

SIMD Training Events

We held two SIMD training sessions on the 23rd of June. The content of these sessions is designed to provide the most inexperienced analyst with the skills to use SIMD effectively. Topics were:

- What is SIMD?
- How to use SIMD
- How to plan further research.

We hope to make the training material available 'on demand' via our webpages

Data Zone Redraw

We have published a guidance note regarding the changes to Data Zone boundaries. This does not affect SIMD 2012 but will have an impact on the future indexes.

[DZ Impact on SIMD \(pdf\)](#)

If you require further help then contact the SIMD team or SNS.

We are nearing the end of the review and our next newsletter will give details of the results from that research.

This month I will be finalising the timetable for publishing the next SIMD and I hope to provide further news on this soon.

*Alastair McAlpine
Statistician
Local Outcomes Team*

Rural Scotland in Focus 2014

At the SRUC launch of the 'Rural Scotland In Focus 2014' report, concerns were repeated that SIMD doesn't always identify dispersed deprivation, such as occurs in rural areas. This is not a new message, as we had also heard this concern from our User Workshops. We have been taking steps to address this in three ways:

- identifying new indicators that better identify deprivation in rural areas
- providing better training for analysts to use SIMD more efficiently
- talking to policy makers, identifying SIMD's strengths and ensuring appropriate use of the index.

In **identifying new indicators**, we heard many proposals. Unfortunately when we explore the available data, it often fails on reliability or consistency or it isn't specific enough as a measure of deprivation. However some progress is being made and we hope to give you an update in the near future.

We offer **training for analysts at no cost**. As the official tool for measuring deprivation, SIMD still performs well at identifying deprivation across the whole country. SIMD identifies 'concentrations' of deprivation, but the individual indicators behind SIMD can still be used to identify where more 'dispersed' deprivation exists. The training we offer allows more effective analysis of SIMD and in more depth. We hope to make this training easier and faster to access through the website.

At our workshops and the SRUC event, concerns have been raised that policies, driven by the use of SIMD, are not always appropriate. We are **talking to relevant policy leads** to encourage them to think as carefully as analysts do about how to use SIMD. We will be launching seminars targeted at policy makers encouraging appropriate use of SIMD and embracing other evidence in support of policies to avoid misdirection of resources.

Forthcoming events that we will be attending

Living with Austerity

1st July 2014

London

@ScotStat



#simd12