

2001 AREA CLASSIFICATIONS - PROGRESS REPORT

- 1 This note provides a progress report for Advisory Groups members concerning the development of the 2001 Area Classifications. This follows the overview of the project proposals presented to the Groups during summer 2002.
- 2 **Advisory Group members are invited to note progress.**
- 3 Following consultation with users the intention is that the 2001 Area Classifications will be produced for the UK as a whole, in preference to the current Great Britain coverage. This could result in substantially different classifications compared to those in 1991. In terms of the geographic level at which areas are classified, there is a need for classifications based on administrative areas, that is, Local Authorities (Districts, Unitary Authorities), Primary Care Trusts (and their equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and Wards, and for Output Areas.
- 4 In addition there is demand from within government for a general-purpose classification at the household level. A further research project funded through an ESRC studentship and undertaken by Leeds University will develop methodology for a household classification as well as collaborating with ONS on development of the Output Area classification.
- 5 The methods used to derive the Area Classifications have previously been well established and have been validated via a review of methodology conducted in the initial stages of the project. Variable selection has been designed to efficiently capture the main dimensions of the Census data using Key Statistics at appropriate levels. It is intended that the variables used will remain consistent across all the classifications (excluding the proposed household level classification).
- 6 The Classifications will be available on the National Statistics web-site for the first time, and the interactive presentation will enable users to interpret the classifications using Geographical Information Systems. A publication timetable is given in Table 1, below (please note however, this is subject to dependency on the release of Key Statistics as currently scheduled).

Table 1 Key outputs timetable

Product	Publication
Local Authority Classification	July 2003
Primary Care Trust Classification	December 2003
Ward Classification	December 2003
Output Area Classification	March 2004

7 Any queries members may have should be directed by email to alison.whitworth@ons.gov.uk

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