Postcode Look-ups
Matching up D(A)ATs and Local Authorities with postcodes

Quick Reference…

The Public Health England NDTMS postcode look-up up widget is
designed to help drug misuse treatment providers to locate the correct
Drug (and Alcohol) Action Team (D(A)AT) and Local Authority from their
service user’s postcode.

The lookup tables are derived from the postcode mapping provided by
the Office of National Statistics. We update the widget from these
sources quarterly.

What does the widget do?

When you enter a postcode, postal sector or postal district (see left) the
widget will provide you with a list of possible combinations of DAAT and
LA for that postcode fragment. Each line of the result is a consistent
combination. You can’t pick a DAAT from the first row and an LA from
another row, for example.

The more of a postcode you give, the more accurate the result. If you
give a full postcode you will virtually always get a single result. In all
cases the widget will give you an approximate percentage probability for
each row. This is calculated from the percentage of full postcodes which
fall into each combination.

Note that it is the user's responsibility to work out which DAAT/LA
combination to use.

Why are the DAAT/LA greyed out?

The widget covers all 25.4 million postcodes in the UK. However,
Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Isles
have different organisational structures for drug treatment and the health
service. DAATs only formally exist in England. Consequently, we are only
able to give results for English postcodes, and an approximation of
Scottish ones.

What does “non-geographical” mean?

The Post Office normally provides an Ordnance Survey map reference
for the approximate geographical centre of each postcode. This is then
used to place the postcode approximately within the organisation
boundary of, say, a Local Authority.

A very small number of postcodes, though, are “virtual” -- usually relating
to a large organisation, for example. Where this is the case the postcode
can’t be located within any organisational boundary. In this case the
postcode is registered as “non-geographical”.

Postcode fragments

A postal “district” is the first
half of the postcode, eg
“NG25”, “B1”, “WC1A”.

A postal “sector” is the first
half of the postcode (ie, the
“district”) plus the first
character of the second half
(which is always a number),
eg “M1 3”, “LE17 4”.

NDTMS normally asks you
to provide a postal sector for
each client, but some
Regions have reached
agreement that the whole
postcode be provided.
What does “no longer in use” mean?
Postcodes are the way that the Post Office organises its deliveries. When these are changed they may take a block of postcodes out of use and reallocate them.

Is the widget confidential?
Yes. We don’t record anything that you enter into the widget so you can be confident that entering a full postcode, for example, doesn’t mean that it will be stored anywhere by us. The only thing we record is the number of times that the widget is used.

If you wish to be even more secure make certain that you accessed the widget using a secure connection. The address should begin with “https://” rather than “http://” and your browser will show a padlock symbol which you can click to view the secure connection certificate. The secure address is:

https://ndtms.org.uk/postcode_widget.cgi

How accurate is the widget?
We take every effort to make sure the widget is kept up to date but we cannot guarantee that any particular result is correct.