

Briefing Note on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation – 31st August 2016

This briefing note is designed to provide information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). It explains what SIMD is, the methodology used, data limitations and also explains the SIMD 2016 results for Aberdeen City.

Introduction:

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying concentration of small area deprivation in Scotland. The SIMD provides a wealth of information to identify areas where individuals may experience multiple deprivation and also to identify areas of greater need for support and intervention. SIMD 2016 is the Scottish Government's fifth edition since 2004 and the results are published every three to four years. The results of SIMD 2016 are released today (31 August 2016).

The SIMD is based on the small area geography known as data zones. SIMD 2016 is developed using 2011 data zones whilst previous editions have used 2001 data zones (please see data limitation section for more information). There are 6,976 data zones in Scotland and 283 data zones in Aberdeen City. Based on 2014 small area population estimates published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS), Aberdeen City has an average population of 809 people per data zone.

Methodology:

The SIMD provides a rank for all the 6,976 data zones in Scotland, where a rank of 1 is the most deprived and a rank of 6,976 is the least deprived. As deprivation can take many different forms, the SIMD combines seven different domains (aspects) of deprivation. These domains are measured using a number of indicators to form individual relative indices for each particular dimension of deprivation. SIMD 2016 is built up from a total of 38 indicators covering the seven domains. To produce an overall SIMD score and rank, each domain is given a weighting. The seven domains (or categories) are:

- Income
- Education, skills & training
- Housing
- Employment
- Access to Services
- Health
- Crime

Data limitations:

- The SIMD provides a relative measure of deprivation. This means it compares multiple deprivation between data zones rather than how much deprivation is in each.
- SIMD can be used to identify areas where individuals may experience multiple deprivation. It does not say that all individuals in the area are deprived. Not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived and not all deprived people live in deprived areas. SIMD identifies deprived areas – not people.
- The SIMD does not measure affluence. Data zones with higher ranks are not necessarily affluent, simply relatively less deprived.

- Previous SIMDs have used 2001 data zones. In 2011, the data zones were redrawn to take account of population changes. SIMD 2016 is the first to use 2011 data zones and therefore comparison of a data zone across time must be done with caution to ensure you are comparing like with like.
- The SIMD should be used in conjunction with other sources to identify where support is needed in communities.

Overall Aberdeen City Rankings

9 of Aberdeen City's 283 data zones are among the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones - 13 fewer than in SIMD 2012.

The 9 most deprived Aberdeen City data zones in SIMD 2016 have a combined population of 7,414, 3.2% of the City's total population (2014-based population). They are located in Torry, Middlefield, Northfield, Seaton, Tillydrone and Woodside neighbourhoods. All 9 of these data zones are in the priority localities identified by the Community Planning Aberdeen.

Individual Domains

- 4 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Income** domain, 8 fewer than in SIMD 2012.
- 5 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Employment** domain, 9 fewer than in SIMD 2012.
- 17 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Health** domain, 31 fewer than in SIMD 2012.
- 46 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Education, Skills & Training** domain, 12 more than in SIMD 2012.
- 13 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Access to Services** domain, 3 more than in SIMD 2012.
- 53 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Crime** domain, 4 more than in SIMD 2012.
- 74 Aberdeen City data zones are in the most deprived 15% of all Scottish data zones in the **Housing** domain, 33 more than in SIMD 2012.

Summary:

A range of thresholds are used to indicate deprivation, such as 5%, 10%, 15% or 20%, depending on whether the very highest concentrations of deprivation are identified or whether a broader definition is used.

Number and Population of most deprived (MD) data zones in Aberdeen City

	MD 0-5% in Scotland	MD 5-10% in Scotland	MD 10-15% in Scotland	All data zones in MD 0-15%
Number of data zones	0	3	6	9
Population of data zones	0	2,133	5,281	7,414
% of Aberdeen City Population*	0.0%	0.9%	2.3%	3.2%

*population based on 2014 small area population estimates published by the National Records of Scotland

Most deprived (MD) data zones in Aberdeen City, by domain

Domain	No. of data zones in:			All Aberdeen City data zones in MD 0-15% in Scotland
	MD 0-5% in Scotland	MD 5-10% in Scotland	MD 10-15% in Scotland	
Income	0	2	2	4
Employment	0	2	3	5
Health	1	5	11	17
Education, skills and Training	11	16	19	46
Access to Services	0	5	8	13
Crime	17	22	14	53
Housing	28	26	20	74
All Domains	0	3	6	9

Location of most deprived data zones, by Neighbourhoods and Wards

No. of Data Zones	Neighbourhoods	Wards
3	-	Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen, Northfield/Mastrick North
2	Torry, Seaton, Middlefield	Torry/Ferryhill
1	Woodside, Northfield, Tillydrone	Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill

The main elements of change in Aberdeen City can be seen in the income, employment and health domains, where some of the more deprived data zones show improvement. There has been an increase in the number of data zones in the Crime, Housing, Access to Services and Education, Skills and Training domains but these have a lower weighting and are therefore less significant in the overall rankings.

The overall level of deprivation remains much lower than many council areas in Scotland and Aberdeen City has experienced the largest decrease in the number of data zones falling into the most deprived 15%.

Please note changes in data zone rankings over time can be due to several factors. Changes in other parts of Scotland can affect the rankings of Aberdeen City's data zones even when there has been little or no change in the actual incidence of local deprivation.

Next steps:

- A detailed briefing paper on SIMD 2016 will be published in the coming weeks by the Research and Information Team, Office of Chief Executive.
- A seminar will be arranged jointly with the Scottish Government, NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire.

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