

Scottish Postcode Directory 2017/2

August 2017

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 2017 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF) and contains:

	All postcodes	Live postcodes	Deleted postcodes
All postcodes	236,482	157,094	79,388
Small User	188,654	150,503	38,151
Large User	47,828	6,591	41,237
<i>Small User Linked¹</i>	19,216	4,158	15,058
<i>PO Boxes</i>	28,612	2,433	26,179
The number of live, digitised small user postcodes ² is 149,298.			

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 however they have been used for higher area assignments.

Footnotes

- 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. New Postcode Management and Address Register System

1.1 Progress

Due to resourcing issues we have been unable to implement some of the planned changes to the SPD Postcode Index mentioned in the previous bulletin. We have also been unable to update the 'GridLink Indicator' which identifies whether a grid reference has been assigned via GridLink or NRS.

Since the 2017/1 release we have been continually amending the postcode boundaries to ensure they contain all their address content using the NRS Scottish Address Directory.

We have completed processing for Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll and Bute, City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Highland, Inverclyde, Scottish Borders, and South Lanarkshire Council areas.

We are currently processing boundaries within Falkirk, Glasgow City, Midlothian, and Moray Council areas. Following our completion of these council areas we will move on to the remaining 18 council areas.

As part of the re-alignment work, we have also been improving postcode boundaries on the edge of Localities. We are half way through this exercise and are aiming to complete it in time for the 2018/1 release.

1.2 Next Steps

We are aiming to complete the postcode management project by the 2018/1 SPD.

While the project will be completed, we will still be processing improvements to the boundaries.

Planned improvement work:

- Align boundaries (where possible) to the National Parks.
- Align boundaries (where possible) to the Strategic Development Plan Areas.
- Improvement to postcodes in a Locality area.
- Boundaries containing shared access postcodes (for example multi storeys).

Planned guidance:

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

Are there any areas you want us to look at? If so, please contact our Geography Customer Services (email: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk) team and we can look into this as part of the project. All feedback is welcomed.

2. New Geographies

2.1 Eurostat's move to a single LAU level within the NUTS framework

In order to meet the demand for statistics at a local level, Eurostat manages a system of Local Administrative Units (LAUs) compatible with NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics).

Following Eurostat's proposal to move to a single LAU level within the NUTS framework, the UK will be returning LAU1 as the single level from 2017.

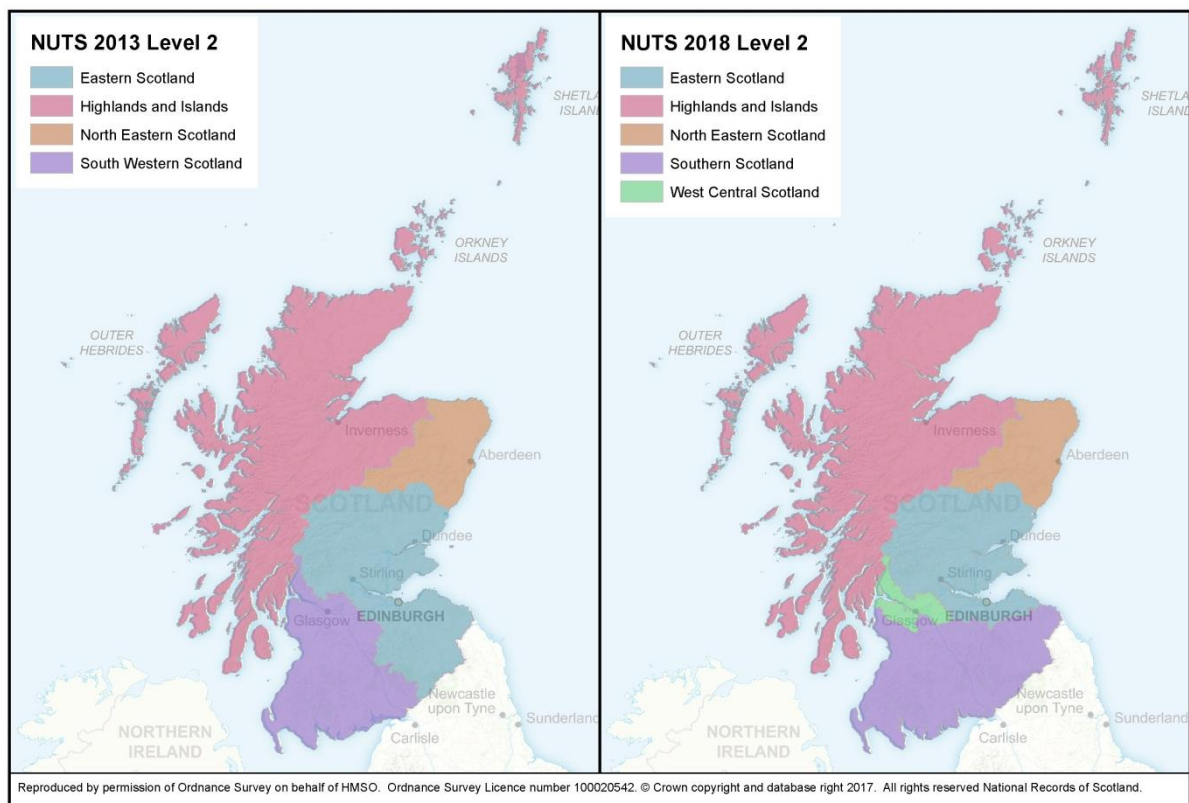
The NUTS changes proposed by the UK have now been formally adopted and will become operative for statistical purposes from January 2018. NUTS areas in England and Wales are unchanged but there are changes in Scotland (at NUTS2) and in Northern Ireland (NUTS3). In Scotland a fifth NUTS2 area has been created (Southern Scotland), while in Northern Ireland the new NUTS3 areas will now match the 11 local government districts.

More information and access to the new boundaries is available on the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) Open Geography Portal](#).

2.2 Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) 2018

The new version of the NUTS geographies will come into effect from 1 January 2018.

There are now 5 NUTS 2 areas in Scotland (as shown below).



The fields 'NUTS2018Level2Code' and 'NUTS2018Level3Code' will be in the 2018/1 SPD Postcode Index and the fields 'NUTS2013Level2Code' and 'NUTS2013Level3Code' will be removed.

2.3 Local Administrative Units (LAU) 2018

The new version of the LAU geography will come into effect from 1 January 2018. There is now only 1 level of LAU for the UK, LAU Level 1.

The field 'LAU2018Level1Code' will be in the 2018/1 SPD Postcode Index and the fields 'LAU2011Level1Code' and 'LAU2011Level2Code' will be removed.

3. 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.

3.1 Postcode Boundaries

We discovered that the island of Eigg was missing from the postcode boundaries in the SPD 2017/1 release.

While the boundary for the island of Eigg was present in the Ordnance Survey BoundaryLine 'Extent of the Realm' boundary, once it was clipped to the high water line the boundary was lost.

As the Postcode District and Sector boundaries are built from the Postcodes, the island of Eigg is also missing from those products.

This omission was due to an error on the Ordnance Survey high water line. Ordnance Survey have been notified of this, and it will be updated in their next release. For the 2017/2 boundaries, we have amended the high water line so that it includes the island of Eigg.

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

4.1 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	

4.2 Postcode Updates

Due to differing update regimes existing 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.

4.3 Split postcodes

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

4.4 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

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, Comma Separated Value (CSV), or Microsoft (MS)
Access 2000 compatible format
- Lookup files Text, CSV, or Microsoft (MS) Access 2000 compatible format

Please note that as of 2018/1 SPD we will only be providing CSV and Microsoft Access formats.

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.

6. Copyright and reproduction

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Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

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7. Enquiries

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

E-mail: geographycustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk