

# General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) Postcode Based Geography 2007/1 Release

16 February 2007

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## Dear Customer

We are pleased to announce the release of the latest version of GROS's postcode based geography products. Version 2007/1 is based on December's Royal Mail Postal Address File (PAF).

3 new geographies have been added to the Postcode Index; Community Health Partnerships (CHPs), Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs) and 2007 Electoral Wards. The Urban/Rural classification, Settlements and Localities fields have also been updated. Information about changes to LEC names and Registration District changes are detailed later in the Bulletin.

Version 2007/1 contains 178,166 live and deleted small user records and 43,757 live and deleted large user records.

### **Geography enquiries**

For all Geography enquiries you can contact us by e-mailing the [geography team](#) on

For all other enquiries please contact us via the [General Register Office for Scotland website](#).

## News and latest updates

### Community Health Partnerships (CHPs)

CHPs were established by the NHS Boards in Scotland as key building blocks in the modernisation of the NHS and joint services. Managed jointly by local authorities and health boards, CHPs nest within Council areas but may cross Health Board boundaries. There are 41 CHPs covering the whole of Scotland. Each CHP is a new part of the NHS providing services such as Health Visiting, speech and language services, physiotherapy and district nursing. Customers who require digital boundaries should contact [Jane.Allan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Allan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs)**

In 2004 The Scottish Executive established an £318 million Community Regeneration Fund to run for three years to bring improvements to Scotland's most deprived areas and help individuals and families escape poverty. This fund replaces Social Inclusion Partnership and Better Neighbourhood Services funds and builds on the lessons of good practice from these programmes. Community Planning Partnerships set out how they intend to use the funding, alongside their own resources, to deliver specific regeneration outcomes through three-year Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs). ROAs have been created from Datazones and represent the 15% most deprived datazones derived from the Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation 2004. Customers who require more information and digital boundaries should visit the [Communities Scotland website](#).

## **Electoral Wards 2007 (Multi Member Wards)**

New electoral wards will be introduced in Scotland for the introduction of the single transferable vote at the local government elections due to take place some time this year. The 353 new wards have been added to the Postcode Index. For the supply of digital boundaries please contact the [Local Government Commission](#) from their website.

## **Urban/Rural classification 6 and 8 (2005/06)**

The 2005/06 Urban/Rural classification replaces the existing 2003/04 classification.

## **Settlements and Localities (2004)**

The 2004 version of Settlements and Localities have been added to the index.

## **Highlands and Islands Enterprise**

Following the reduction in the number of Highlands & Islands Enterprise local enterprise companies (LEC) from 10 to 9 HIE have advised that the naming convention is now finalised and these new names are included in the index.

## **Registration Districts (RDs)**

The Local Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) 2006 bill (LEARS) which was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 contained legislation about Registration Districts. The boundaries of the RDs now follow the boundaries of the 32 Council Areas. Unfortunately we were unable to process all of the boundary changes in time for the 2007/1 products release which has resulted in about 2000 postcodes holding an incorrect RD assignment. The attached spreadsheet is a record of postcodes with an incorrect assignment. These records will be corrected and a file with the correct assignment made available to any customer who requires it.

## **Changes to the GROS Geography web page**

We are about to embark on a major overhaul of our geography web page. We are in the process of creating a new geography Home page and plan to replace our technical notes with something more user friendly. Our plans also include making sample data available on-line, revamping our Bulletins and improving links to related sites. If you have any ideas or thoughts then please e-mail the [Geography Customer Services Team](#).

## **Health Warnings**

### **CHPs and ROAs**

We had a few technical problems allocating postcodes to CHPs and ROAs. This occurred because of differences in coastline and islands between our postcode map and the ROA and CHP maps produced by SEGIS. This caused problems when we tried to assign postcodes to the CHP and ROA maps as we ended up with 'null' attribute entries because points fell in the sea. 37 postcodes were affected and we assigned these 37 points manually - the nearest CHP/ROA code was chosen. We will be working closely with SEGIS over the next few months to agree a consistent Scottish coastline to avoid the same problem arising whenever a new geography is created.

### **New 2007 Electoral Wards**

Postcodes have been assigned using maps supplied by the Local Government Boundary Commission rather than using the definitive set which will eventually be produced by Ordnance Survey. The assignment does not yet take account of PAI whereas the definitive set produced by OS will take account of PAI. For the time being customers should class the assignment of postcodes to the new electoral wards as interim until a definitive version is available from Ordnance Survey.

### **Mastermap**

Following the move to ArcGIS we have now adopted a new digital map service which is provided by the Scottish Executive. Because of operational difficulties with the installation of the map database we have not received updates to our Ordnance Survey backgrounds for some time now. Users should be aware that whilst we endeavour to maintain the postcode boundaries to a high level this delay has resulted in some of our boundaries being out of date. This will be rectified for the 2007 version 2 release. Please feel free to contact us with any queries.

### **DXF Customers**

We have encountered technical problems trying to create DXF files in ARC GIS. The problem has been logged with ESRI. We are contacting all DXF customers to discuss option.

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## Contact us

To get in touch with geography please contact

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Or alternatively e mail the [Geography Customer Services Team](#).

## Useful Links

Scotland's Census Results Online: <http://www.scrol.gov.uk>

General Register Office for Scotland: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>