

# Geography Policy Revisions and Corrections

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National Records of Scotland (NRS)

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## Background

NRS geography outputs are sometimes subject to corrections and revisions. We have robust procedures in place to minimise errors and regularly review them. However, errors do sometimes occur.

Corrections are generally scheduled, although there can be occasions when they are not.

Unscheduled corrections are amendments made to published geographic data in response to the identification of errors following their initial publication. When this occurs, we will:

- Ascertain the full nature, extent, and scale of the issue.
- Corrections will be applied taking account the following:
  - The importance of the correction
  - The size of the correction
  - How users are affected by a potential correction
  - The consequences of the correction - does it alter the main message?

## Minor Corrections

Minor corrections will be corrected in the next release. The correction will be made clear, and the reasons explained. This will be summarised in the Scottish Postcode Directory bulletin. Unless it is a major change, historic versions will not be updated.

## Major Corrections

If the correction is substantial, we will:

- Remove the geographic data concerned from the NRS website.
- Replace with a statement giving a reason for the revision and a timetable for the replacement.
- Where it is an error in spatial data (shapefiles, web feature services), metadata will be updated to reflect the nature of the correction on the Scottish Metadata Portal ([SpatialData.gov.scot](https://SpatialData.gov.scot)).
- Summarise the nature and extent of the revision to our geographic products within the Scottish Postcode Directory bulletin so users are aware.

## Lessons Learned

To learn from experience and minimise the need for revisions and corrections, we will do the following:

- Review and, if appropriate, amend our procedures and methods.

- Where the error is in data provided by others, work with data providers as appropriate.
- Consider publishing an explanation of the above actions where this would increase confidence in the data and avoid the need for future change.

## Out of Scope

Planned changes to methodology and specification are not covered by this policy. These are planned changes which users are advised of via consultation or the SPD bulletin.

## Official Statistics publications with associated geographic data

NRS aims to minimise revisions to our statistical publications but sometimes changes are unavoidable. NRS will list any corrections or revisions to statistical publications on the website, via the [Statistics Revision and Corrections](#) page of the website. This policy follows the best practice set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Note that if the geography is related to outputs published as official statistics (for example Settlement and Locality boundaries), it will be up to the owner of the product whether the geographic data provided alongside it requires an update, and revision information will be on the product page.