



### **3. All Scotland product**

3.1 In the 2012\_2 Bulletin we notified customers that 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 Our planned 'How to' guide to help users extract specific data is not ready but our geography customer services team will be on hand to provide help and advice. Please contact us if you require assistance.

### **4. Cut and Full versions of the Postcode Index**

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, the cost covers both extracts and charging is applied at 2<sup>nd</sup> extract.

### **5. Improvements - Postcodes without a grid reference**

5.1 There are 278 postcodes without a grid reference and digital boundary. These are new postcodes or postcodes deleted before the digital boundary ever drawn. NRS has assigned higher area values for deleted postcodes where possible.

### **6. Future supply arrangements**

6.1 Customers can now download the Cut version of the Extract directly from the '[National Records of Scotland \(NRS\) Postcode Extract](#)' page on the NRS website. Customers wishing to continue receiving data on CD can do so if they prefer.

## 7. 2011 Census

7.1 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 OA boundaries.
- Boundaries for the census geographies.
- Metadata and supporting information.

7.2 A census geography prospectus will be published soon with details on availability.

## 8. Planned changes to the Postcode Index

8.1 From **2013\_2** provide a combined small and large user file of live postcodes only.

8.2 From **2014\_1** we are planning a number of changes to the Postcode Index. More details will be available on our website over the next few months but briefly we plan to:

- Include the current version of a Geography only e.g. CHP and CHP2011 will be dropped, only CHP2012 will be retained.
- Remove old geographies e.g. 1991 LGD, 1991 LGR etc but a postcode assignment to any geography removed will be available on request.
- Rename field names e.g. 'Council Area' becomes 'CounciArea2011'. A file converting old label to new label will be available for download.
- Lookup files will limit information to name and code (a few exceptions apply) and the 9 character code applied in all cases where a 9 character code exists. A master set of lookups will be available to download containing old and new 9 character codes.
- Provide additional supporting information to help users understand postcodes and how to use the data.

## 9. Copyright and reproduction

### License

Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

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## 10. Enquiries

Please contact our Geography Customer Services Team if you need any further information or queries.

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