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Date 20 January 2014
Your Ref
Our Ref IC/jl/2012014

Enquiries to Jan Lyell
Direct Line 0131 275 6449
Email jlyell@nhs.net

Dear Ms Kinnear,

CONSULTATION: REDRAW OF DATA ZONES

Thank you for giving NHS National Services Scotland the opportunity to respond to the above consultation. Our completed response to the questions is attached.

If any of our comments require further explanation, please contact Jan Lyell, Head of Corporate Affairs and Identity at jlyell@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'IAN CRICHTON', written over a light blue horizontal line.

IAN CRICHTON
Chief Executive



Chair Professor Elizabeth Ireland
Chief Executive Ian Crichton

*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the
Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.*

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Are you content with the proposed 2011 Data Zones?

Yes No

If you wish to make suggestions for change to a small number of draft Data Zones please provide the Data Zone code together with an explanation of its design limitations and the statistical benefits that would result from altering its boundary. Any accompanying maps and future supporting details would also be useful; preferably, a list of Census Output Areas with their current draft Data Zone assignment, along with the proposed new Data Zone assignment should be included.

N/a

Do you agree that 2011 Data Zones should use the median methodology for the calculation of centroids?

Please see page 17 for further information.

Yes No

We did not find the justification for the use of medians very clear. We appreciate that there is no gold standard right answer. We are content that medians are used rather than means though the use of population weighting does help to reduce the impact of a small number of people living far away from the majority.

The previous centroids were based upon the population weighted mean of the output area centroids. These, in turn, were based upon the means of the individual locations in the output area (weighted by the household size). This is consistent.

The proposal appears to use the medians of the individual locations within the output area and then the medians of the output areas. It is not clear if the median in the output area takes into account the household size. We think that it should. Similarly there is no reason why the median of the centroids of the output areas could not be calculated by taking into account the populations in the output areas.

Are you content with the proposed best fit 2011 Intermediate Zones?

If changes occur to the proposed 2011 Data Zones post consultation, these changes will be reflected in the Intermediate Zones.

Yes No

If you wish to make suggestions for change to a small number of best fit Intermediate Zones; please provide the Intermediate Zone code together with an explanation of its design limitations and the statistical benefits that would result from altering its boundary. Any accompanying maps and future supporting details would also be useful; preferably, a list of Draft 2011 Data Zones with their current draft 2001 Intermediate Zone assignment, along with the proposed new Intermediate Zone assignment should be included.

N/a
