Boxes</i>	28,169	2,513	25,656
<i>Unmapped</i>	1,460	1,336	124

Please note that there are 264 deleted small user postcodes that do not hold a grid reference on our Postcode Index. These grid references have not been included because we did not digitise the postcode boundaries for these postcodes.

News

1. New Postcode Management and Address Register System

1.1 Progress

Following the successful testing of our new postcode management system we have produced the first rebranded postcode extract.

We would like to thank all users who looked at the test output that was released in November 2015 and provided valuable feedback.

1.2 Data Improvements in the new Postcode Index output

Postcode record

All Large User postcodes now have their own GridLink[®] grid reference. We still provide users with the Linked Small User, which is the Small User postcode that contains the grid reference of the Large User postcode. More information on these changes can be found in the Supporting Information section of the [Scottish Postcode Directory](#) section of the NRS website.

Higher area assignments

There has been change within the higher area allocations for the extract following our data cleansing and grid reference improvement.

For example, 20 deleted Small User postcodes have changed council area allocation. In the old system these postcodes had been deleted prior to digitising and did not have any grid reference information, the minimal higher area information that was available for these codes was imputed. Now these postcodes have grid references they have been allocated their correct council area, as well as gaining information on other higher geographies.

1991 Census Counts

We have applied a fix to correct the anomaly in the Postcode Index where the 1991 Census Counts did not match those published at the time of the 1991 Census. More information on these changes can be found in the Supporting Information section of the [Scottish Postcode Directory](#) section of the NRS website.

Overlapping dates of Introduction and Deletion

We have removed 547 postcode records (28 small users and 519 large users) from the Postcode Index. None of the postcode records affected were 'live' postcodes. These codes had overlapping dates of introduction/deletion, therefore we have removed any duplicates in the Postcode Index. More information on these changes can be found in the Supporting Information section of the [Scottish Postcode Directory](#) section of the NRS website.

English postcodes

We have removed 56 large user postcodes from the Postcode Index. None of the postcodes affected were 'live' postcodes. These postcodes have been in previous versions of the Postcode Index in error, they are all English postcodes. More

information on these changes can be found in the Supporting Information section of the [Scottish Postcode Directory](#) section of the NRS website.

1.3 Next Steps

Following the successful implementation of the new postcode management system we are starting the next stage of improvements which will allow us to produce Extent of the Realm boundaries to mirror the Ordnance Survey's Boundary-Line™ product.

Users should be aware that due to the withdrawal of the Ordnance Survey's AddressPoint, and the postcode management system being in the testing stages, we have been unable to maintain the postcode boundaries to ensure they contain all their address content.

As part of our improvement work we will be using the NRS Scottish Address Database which is derived from the Ordnance Survey AddressBase product, to maintain the postcode boundaries.

Our aim is to complete all improvement work in time for the 2017/1 release. Progress will be reported on the [Geography Noticeboard](#) section of the NRS website.

2. Updates

2.1 Na h-Eileanan Siar

The majority of official statistical releases currently use 'Eilean Siar' to reference Western Isles Council area. Whilst previous guidance has encouraged the use of 'Eilean Siar' when referencing the Western Isles Council area, this translation (West Isle) is incorrect and the council has advised that the following are acceptable forms of describing Western Isles Council area:

Na h-Eileanan Siar – Preferred (translation: Western Isles or Outer Hebrides)

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – Acceptable when in specific reference to the council (translation: Council of the Western Isles)

Western Isles – Acceptable English variant, although it is preferred that you use the Gaelic terms unless you are referring to the NHS Board area.

The SPD uses Na h-Eileanan Siar in the geography look-ups for council areas, Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) level 3 and Local Administrative Unit (LAU) level 1.

3. New Geographies

3.1 Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) 2013

This is purely a name change. The NUTS boundaries did not change in Scotland when the NUTS 2013 classification was introduced in January 2015. Our previous postcode management system would not allow us to update the fieldnames regarding NUTS.

3.2 Travel to Work Areas 2011

Following the Office for National Statistics re-issue of Travel to Work Areas 2011 we have added them to the Postcode Index, and removed the previous version based on the 2001 Census. Boundaries for both of these geographies are available via the [Office for National Statistics GeoPortal](#).

3.3 Workplace Zones 2011

This geography has not been included in the Postcode Index as there was little user demand for it in Scotland.

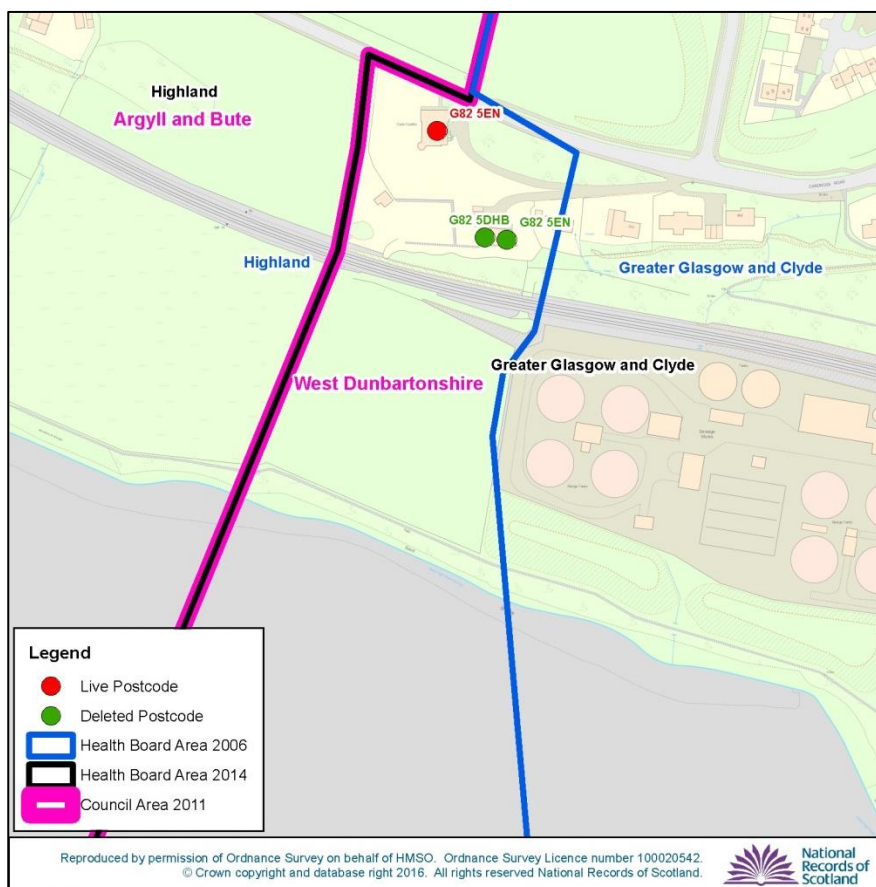
3.4 Integration Authorities 2016

During testing this geography was referred to as Health and Social Care Partnerships. While the geography hasn't been enacted, we have added the field to the database in preparation of its introduction in April 2016.

4. Known Errors

4.1 Compatibility issue

We are aware of a compatibility issue between Health Board Area 2006 and Council Area 2011. Three postcodes are affected, G82 5EN (live), G82 5EN (deleted), and G82 5DHB (deleted). We are currently consulting the Scottish Government on this issue.



5. Supply arrangements

5.1 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.

- Boundary files Shape format
One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA) members only
- Index files Text or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format

5.2 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 using the contact details in Section 8.

6. Copyright and reproduction

6.1 Licence

Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

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6.3 Further information of licensing can be found in the geography [licensing](#) page of the NRS website.

7. User Guides

We are still planning to release 'How to' guides to help users extract data from our Scottish Postcode Directory products.

We were hoping to release the guides as part of the Scottish Postcode Directory 2016/1 release, however we have been concentrating on ensuring the content of the Postcode Index is as accurate as possible, in consultation with key stakeholders. The guides will be issued in the coming months, and updates on new guides will be displayed on the [Geography Noticeboard](#) section of the NRS website.

The guides will be based on ArcGIS and Microsoft Access, as these are the software packages we use to produce and interrogate the data. Our current plans for the content of the guides are based on the queries we have received:

ArcGIS

- Basics of Arc
- Calculate Area
- Join Data and Create Thematic map
- Define Projection
- Layout views, legends, labels
- Selections
- Format data for inclusion in Arc

Access

- List of live postcodes
- List of live postcodes and all the associated higher areas
- List of live postcodes for specific higher area
- Linking the Metadata to the Index
- Obtain Census population and household counts
- Join the Small and Large User tables

Are there any specific guides that you require? If so, please contact our Geography Customer Services team and we can look into this as part of the project.

8. Enquiries

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

E-mail: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk