
request for internal review of ONS's response to FOI request for information about inclusion of postcodes in ONS Geography address products (your ref FOI-2024-2429)

1 message

Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>
To: FOI Team <FOI.Team@ons.gov.uk>

24 December 2024 at 12:58

Dear Freedom of Information Team,

Thank you for your [response](#) to my information request dated 2 December 2024 (your reference FOI-2024-2429).

I would like to request an internal review of that response. Please consider in particular the following points. (To the extent that any of these points asks for additional information, please treat those parts of this email as a new information request.)

1. My request related to information about two ONS data products, the ONS UPRN Directory (ONSUD) and the National Statistics UPRN Lookup (NSUL). I described those in my request as "address products".

Your response states that these "are not address products". However, your response includes a link to information about National Statistics UPRN products that contains "nationalstatisticsaddressproducts" in the web address:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/nationalstatisticsaddressproducts>

Additionally, the ONS webpage with information on the licensing of geographical material includes a section headed "Address products (including address lookups)" which refers to "address products (derived from AddressBase®)".

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/licences>

My understanding has been that ONSUD and NSUL are the "address products" covered by that section of the licensing page, given that ONSUD and NSUL are primarily lists of UPRNs derived from AddressBase.

If you consider that ONSUD and NSUL are not "address products", please provide a list of ONS's address products within the meaning of the information on the licensing page.

2. The User Guides for the editions of ONSUD and NSUL released in October 2020 through October 2021 contained a statement that those releases included "the postcode for each UPRN, taken directly from AddressBase, where that postcode is included in the OS Code-Point Open product. Postcodes not present in Code-Point Open have been redacted under the terms of our agreement with Ordnance Survey." (User Guides for more recent releases do not mention this agreement.)

Your response to my information request says there is "no formal agreement with regards to the inclusion or use of postcodes within ONS' UPRN products." Your response seems to indicate that ONS's inclusion or use of postcodes in the UPRN products is based on a combination of (a) the rights ONS has as an AddressBase licensee under the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA), (b) ONS's interpretation of Ordnance Survey's UPRN open identifiers policy, and (c) public rights to re-use data in OS Code-Point Open under the Open Government Licence (OGL).

Is that a reasonable interpretation of the third-party licensing basis for ONS's inclusion or use of postcodes in ONSUD and NSUL?

3. Your response says there is "no formal agreement with regards to the inclusion or use of postcodes within ONS' UPRN products." However, the scope of my information request was not limited to formal agreements. I said: "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."

Please confirm that, in addition to no formal agreement, ONS also does not hold any memorandum or correspondence with OS related to the include or use of postcodes or the use of AddressBase data in the ONSUD or NSUL products. Alternatively, please disclose that information.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Best regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

e-mail: owen.boswarva@gmail.com

telephone: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

address: [REDACTED]

On Tue, 24 Dec 2024 at 11:02, FOI Team <FOI.Team@ons.gov.uk> wrote:

Our Reference: FOI-2024-2429

Dear Owen

Thank you for your request.

I am writing to confirm that the Office for National Statistics has now completed its search for the information which you requested, and the response can be found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/inclusionofpostcodesintheonsudandnsulproducts>

You have the right to have this response to your Freedom of Information request reviewed internally by an internal review process and, if you remain unhappy with the decision, by the Information Commissioner. If you would like to have the decision reviewed please email the Freedom of Information Team at 'foi.team@ons.gov.uk' or write to The FOI Team, Office for National Statistics, Segensworth Road, Titchfield PO15 5RR, and mark your correspondence "Internal Review".

If you have any queries about this email, please contact the Freedom of Information Team ('foi.team@ons.gov.uk').

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Kind regards,

The Freedom of Information Team | UK Statistics Authority | Awdurdod
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@UKStatsAuth | FOI.Team@ons.gov.uk | <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk>