SIMD Wins Statistical Award with 'Human Edge'

SIMD has won the **Royal Statistical Society 'Excellence in Official Statistics'** for 2017.

The award, given in partnership with the UK Statistics Authority, rewards good practice from those working in UK government statistics. The panel were looking for a focus on meeting the needs of the wider user community and innovative production and use of statistics for the public good.

Chief Statistician Roger Halliday said 'To win a Royal Statistical Society award is a real achievement, and as the judges said in their remarks, the competition was particularly strong this year. The SIMD team has been at the forefront of all analysts' efforts to improve how we communicate and engage with our users, and so winning this award is no more than they deserve.'

The National Statistician, John Pullinger, who was on the judging panel, said the calibre of entrants this year was high. But the SIMD publication was fascinating and responded to user needs. He also commented that 'improved trust in data [is] something we consistently strive for.'

Ally McAlpine, who leads SIMD, responded 'I'm proud to have led on such a successful publication which was helped by a large number of people across Scotland. Special thanks goes to the people and volunteers at Frontline Fife, MyBus and Community Links. They took the time and effort to help us add a human factor to our SIMD numbers.'

The team will pick up their award in July at the annual event hosted by the RSS in London.

Revealing the secrets behind SIMD – how we calculate it!

SIMD identifies deprived areas. But how exactly do we calculate it? And what data goes into it? With the openSIMD project, the SIMD team and the Data Lab have published the programming code that calculates SIMD16. Now, anyone with basic skills in the programming language R can easily understand every single calculation step, remove or combine different SIMD domains, or play around with the rich indicator dataset.

Have a look at our project blog
You can also go straight to the
code and documentation here

Statistics Published in June

Our equalities team have published updates to many of the indicators
Equality Evidence Finder
2016/17 Homelessness and Housing statistics were published
Click here to explore all the stats

Coming up in July

Scottish Surveys Core Questions multi-year data for all electoral wards and Westminster and Scottish Parliament constituencies in Scotland. The first release planned will cover smoking prevalence and household tenure.

Scottish Survey Core Questions

Join a Domain Focus Group to shape SIMD19

Energy Performance Certificate data could soon make its way into SIMD19. Research has begun on using the efficiency information. This is to replace the out-dated central heating indicator in the Housing Domain.

Before any changes can be made, these proposals will be put in front of our new Domain Focus Group.

Nominate yourself or others for our groups by emailing us **simd@gov.scot** with a brief note of your expertise.

Invitations will go out shortly to new groups which will review changes to all Domains including the following.

A review of the Crime Domain has begun. We are assessing the relationship between deprivation and crime indicators. A focus group will then consider which to include in SIMD19. SIMD users also often request breakdowns of this data to aid further research, we're also working to do this..

Another area for improvement is identifying where young people go after they leave school. Working with Skills Development Scotland, we are ready to propose the new 'Participation Measure' to an Education focus group.