

## Office for Students postcode look-up tool: Change notes September 2020

1. This data release was published in September 2020. It supersedes the previous postcode look-up tool published in January 2020.
2. The 2020 data release uses updated Office for National Statistics (ONS) Postcode Directory (ONSPD) and ONS Postcode Lookup (ONSPL) data from May 2020. The ONSPD and ONSPL lists all postcodes in the UK, and links them to higher geographies. For more information see <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/postcodeproducts>.
3. Please note that Northern Ireland postcodes are subject to a separate licensing agreement. The postcodes used in this data release are based on the January 2020 Northern Ireland Central Postcode Directory (CPD), see: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/central-postcode-directory-jan-2020-downloads>.
4. This note describes information that is included in the postcode look-up data downloads (CSV and Excel format). The information displayed in the interactive postcode search tool is a subset of this information.

### Summary of changes

5. We have added 16,121 new postcodes to the lookup.
6. Following user feedback we have updated some of our 'reason removed' flags. The following changes have been made:
  - a. There were 368,730 postcodes in the previous data release which were assigned as 'non-geographic' (reason removed code 'B'). These were historical assignments from our POLAR3 measure which was published in 2014 but we have established that a number of these postcodes have been reused and are now linked to a geographical location. As a result we now include quintiles for all in use postcodes. As a result in some cases we will be displaying quintiles for non-geographic postcodes. However this ensures we are displaying quintiles for all in use geographic postcodes and we are not excluding postcodes based on historic data. Hence, all the previous non-geographical assignments were removed and postcodes were assigned the quintiles of the Middle-layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) or Census Area Statistics wards (CAS wards) in which they belong to. However, 9,026 postcodes were not linked to longitudes and latitudes so they were assigned as non-geographic and not given a quintile for any of the area-based measures.
  - b. For similar reasons, postcodes are not removed for having 'no link to census geography' (previous reason removed code 'C').

7. We have added two new area-based measures to the look-up tool and data files: Adult HE 2011 and TUNDRA LSOA.
8. Adult HE 2011 refers to a newly calculated measure which estimates the percentage of the adult population that holds a higher education qualification in a geographic area using 2011 census data. This measure uses the same geographic boundaries as POLAR4: MSOAs for England and Wales, Intermediate Zones for Scotland and Super Output areas for Northern Ireland. This is different to the previous Adult HE measure which was based on CAS wards. The postcode look-up tool displays the new Adult HE 2011 measure. The previous Adult HE measure, which was based on 2001 census data, is preserved in the dataset under the name Adult HE 2001.
9. The new TUNDRA LSOA measure is calculated using the same method as TUNDRA (originally published in September 2019) but is based on smaller geographical units - LSOAs – unlike TUNDRA which is based on MSOAs. To distinguish between the two measures they will be referred to as TUNDRA MSOA and TUNDRA LSOA in both the look-up tool and data files. More information about TUNDRA LSOA can be found in a separate methodology document at [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/about-tundra/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/about-tundra/) Two separate reason removed fields have been created for TUNDRA MSOA and TUNDRA LSOA.
10. TUNDRA LSOA is based on May 2019 ONS data in order to align with TUNDRA MSOA. This means that a very small minority of postcodes may have been 'reused' between the two ONS data releases (May 2019 and May 2020). The term 'reused' refers to instances where postcodes have been terminated and reused again in a different MSOA or LSOA **and** this change has resulted in a change to their TUNDRA MSOA or TUNDRA LSOA quintiles. We have not reported a quintile for such reused postcodes.
11. Similarly to TUNDRA MSOA, some postcodes are not assigned a TUNDRA LSOA quintile if they belong to an LSOA with a population that is too small to report results on. The results for such LSOAs are suppressed as they could be unstable and subject to errors. LSOAs with fewer than 30 eligible pupils are suppressed. This is different to TUNDRA MSOA where the minimum threshold is set to 50 pupils in an area. In total there were 1,263 such areas out of 32,844 LSOAs in England. Such postcodes are shown as 'Removed' in the look-up tool, and 'R' in the data file. Full lists of removal reasons for TUNDRA MSOA and TUNDRA LSOA (as contained in the postcode data files) are shown in tables 1 and 2 below:

**Table 1: Reason removed codes for TUNDRA MSOA**

Value	Description
U	Outside England
M	Less than 50 eligible pupils living in the MSOA
B	Non-geographic postcode
R	Reused postcode and change of MSOAs

**Table 2: Reason removed codes for TUNDRA LSOA**

Value	Description
U	Outside England
L	Less than 30 eligible pupils living in the LSOA
B	Non-geographic postcode
R	Reused postcode and change of LSOAs

12. We have added two additional fields to the datafile to display each postcode's LSOA and the name of that LSOA. Although TUNDRA LSOA only applies to English postcodes, LSOA information has been included for all postcodes. In the case of Scotland, 'LSOA' refers to Scottish data zones, in the same way 'MSOAs' in Scotland refer to Scottish Intermediate Zones. In the case of Northern Ireland, both MSOA and LSOA refer to the same geographical unit - Super Output Area (SOA) as middle-layer and lower-layer output areas are not available for Northern Ireland.
13. We have created three new zoomable maps – one for the new Adult HE 2011 measure, one for TUNDRA LSOA and one comparing TUNDRA MSOA and TUNDRA LSOA.
14. We have included a new LSOA to TUNDRA LSOA quintile look-up file, alongside the relevant methodology documents (see [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/about-tundra/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/about-tundra/)).
15. There has been a small change in the de-duplication method used in TUNDRA MSOA when compared to the original TUNDRA methodology published in September 2019. The new de-duplication method is identical to that used for TUNDRA LSOA to allow valid comparisons between these two measures to be made. This means that 6,155 postcodes are published with a different TUNDRA MSOA quintile than before.
16. The MSOA\_status and CASward\_status fields, which show if the MSOAs or CAS wards linked to individual postcodes in the look-up tool are the same as those in the ONSPL and ONSPD files, have been updated to indicate a match to the most recent May 2020 data.