

Spatial Plan Data Newsletter

A Welsh Assembly Government project has been set up to collate and disseminate data for the areas identified in the Wales Spatial Plan. It is titled the Spatial Plan Data Project. This is the second of a series of occasional newsletters to inform users interested in these data of the progress made to date.

The Wales Spatial Plan areas

Since the last newsletter was published on 31 July 2007, the work of the project has concentrated on the collation of data for the different areas identified in the Wales Spatial Plan.

The previous newsletter outlined the definitions of the areas for data purposes, as given in the map opposite (for a reminder, see the paper at:



<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/spatial-plan/?lang=en>).

Although some of the areas can be derived from a data perspective in terms of whole local authorities, this is not the case for Central Wales, Pembrokeshire Haven or Swansea Bay.

Further, although South East Wales *as a whole* follows local authority boundaries, it serves a large but varied population in terms of the area it covers, and so for some datasets, there has been a need to break South East Wales down into smaller, more homogeneous areas. The areas used for this do not follow local authority boundaries, for example the Heads of the Valleys.

How have data been collated?

Datasets at a sub-Wales level are usually only readily available at the local authority level (or for larger areas made up of several local authorities). Thus as the Spatial Plan area boundaries do not always follow local authority boundaries, many standard datasets cannot be used.

In fact, the Spatial Plan areas have been statistically defined in terms of a set of small area building blocks, called lower super output areas (LSOAs). These were defined as part of the 2001 Census and provide a stable (over time) small area geography for statistical purposes.

So it has been necessary to investigate data sources at the LSOA level, which can then be aggregated to provide Spatial Plan area datasets, and this has been a key consideration in determining what data can be used.

Whilst data are not routinely published by LSOA, many datasets can be obtained at this level by recourse to the originating body. In many cases, this has required access to the individual records behind datasets, and the allocation of these records to LSOAs, for example using postcodes. Other datasets have been derived straight from geographical information systems, using digitised versions of the area boundaries.

Which datasets have been developed?

A wide variety of data have been collated, covering the following topics. Work has begun to pull these data together into detailed summaries of the results.

Subject	Datasets
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil and teacher numbers• Free school meals• Attainment• Absence• Further and higher education students
Further and higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student numbers
Health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welsh Health Survey data, including data on selected conditions and lifestyle• Cancer incidence• Deaths by selected cause• GP, hospital and dentist data• Child immunisation
Population and demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population levels and change• Births, deaths and natural change
Economy and labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labour market data, including employment and inactivity rates and qualifications• Earnings data• Benefit claimants• Business statistics
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dwellings numbers• Average house prices
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road accidents data• Vehicle use
Physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land area, and areas / sites of environmental importance• Area subject to flood risk• Proximity to waste and other regulated sites
Deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population living in deprived areas

Further information

As the project develops, further information will be added to the following page on the Welsh Assembly Government internet page:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/spatial-plan/?lang=en>

This and other newsletters will also be published to this page, along with other useful information as the project develops.

If you wish to speak to anyone regarding the Spatial Plan Data Project, please contact the project manager at the following address:

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