

## 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.

The approach taken to changing the Data Zones is in line with that taken by ONS when maintaining the lower and middle layer super output areas (SOAs) for England and Wales. SOAs were changed where populations had significantly increased or decreased, as splits or mergers of the existing zones respectively. The only other circumstances where SOAs were changed was where they were aligned to any local authority boundaries that had changed since the zones were created, and this too is in line with the approach taken for the new Data Zones. ONS therefore supports this harmonised approach across GB to maintaining its core statistical building brick geographies.

### **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

The median methodology was also used to calculate centroids for the output areas (OAs), and super output areas ((SOAs) in England and Wales, using the ESRI ArcGIS function. A median value was considered to be less influenced by outliers than a mean one. Again ONS therefore supports this consistent approach across GB to the calculation of its population weighted centroids, which are important as they are used to best-fit the building brick geographies to all the output geographies for which statistics are produced.

### **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.

Again the approach mirrors that used in England and Wales for its equivalent geographies, which we support.