

## **How to link tables held in the Central Postcode Directory**

An example is the linking of the Electoral Ward 1992 table to the Postcode table to get a link or lookup between Postcode and Electoral Office District Electoral Areas (DEA).

### **Within Microsoft Access**

To browse the records:

Open the WARD1992 table. Identify the Wards that you are looking for and click on the plus sign (+) button on the left-hand side of the table. The postcodes within that Ward and DEA will be listed.

To query the records:

Create a new query in the design view window. Add in the POSTCODES and WARD1992 tables. Select all the fields that you require (for example pc1 from the POSTCODES table and DEA and DEANAME from the WARD1992 table). Add in any ordering required and then save and run the query.

### **Using SPSS**

Read in the text data file WARD1992.txt. Tick that variable names are included at the top of the file. When asked for delimiters – enter \$ into other. Ensure all variables types are entered correctly. Sort by WARD1992 and save the file. Repeat the procedure for the POSTCODES table. Using the Data Menu click Merge files and add variables. Identify the WARD1992 file (which you previously saved). Click 'Match cases on key variables in sorted files' and 'external file is keyed table'. Move variable Ward1992 into the key variables box. Select which variables are required in the new file (for example pc1, DEA and DEANAME). Click ok. Save new file.

## **How to link data from the NISRA Data Portal to the Central Postcode Directory**

Example 1: Assume that you want to link the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM17) indicator data to the Super Output Area table from the Central Postcode Directory.

Go to the [NISRA Data Portal](#) and enter 'Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017' in the top search box. This returns associated data for various geographies including Super Output Area. From the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure Domain Ranks for Super

Output Area, filter the statistic(s) of interest. Download data and save to your local hard drive. Read the data from the download file into Access or SPSS linking to the CPD as described above and create the derived table as required.

Example 2: Assume that you want to link the 2020 District Electoral Area Income Support claimant counts to the District Electoral Area table on the CPD.

Go to the [NISRA Data Portal](#) and enter 'Income Support' in the top search box. This returns Benefit Statistics for various geographies including District Electoral Area. The Income Support claimant counts can be filtered for the year of interest. Download data and save to your local hard drive. Read the data from the download file into Access or SPSS linking to the CPD as described above and create the derived table as required.

## **NISRA Geography**

**March 2024**