

Office for Students postcode look-up tool: Change notes March 2021

1. This data release was published 11 March 2021. It supersedes the previous postcode lookup tool published 24 September 2020.
2. This release uses 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. New TUNDRA MSOA (Middle-layer Super Output Areas) and TUNDRA LSOA (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) quintiles were added to the postcode look-up. This reflects the update to TUNDRA MSOA and TUNDRA LSOA also published on 11 March 2021. The new measures were calculated using the same method as TUNDRA (originally published in September 2019), i.e. they use data-linking to track cohorts of 16 year old state-funded mainstream school pupils in MSOAs in England. However, it is based on the cohorts who completed their GCSEs (Key stage 4) in the summer of 2012 to 2016, as opposed to cohorts who completed their GCSEs between the summers 2010 and 2014 which were used previously.
6. The new TUNDRA MSOA and LSOA quintiles are official statistics, unlike the previous iterations of the measures which were experimental official statistics.
7. Both of the new TUNDRA measures are based on postcodes' MSOAs and LSOAs as displayed in the ONSPL data from May 2020.
8. New reason removed flags were created for the two new measures. They display the reason why a postcode is not assigned to a TUNDRA MSOA and/or TUNDRA LSOA quintile, and can have the following values:

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

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

9. Consequently, the previous TUNDRA MSOA and TUNDRA LSOA quintiles and their associated reason removed flags, which were published with earlier releases, have been removed from the dataset. They can still be accessed in the relevant publications in the Previous postcode look-up data section: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/get-the-area-based-measures-data/.
10. The 'MSOA' variable in the postcode look-up dataset has been renamed to 'MSOA_POLAR' to signify that the MSOAs listed in that field are only used for assigning POLAR4 quintiles.
11. An 'MSOA_TUNDRA' variable has been added to the dataset and it relates to the May 2020 version of the postcodes' MSOAs which were used for assigning the new TUNDRA MSOA quintiles.
12. Similarly, the 'LSOA' field has been changed to reflect the fact that all TUNDRA LSOA quintiles are now based on LSOAs as listed in the May 2020 ONSPL data.
13. It was discovered that the September 2020 postcode dataset incorrectly assigned a Uni Connect target ward flag of No to 41,959 postcodes that should have been assigned a value of Yes. This error specifically impacted the Uni Connect target ward flag for less than 2 per cent of postcodes in the dataset. Over 96 per cent of these postcodes were large user type postcodes, as such the impact on student postcodes is likely to be very low. A list of the impacted postcodes can be found in the 'March 2021 corrections to dataset – list of impacted postcodes' file which accompanies this release.
14. As part of this correction the Uni Connect target ward flag has been expanded. In September 2020 this flag consisted of three categories: 0 (No), 1* (Yes) and R (previously Yes but postcode reused).

The November 2020 flag has four categories:

- 0 – Not a Uni Connect target ward
- 1 – Uni Connect target ward
- 1*- Uni Connect target ward, however this is based on an earlier assignment using a different CAS ward associated with this postcode compared to the CAS ward now associated with the postcode. If this postcode were to be assigned a target ward value using its current CAS ward it would be assigned 0
- R – previously in a Uni Connect target ward but postcode has been reused.

15. All postcodes that were assigned 1* in September 2020 have been assigned 1 in November 2020 with the exception of 250 postcodes that have been assigned the 1* category and 14 postcodes that have been assigned the 'R' category. These 264 postcodes can also be found in the 'March 2021 corrections to dataset – list of impacted postcodes' file.

16. All changes to the Uni Connect target ward flag are summarised in the table below:

Table 3: Summary of changes to the Uni Connect target ward flag

September 2020	March 2021	Change in category?	Number of postcodes
No (0)	No (0)	No change	2,013,346
No(0)	Yes (1)	Change	41,959
Yes (1*)	Yes (1)	No change	210,040
Yes (1*)	Yes* (1*)	Change	250
Yes (1*)	Reused (R)	Change	14
Reused (R)	Reused (R)	No change	173

17. Additionally, 22 postcodes that have been reused but were assigned Gaps GCSE and Gaps GCSE Ethnicity quintiles in September 2020 have been corrected and are now assigned 'R'. A list of these postcodes can also be found the 'March 2021 corrections to dataset – list of impacted postcodes' file.

18. Finally, there was an error in the 'Postcode Status' field in the September 2020 dataset and 500,455 postcodes that should have been as classified as 'Terminated' were not. This field does not affect any other fields in the dataset and this error has been corrected in the March 2021 dataset.