Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the Indices of Deprivation?

1. What are the Indices of Deprivation (IoD)?

The Indices of Deprivation are a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England and have been produced by this department and its predecessors in similar way since 2000. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019) is the most recent release. The Indices provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small across England, based on seven different domains, or facets, of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

Deprivation is measured in a broad way to encompass a wide range of aspects of an individual's living conditions. Each of the domains above are constructed from a basket of different data datasets, or indicators. As far as is possible, each indicator is based on data from the most recent time point available. For the Income Deprivation domain and the Employment Deprivation domain in the IoD2019, the data relates to the tax year 2015/16.

Combining information from the seven domains produces an overall relative measure of deprivation, the **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** (see Question 2). In addition to the seven domain-level indices above, there are two supplementary indices: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI). These are created as subsets from the Income Deprivation domain.

A range of summary measures are available for higher-level geographies including local authority districts and upper tier local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, and clinical commissioning groups. These are based on the geographic boundaries for these areas at the time of publication.

The **IMD2019**, domain indices and the supplementary indices, together with the higher area summaries, are collectively referred to as the **IoD2019**.

2. What is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)?

The Index of Multiple Deprivation, commonly known as the IMD, is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England. It is the most widely used of the Indices of Deprivation (IoD) (described in Question 1).

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranks every small area in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area).

These small areas are a statistical geography called Lower-layer Super Output Areas and are explained further in Question 11.

The IMD combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domains are combined using the following weights:

- Income Deprivation (22.5%)
- Employment Deprivation (22.5%)
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5%)
- Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)
- Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%)

The weights were derived from consideration of the academic literature on poverty and deprivation, as well as the levels of robustness of the indicators. A fuller account is given in section 3.7 and Appendix G of the Technical Report.

All of these documents are available from:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

Accessing data, documents and tools

3. What data and documents have been published? Where do I start?

Data: The IoD2019 is the most recent indices of depression release. Nine data files are available at **neighbourhood** (Lower-layer Super Output Area) level. The first of these contains the IMD2019 ranks and deciles and is sufficient for the purposes of most users. Other files are available for users with more specific requirements.

A range of summary measures are available at **higher-level geographies:** local authority districts and upper tier local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, and clinical commissioning groups.

In addition to these **Frequently Asked Questions**, other supporting documents and resources include:

- A **National Statistic Release** which presents headline findings and commentary on the IoD2019. It explains the ways in which the Indices data

can be used and described, and the range of measures available. The technical notes cover the main points which users should be aware of in using and interpreting the Indices (including change over time). The release also explains how users can give feedback on the Indices, and how the department will keep users informed in future.

- An **Infographic** which illustrates how the IMD2019 is comprised and some do's and don'ts concerning the use of Indices data.
- A **Research Report** which provides guidance on how to use and interpret the datasets and presents further results from the IoD2019. It provides a full account of the set of summary statistics available for higher-level geographies, such as local authority districts, with an example of their use, and advice on interpreting change over time.
- A **Technical Report** which presents the conceptual framework of the IoD2019; the methodology for creating the domains and the overall IMD; the design principles and quality assurance carried out to ensure reliability of the data outputs; and the component indicators and domains.

There is also a series of supporting **data tables**, **interactive tools, mapping resources** and **Open Data facilities** to aid user's exploration of the data.

All of the data files and supporting documents are available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

4. Where can I access the raw data?
All data is published in series of spreadsheets available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

In addition to this, much of the data is available to download on the Department's **Open Data Communities** website, at the following links:

- Neighbourhood-level data:
  http://opendatacommunities.org/data/societal-wellbeing/imd/indices
- Local authority district level data:
  http://opendatacommunities.org/data/societal-wellbeing/imd/indicesbyla

5. What tools are available to help me use the data?
Mapping tools can help users visualise relative deprivation across England. The department has produced a range of tools and resources to help users explore IoD2019 data. These are available on the series mapping page here -

a) the **IoD2019 explorer** - http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html# - shows the relative deprivation of neighbourhoods for selected areas according to the IoD2019 and IoD2015, by searching a place name or postcode. The explorer includes **a dashboard** which provides a brief summary of how relatively deprived

the area selected is in each iteration. Data can be downloaded directly using this tool.

Although the data are not produced for wards, the map also shows ward and local authority boundaries, so users can see the deprivation ranks of the neighbourhoods within these areas. Local authority level data from the IoD2015 has been reaggregated here to match the 2019 local authority boundaries (this has been made available online as **File 14**).

This explorer also lists all neighbourhoods within a given local authority, gives their deprivation ranks, and allows you to select these neighbourhoods.

b) The **IoD2019 Local Authority Dashboard** – can be accessed via our Mapping Resources page here - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources – allows users to explore the range of summary measures across the IoD2019 at local authority level and the LSOAs within each district. The maps displayed illustrate the location of the local authority within England, the LSOA within the selected local authority and which decile each is in for the IMD2019.

c) A Geopackage, shapefiles, mapping templates and further **mapping resources** are available online here - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources

d) MHCLG in collaboration with Alasdair Rae (University of Sheffield) have created a suite of **Local Authority maps** covering all 317 districts in England. These are available online here - https://imd2019.group.shef.ac.uk/#. Each map uses the IMD2019 to illustrate deprivation at LSOA level within each area. Each map also displays the number of LSOAs each area has in each decile of deprivation.

e) Data and mapping resources are also available on the department's **Open Data Communities** platform - https://opendatacommunities.org/def/concept/folders/themes/societal-wellbeing- for users wishing to access deprivation data for a list of **postcodes** - these are also described in Question 10. We encourage others to develop tools, visualisations and apps from the linked data available from this platform.

6. Where can I access previous versions of the Indices of Deprivation?

Previous versions of the Indices of Deprivation (2000, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2015) are available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation

Data from the 1998 iteration is available online here - https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120920023523/http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/regeneration/index

In addition, for the IoD2010 and IoD2015, local authority district summaries were published on the Open Data Communities Local Authority dashboard. These were compiled using the average rank summary measure, the most common summary measure used to analyse deprivation at this scale. To obtain this data for a selected local authority district, click on the 'deprivation' tab once you have entered a postcode or selected an LA at: http://apps.opendatacommunities.org/showcase/dashboard

The full suite of resources for the IoD2015 are still available online here - https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015

Using the neighbourhood level data

7. How can I look up deprivation data for my area, and does it fall among the 20% most deprived areas in England?

The IoD2019 measures deprivation in small areas across England. These small areas are called Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and are a standard statistical geography commonly used to divide up the country into even areas, each with a similar total population (see Question 11 for more information on LSOAs). For ease of communication, LSOAs are sometimes referred to as small areas or 'neighbourhoods'.

It is common to describe how relatively deprived a neighbourhood is by saying whether it falls among the most deprived 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 30 per cent of small areas in England (although there is no definitive cut-off at which an area is described as 'deprived').

To help with this, deprivation 'deciles' are published alongside ranks. Deciles are calculated by ranking the 32,844 small areas in England, from most deprived to least deprived, and dividing them into 10 equal groups. These range from the most deprived 10 per cent of small areas nationally to the least deprived 10 per cent of small areas nationally.

It is possible to use the data in the published spreadsheets, but many users who want to know about specific places will find it easier to use our interactive mapping tools to look up the relative level of deprivation in their area.

The **IoD2019 Explorer** allows users to search by postcode or local authority area and view the relative deprivation of neighbourhoods according to both the IoD2019 and IoD2015 - **IoD2019 Explorer** - http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html# (see Question 5):

You can enter a postcode or place name to see on a map the neighbourhood that the postcode or place lies in, and its deprivation rank. You can use this information to describe the relative level of deprivation in an area. For example:

Neighbourhood X is ranked 5,000 out of 32,844 neighbourhoods in England, where 1 is the most deprived.

It is common to describe how relatively deprived a neighbourhood is by saying whether it falls among the most deprived 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 30 per cent of small areas in England. To help with this, deprivation 'deciles' (defined in Question 9) allow you to describe an area as, for example, *being amongst the 20 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods in the country.*

If you are not using the explorer and its dashboard, you can also calculate this yourself as follows (with the same example of a neighbourhood ranked 5,000).

> 5,000/32,844 = 0.15 or 15% most deprived in England

Hence this area lies within the 20% most deprived areas in England. The same methodology can be used to calculate whether an area is within the 1%, 10%, 25% most deprived in England, and so on.

Although the data are not produced for wards, the **IoD2019 Explorer** shows ward and local authority boundaries, so users can see the deprivation ranks of the neighbourhoods within these areas: http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html#

If you would prefer to look up deprivation using the published data files, these are available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

8. How can I get deprivation data for neighbourhoods within a local authority?

File 1 contains IMD2019 ranks and deciles (defined in Question 9) for all neighbourhoods in England and is sufficient for the purposes of most users. The LSOAs are ordered by LSOA name e.g. Bromley 040D, so all LSOAs in a local authority district are adjacent to each other. To select only one local authority district to view, click on the column containing district names, and apply a filter (go to Data and Filter if working in Excel) and then select your district from the list.

The **IoD2019 explorer** can help users work out where LSOAs are located within each local authority - http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html#

For example, for Tendring local authority district, enter 'Tendring' in the 'Local authority' search box and pick Tendring from the drop-down menu. You will then see, at the bottom of the dashboard, a list in the box of all the neighbourhoods in Tendring in rank order according to the IoD2019 and IoD2015 i.e. most deprived first. The first one listed will be the most deprived i.e. Tendring 018a. You can click on this to see it highlighted on the map.

We also publish summary measures for local authority districts – see Question 13 and 14 for more detail. These allow you to see how a district as a whole ranks against all other districts in England on a range of measures, where 1 is the most deprived district and 317 is the least deprived.

Data can be downloaded for a bulk of postcodes and explored within a local authority area using our **Open Data Communities** platform – http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/

9. How can I present the data? What are ranks and deciles?

The IoD2019 ranks every neighbourhood in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). There is not a definitive way to present the data. It is common to describe how relatively deprived a neighbourhood is by saying whether it falls among the most deprived 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 30 per cent of small areas in England (although there is no definitive cut-off above which an area is described as 'deprived').

To help with this, deprivation 'deciles' are published alongside ranks. Deciles are calculated by ranking the 32,844 neighbourhoods in England from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into 10 equal groups. These range from the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods nationally to the least deprived 10% of neighbourhoods nationally, as shown in the table below:

Decile	Decile description	Ranks
1	10% most deprived	1 to 3,284
2	10% to 20%	3,285 to 6,568
3	20% to 30%	6,569 to 9,853
4	30% to 40%	9,854 to 13,137
5	40% to 50%	13,138 to 16,422
6	50% to 60%	16,423 to 19,706
7	60% to 70%	19,707 to 22,990

8	70% to 80%	22,991 to 26,275
9	80% to 90%	26,276 to 29,559
10	10% least deprived	29,560 to 32,844

Users can apply different cut points to the ranks to identify, for example, the 1% or 5% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally:

Neighbourhoods falling in the 1% most deprived nationally would be those ranked 1-328. The calculation is 32,844/100, because there are 32,844 small areas that need to be split into percentiles (100 equal groups).

Neighbourhoods falling in the 5% most deprived nationally would be those ranked 1-1,642. The calculation is 32,844/20, because there are 32,844 small areas that need to be split into groups containing 5% of neighbourhoods (this is 20 equal groups, since 100/5=20).

10. How can I get deprivation data for a bulk of neighbourhoods or postcodes?

If you have a list of postcodes that you would like deprivation data for, you can use this tool: http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org. You can upload a list of up to 10,000 postcodes. The output file lists the postcodes entered, the LSOA that each postcode falls within, and the deprivation data for that LSOA.

The deprivation data consists of: deciles, ranks and, where appropriate, scores, for the full IoD2019 including the IMD2019, the seven domain indices and the IDACI and IDAOPI. Most users will only need to use the IMD2019 decile and/or rank column.

If you would like to download a list of postcodes and deprivation data for all neighbourhoods within a specific local authority district or county, you can use this tool: http://imd-by-geo.opendatacommunities.org and select a local authority or county. The output file lists all the postcodes within the selected area, the LSOA that each postcode falls within, and the deprivation data for those LSOAs.

The following deprivation data are available for selection: deciles, ranks and, where appropriate, scores, for the IMD2019, the seven domain indices and the supplementary IDACI and IDAOPI.

For these the Income Deprivation Domain and its supplementary IDACI and IDAOPI, and the Employment Deprivation Domain indices, the scores are meaningful and relate to a proportion of the relevant population experiencing that type of deprivation. This is explained further in Question 21. The scores for the remaining five domains are less easy to interpret, as they do not relate straightforwardly to the proportion of

the population experiencing deprivation. It is recommended that ranks and deciles, but not scores, are used for these domains.

If you would like to see a list of all postcodes in England, the neighbourhoods they lie in and the deprivation data for those neighbourhoods, then you will need to create your own file:

- The Office for National Statistics regularly publish the National Statistics Postcode Lookup on the Open Geography Portal https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/ that show which postcodes fall within each LSOA in England.
- The department publishes deprivation data at LSOA level here: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019 **File 1** contains the IMD2019 ranks and deciles for all small areas in England and is sufficient for the purposes of most users.
- You can join the two files using the LSOA column.
- Please be warned that this will create a very large file; it is therefore recommended that the two specially designed tools described above are used where possible.

11. What is a Lower-layer Super Output Area/neighbourhood/ small area?

Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a standard statistical geography designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 LSOAs in England. They were produced by the Office for National Statistics for the reporting of small area statistics and are a standard way of evenly dividing up the country by population. For ease of communication, LSOAs are sometimes referred to as 'neighbourhoods' or small areas in IoD2019 documentation.

LSOAs do not have descriptive place names (in the way that local wards do) but they are named in a format beginning with the name of the local authority district followed by a 4-character code e.g. City of London 001A.

You can find out more about LSOAs on the Office for National Statistics website: https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/ukgeographies/censusgeography#output-area-oa

Indices for higher or other geographies

12.   What deprivation data is published for different geographies?

Summary measures have been published as part of the IoD2019 suite of resources for the following higher-level geographies:

- **Local Authority District** Summaries (**File 10**)
- **Upper-tier Local Authority** Summaries (**File 11**)
- **Local Enterprise Partnership** Summaries (**File 12**)
- **Clinical Commissioning Group** Summaries (**File 13**)
- **IoD2015 Data Recast to 2019 Local Authority District Boundaries (lower-tier)** (**File 14**)

Files 10 - 13 include a range of summary measures of the IMD2019, the domains and the two supplementary indices, the IDACI and the IDAOPI.

You can find out what measures are available and how they were calculated in section 3.8 of the **Technical Report**, with worked examples in Appendix N. Advice on how to interpret these measures is provided in section 3.3 of the **Research Report**, with an example of how the set of measures compares for two areas.

It is important to remember that the higher-area measures are *summaries*. The Indices of Deprivation are designed primarily to be *small-area* or neighbourhood measures of relative deprivation; LSOA level data provides more detail than is available through the summaries.

In response to demand from users, we have produced some guidance on **how to aggregate the neighbourhood level data to different geographies** – please see Appendix A to the **Research Report**.

The data files and reports are available from:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

13.   Which of the summary measures for higher level geographies e.g. local authorities should I use?

The summary measures have been carefully designed to help users understand deprivation patterns for a set of higher-level areas. The measures identify the overall intensity of deprivation, how deprivation is distributed across the larger area, and the overall volume, or 'scale', of deprivation. These measures are described in section 3.8 of the **Technical Report**, with worked examples in Appendix N. Advice on their interpretation is provided in section 3.3 of the **Research Report**, with an example of how the set of measures compares for two areas.

Because patterns of deprivation across larger areas can be complex, there is no single summary measure that is the 'best' measure. Rather, each of the summary measures that are published highlight different aspects of deprivation, and each leads to a different ranking of areas. Comparison of the different measures is needed to give a fuller description of deprivation for larger areas. However, as each summary measure is focused on measuring deprivation in a different way, users should take care and avoid comparing relative rankings according to one measure to relative rankings on a different measure across releases. Further detailed description of each summary measure are provided in section 3.8 of the **Technical Report**.

The Statistical Release focuses mainly on the summary statistic relating to the proportion of neighbourhoods in each local authority that are among the 10 per cent most deprived nationally, but also defines and explains the ranks and scores summary measures. There is some analysis using the wider range of summary measures presented in sections 4.4 and 5.3, of the **Research Report** (Appendix C presents these statistics for Local Enterprise Partnerships and Clinical Commissioning Groups).

These reports are available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

It is important to remember that the higher-area measures are *summaries*. The Indices of Deprivation are designed primarily to be *small-area* or neighbourhood measures of relative deprivation; the Lower-layer Super Output Area level data provides more detail than is available through the summaries.

14.   Why don't you publish data for wards?
The department does not publish ward level figures as an additional output. Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a more suitable small area geography than wards for measuring relative deprivation. Wards are much larger than LSOAs, vary greatly in size and are prone to regular boundary changes, making them unsuitable as a unit of analysis or for identifying pockets of deprivation. In contrast LSOAs are smaller, of roughly even population size and, in the majority of instances, their boundaries are stable between Censuses.

The department's view is that it would be unhelpful to have two small area measures of deprivation released in parallel, as this would lead to confusion and could be potentially misleading.

You can look at how deprivation levels vary between neighbourhoods within wards using mapping tools, as described in Question 16.

For further advice on different geographies, please see Question 13.

15.   How can I create my own Indices for different geographies?

In response to demand from users, we have produced some guidance on **how to aggregate the neighbourhood level data to different geographies** – please see Appendix A to the Research Report, available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

The table below gives the population denominator that should be used for each domain and sub-domain when aggregating neighbourhood level data to different geographies. Population denominators for use with the IoD2019 have been published in **File 6** on the Indices webpage (see link above). The **Technical Report** provides more information on data sources (Appendix A) and denominators (Appendix B).

Domain	Population Denominator
IMD	total population
Income	total population
Employment	working age
Education, Skills & Training	total population
Health	total population
Crime	total population
Housing	total population
living Environment	total population
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDOACI)	dependent children
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDOPCI)	older population
Children & Young People Sub-domain	total population
Adult Skills Sub-domain	total population
Geographical barriers sub-domain	total population
Wider barriers sub-domain	total population
Indoor barriers sub-domain	total population
Outdoor barriers sub-domain	total population

16.   How can I find out how LSOAs relate to other geographies e.g. wards? Where can I access look-up files?

For an individual area, you can use the **IoD2019 Explorer** mapping tool described in Question 5. This will return local authority and ward information relating to the LSOA selected - http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html#

For a bulk of areas, you will need to obtain a look-up file. Look-up tables for different geographies are produced by the Office for National Statistics. These are either published on their Open Geography Portal - http://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/ - or are available from the ONS on request.

17.   Is there a UK wide index of multiple deprivation?

There is not a UK wide Index of Multiple Deprivation. Each country in the UK produces its own version of the Index of Multiple Deprivation using similar methodologies. However differences in the indicators used, the time periods covered and the sizes of their small areas mean that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between these indices.

The Office for National Statistics provides some guidance on how to make some comparisons across the four countries' indices:
https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141119170512/http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm

Wales – https://gweddill.gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation/?lang=en

Scotland – https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD

Northern Ireland - https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation

Interpreting the data

18.   What can the Indices be used for?

The **infographic** illustrates how the Index of Multiple Deprivation is comprised and some do's and don'ts concerning its use.

- **Comparing small areas across England**
  The IMD2019 uses the same data sources and combines them in the same way for every small area in England. This means you can directly compare the ranks of different small areas in England. If a small area's rank is closer to 1 than that of another area, it is more deprived.
- **Identifying the most deprived small areas**
  You can identify which small areas are amongst the most deprived in England using the published deciles, for example, to show which areas are amongst the 10 per cent or 20 per cent most deprived small areas nationally. You can also apply different cut-off points to the ranks to identify, for example, the 1 per cent or 5 per cent most deprived small areas nationally.
- **Exploring the domains (or types) of deprivation**
  You can look at the index for each of the seven domains to explore which types of deprivation, e.g. income or health, are more prominent within areas or to focus on particular types of deprivation and explore how areas rank across each.

- **Comparing larger areas** e.g. local authorities
  A range of summary measures highlighting different aspects of deprivation are provided for larger areas, including local authority districts. Because patterns of deprivation across larger areas can be complex, there is no single summary measure that is the 'best' measure. Comparison of the different measures is needed to give a fuller description of deprivation for larger areas.

You can find out more in section 3.3 of the **Research Report**.

19. What <u>can't</u> the Indices be used for?

The **infographic** illustrates how the Index of Multiple Deprivation is comprised and some do's and don'ts concerning its use.

- **Quantifying how deprived a small area is**
  The IMD2019 is a relative measure of deprivation. This means it can tell you if one area is more deprived than another but not by how much. For example, a small area with a rank of 1,000 is not half as deprived as a place with a rank of 500.
- **Identifying deprived people**
  The IMD2019 measures relative deprivation in an area and is suitable for use where deprivation is concentrated in small areas. Within every area there will be individuals who are deprived and individuals who are not. The Index is not a suitable tool for targeting individuals.
- **Saying how affluent a place is**
  The IMD2019 is designed to identify aspects of deprivation, not affluence. For example, the Income Deprivation domain is concerned with people on low incomes who are in receipt of benefits and tax credits. An area with a relatively small proportion of people (or indeed no people) on low incomes may also have relatively few or no people on *high* incomes. Such an area may be ranked among the least deprived in the country, but it is not necessarily among the most affluent.
- **Comparing with small areas in other UK countries**
  Each country in the UK produces its own version of the Index of Multiple Deprivation using similar methodologies. However, differences in the indicators used, the time periods covered, and the sizes of their small areas mean that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between these indices.

  The Office for National Statistics provides some guidance on how to make some comparisons across the four countries' indices: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141119170512/http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm

- **Measuring real change in deprivation over time**
  As explained above, one can compare the rankings as determined at the relevant time point by each version of the Indices of Deprivation. But the Indices are not designed to provide 'backwards' comparability with previous iterations. Changes between versions of the Indices can limit the ability to make comparisons over time are described in Section 3.4 of the **Research Report**.

20.   What do people use the Index of Multiple Deprivation for?

National and local organisations use the IoD, often in conjunction with other data, to distribute funding or target resources to areas. It is widely used across central government to focus programmes on the most deprived areas. Locally, it is often used as evidence in the development of strategies, to target interventions, and in bids for funding. The voluntary and community sector also uses the Index, for example, to identify areas where people may benefit from the services they provide.

21.   What other Indices are available?

The IMD is part of the IoD and it is the most widely used of these indices. It combines information from seven domain indices (which measure different types or dimensions of deprivation) to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. You can use the domain indices on their own to focus on specific aspects of deprivation. There are also supplementary indices concerned with income deprivation among children (IDACI) and older people (IDAOPI). See Questions 1 and 2 for more detail.

The IMD is designed primarily to be a *small-area* measure of deprivation. But the Indices are commonly used to describe deprivation for higher-level geographies including local authority districts. A range of summary measures is available allowing you to see where, for example, a local authority district is ranked between 1 (the most deprived district in England) and 317 (the least deprived district in England). Summary measures are also available for upper tier local authorities, local enterprise partnerships and clinical commissioning groups. See Question 12.

22.   Can I use the Indices to compare over time?

When exploring changes in deprivation between the IoD2019 and previous versions of the indices, users should be aware that changes can only be described in relative terms, for example, the extent to which an area has changed rank or decile of deprivation. They cannot be used to identify real change in deprivation over time.

For example, an area can be said to have become more deprived relative to other areas if it was within the most deprived 20 per cent of areas nationally according to the IMD2015 but within the most deprived 10 per cent according to the IMD2019. However, it would not necessarily be correct to state that the level of deprivation in the area has increased on some absolute scale, as it may be the case that all areas

had improved, but that this area had improved more slowly than other areas and so had been 'overtaken' by those areas.

All of the Indices of Deprivation measure relative deprivation at small area level as accurately as possible, but they are not designed to provide 'backwards' comparability with previous iterations (2015, 2010, 2007, 2004 and 2000). However, because there is a broadly consistent methodology between the IoD2019 and previous versions, you can compare the rankings as determined at the relevant time point by each of the versions, as if comparing snapshots in time.

Changes between versions of the Indices which limit the ability to make comparisons over time are described in Section 3.4 of the **Research Report**.

23. What do the deprivation scores mean and what can they be used for?

The ranks and deciles published for the neighbourhood-level IoD2019 outputs are based on scores: the larger the score, the more deprived the area. The ranks are based on unrounded scores and so give more precision than if users were to rank areas using the published scores (which are rounded).

In the case of the Income and Employment deprivation domains and the supplementary children (IDACI) and older people (IDAOPI) indices, the scores are meaningful and relate to a proportion of the relevant population experiencing that type of deprivation. So, for example, if a Lower-layer Super Output Area has a score of 0.38 in the Income Deprivation Domain, this means that 38 per cent of the population is income deprived in that area. This means that in addition to the ranks which show relative deprivation, the scores for these domains can be used to compare areas on an absolute scale.

The scores for the Index of Multiple Deprivation and the remaining five domains are less easy to interpret, as they do not relate straightforwardly to the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation. It is recommended that ranks and deciles, but not scores, are used in the case of the Index of Multiple Deprivation and these domains.

More detail on summary measures is provided in Chapter 3.3 of the **Research Report** and 3.8 of the **Technical Report**.

24. Why are scores published separately from ranks and deciles?

Scores are published separately (see **File 5**) to ranks and deciles (**Files 1 - 4**). This is because for most of the Indices, including the IMD, the scores are not easily interpretable - this is explained further in Question 23 above. Further, the ranks are based on unrounded scores and so give more precision than if users were to rank areas using the published scores (which are rounded).

A CSV file which contains all the data from **Files 1-6** is available in **File 7** – this includes all ranks, deciles and scores for the IoD2019.

All of the data files and supporting documents are available from:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

25.   Where can I find out more about how the Indices are constructed?

The IoD2019 has been constructed for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) and Deprivation.org

A summary of the methodology and data sources used in the IoD2019 is available in Chapter 2 of the **Research Report**. Chapter 3 of the **Technical Report** describes the methodology in detail. Chapter 4 of **Technical Report** describes the component indicators in the IoD2019 including the data sources used and explains how the indicators were combined to create each domain. Chapter 5 of the **Technical Report** describes the design principles and quality assurance carried out to ensure reliability of the data outputs.

You can find these reports online here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

26.   How are the Indices of Deprivation 2019 different to the Indices of Deprivation 2015?

The IoD2019 has been produced using the same approach, structure and methodology used to create the previous Indices of Deprivation 2015 (and the 2010, 2007 and 2004 versions).

A number of changes and modifications to some indicators have been implemented since the Indices of Deprivation 2015. Briefly, these include:

- The inclusion of adults and children in Universal Credit families where no adult is in 'Working - no requirements' conditionality regime as part of the Income Deprivation domain
- The inclusion of claimants of Universal Credit in the 'Searching for work' and 'No work requirements' conditionality groups as part of the Employment Deprivation domain
- Changes to data and definitions of the Key Stage 2 attainment indicator, which forms part of the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation domain
- Data on claimants of Universal Credit (in the 'No work requirements' or the 'Preparing for work' conditionality categories) and Personal Independence Payments have been incorporated into the comparative illness and disability

ratio indicator, which forms part of the Health Deprivation and Disability domain

- The health benefits component of the mood and anxiety disorders indicator, which feeds into the Health Deprivation and Disability domain, has been dropped
- Changes to data and definitions around the Crime Domain indicators
- Modifications to the housing affordability and homelessness indicators, which feed in to the Barriers to Housing and Services domain

You can see a full description of changes since the Indices of Deprivation 2015 in Appendix C of the **Technical Report**, available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

Other specialist questions

27. How can I create my own bespoke deprivation index using different domain weights to the IMD?
See Appendix B to the **Research Report**, available from for further detail.

28. How can I get a shapefile of LSOA boundaries to map the data?
A Geopackage, shapefiles, mapping templates and further **mapping resources** are available online here - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources

The Indices are published at LSOA level with unique LSOA identifiers (E codes). LSOA geographical boundaries (with unique identifiers) can also be obtained via the Office for National Statistics' Open Geography Portal: https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page, both at their full extents and in more generalised forms (i.e. less detail for quicker rendering). Users can also join the Indices data to LSOA boundaries (using unique LSOA identifiers) using a suitable GIS software or web application.

29. Other Specialist Needs
The majority of users will find the IMD2019 and data being made available as part of the IoD2019 update sufficient for their purposes. Advice is provided on how to re-use the data to compile summaries for other higher-level areas than are published here, or to compile a composite measure of relative deprivation using different weights to the IMD2019, in Appendix A and Appendix B of the **Research Report**.

Getting and keeping in touch

30.   How do I register for email alerts about the Indices?

To register for e-mails alerts about the Indices, please e-mail
indices.deprivation@communities.gov.uk with 'subscribe' in the subject heading.

31.   How do I get in touch if I have a query about the Indices?

Please email indices.deprivation@communities.gov.uk

Queries will receive an automatic acknowledgement stating that the query has been received. This will also include some useful links and resources which may help answer your query. We will endeavour to respond to queries within 20 working days and aim to respond more quickly where possible. If the answer to your query is contained within the automatic acknowledgement you may not receive a direct response.

32.   When will the next Indices of Deprivation be published?

The Indices of Deprivation are typically updated every 3 to 4 years, but the dates of publication for future Indices have not yet been scheduled.

Users will be kept informed of future updates and how they can contribute their views. This information will be posted on the Indices of Deprivation webpage: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation   and in email alerts to registered users.

To   register   for   e-mails   alerts   about   the   Indices,   please   e-mail indices.deprivation@communities.gov.uk with 'subscribe' in the subject heading.