

## Using SIMD – your stories

We heard in the workshops that SIMD is a vital tool. We're now compiling 'case studies' of where SIMD has been particularly well used to shed light and gain insight. If you have a story you'd like to share, [email us here](#).

## Preparing for education

The team have met with SG analysts working on the Education domain. The priority was to understand the issues surrounding current indicators and explore whether new indicators need to be included in SIMD.

We are also testing the various suggestions that were made at the workshops for improving and supplementing the Education indicators. We hope to report back next month the findings from this work.

## SIMD Review - Stage 2

The rationale for reviewing SIMD comes from changes such as Welfare Reform through to the new exam system and the creation of Police Scotland.

We are hoping to create an academic grouping of specialists in the fields of poverty, statistics and geography to help guide our work in producing the next SIMD in 2015.

If you would like to get involved in a specialist advisory role (or nominate someone) then please get in touch with the SIMD team.

[Click here to send us an email](#)

## Open Data Scotland

Data behind SIMD is now even more widely open and available. See the pilot website, built by Swirrl, where you'll find tutorials and other resources to help you get started.

[OpenDataScotland.org](http://OpenDataScotland.org)

## What we are reading

Colin Fischbacher at ISD Scotland has published an interesting paper called 'Identifying "deprived individuals": are there better alternatives to the SIMD...'

[Click here to follow the link](#)

## Forthcoming events that we will be attending

The Gathering	19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	SECC, Glasgow
4 Nations IMD Meeting	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	London

In December and January we enjoyed meeting many of you who have a keen interest in the SIMD at our workshops. It reinforced for us the high regard people have for SIMD.

Having been an SIMD user and data provider myself, it is an enormous privilege to be taking it forward into 2015.

The first steps we are taking are to explore all the suggestions made for new indicators and we are looking for suitable data that will answer the problems picked up at the workshops.

Also, in our discussions we heard some concerns that SIMD is not always being most appropriately used. We will address this as a priority and we plan to publish guidance that will help analysts and policy makers make best use of SIMD.

Please keep in touch with us and feel free to comment on the work we are doing.

*Alastair McAlpine  
Head of Local Outcomes*