

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.

We support the redraw of these Zones and acknowledge their importance as a highly useful tool which is used to inform a broad range of policy, research and planning activities.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Scottish Government in coming weeks to address the issues we have highlighted in this response.

Our consultation response is based on two principles:

1. It is important that, as far as possible Data Zones consist of populations of a similar social type as this helps to ensure that small areas (pockets) of severe deprivation are not masked by less deprived areas. In Edinburgh we know that many areas of low deprivation neighbour/interleave areas of high deprivation.
2. We believe that the new Zones should fit, as far as possible, with the natural neighbourhoods in the city. The City of Edinburgh Council is expected to approve a final set of boundaries later this year; the new boundaries are expected to be adopted by all partners in the Edinburgh Partnership as a standard neighbourhood geography.

Our response is based on a two-stage analysis:

1. Identify "focus" Data Zones

We examined the proposed Data Zones in relation to Mosaic Scotland data to determine the extent to which each Zone was dominated by one particular aggregated Mosaic band, contained a fairly even spread of bands, or consisted of populations from both ends of the deprivation scale. We are content that the majority of the proposed zones are sufficiently homogenous, however we found that 100 "focus" Zones either had a significant spread of households across the socio-economic groups or contained significant areas of both high and low deprivation. We have appended maps showing an example of each of the Data Zone classifications and a spreadsheet listing the 100 focus Zones (appendix 1).

2. Suggest an alternative configuration around selected focus Zones

We used a Geographical Information System with Mosaic Scotland data and the draft set of natural neighbourhood boundaries to further examine the 27 Zones which we found to consist of areas of high and low deprivation. We are now suggesting an alternative configuration of output areas for majority of these Zones and a number of adjacent Zones. We have appended maps covering these Zones along with a note of the suggested new output area configurations (appendix 2).

We look forward to working with the Scottish Government to refine these and the remaining focus Zones.

We ask that the maps containing the Mosaic Scotland data are not made public however we are content for the rest of our submission to be made public.

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

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.

We examined the proposed Intermediate Zones in relation to the City of Edinburgh Council's draft natural neighbourhoods.

We identified several proposed Intermediate Zones in which no single natural neighbourhood accounted for a majority of households in that Intermediate Zone. Of these, three Intermediate Zones resulted in groupings of neighbourhoods which raise issues around the integrity of the Intermediate Zones. We have appended maps of these Intermediate Zones (appendix 3).

Any changes to the Data Zone configuration will have a concomitant effect on the Intermediate Zones and we would like to continue to work with the Scottish Government to refine the Intermediate Zones.