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FOI request for information about inclusion of postcodes in ONS Geography address products

1 message

Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>

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To: FOI.Team@ons.gov.uk

Good morning,

The ONS Geography team maintains two address products, the ONS UPRN Directory (ONSUD) and the National Statistics UPRN Lookup (NSUL). An updated release of each product is published every six weeks on ONS's Open Geography Portal at <https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/>.

These products are open data. Each contains a list of Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) matched to a range of names and codes related to statutory administrative, electoral, health and other statistical geographies.

I would like to request some information that ONS may hold about the inclusion of postcodes in the ONSUD and NSUL products.

My understanding, from public documentation, is that postcodes for each UPRN have been included in ONSUD and NSUL since the October 2020 releases, and that the postcodes are taken directly from Ordnance Survey's AddressBase where that postcode is included in the OS Code-Point Open product. Postcodes not present in Code-Point Open are redacted under the terms of an agreement between ONS and Ordnance Survey.

Please provide the following information:

1. The currently in effect version of any agreement between ONS and Ordnance Survey that relates to the inclusion or use of postcodes in ONS address products, or the production of that postcode data. I don't know what form this agreement might take – it might be a legally binding licensing agreement, or it might be a non-binding memorandum or in correspondence. The agreement might refer more generally to use of AddressBase data – if so, please consider that to be within scope of my information request provided that the AddressBase data includes postcodes.
2. Any unpublished guidance or technical documentation that relates to the inclusion or use of postcodes in ONS address products.
3. Any other information that explains the currency of the postcode data included in ONS address products. (I note that the latest releases of ONSUD and NSUL contain postcodes as included on the May 2023 version of Code-Point Open, and am interested to understand why the postcode data is so old.)

Thank you for your attention to this information request.

Best regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

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