

APPENDIX:  
EXPLANATORY NOTES:  
DATA & GEOGRAPHY



## Data themes

- All the data in this report has been grouped and presented on a thematic basis.
- The themes have been chosen to provide the best overview of the available data, and the most comprehensive overview of borough life.
- The data themes are as follows: population; local economy; housing; social conditions and crime; education; health and social care; environment and leisure; and transport.
- Pages within themes have been colour-coded for ease of reference.

## Level of data provision/page layout

- Each data indicator has been provided at the most detailed level available. In most cases this means that data has been broken down by ward, although for some data it has been appropriate to provide detail at Super Output Area (SOA) level [see geography and education data notes below for more specific detail].
- In order to place data about the borough in context, comparative data at a local, regional and national level has also been presented where it is available.
- Pages within the document have been laid out on a consistent basis to increase accessibility and promote ease of reference.
- Where data is available at ward or SOA level, a graph ranking the data on a ward-by-ward basis has been provided.
- Where appropriate, ward level or SOA level data has also been provided on a shaded map of the borough to show the level of variation in the data across the borough as a whole.
- Maps are shaded on the basis of no more than five bands of information as appropriate.
- Where data is available solely at borough level, it has been presented in the most suitable format for visual reference.
- Text is used to highlight key information only and has been kept to a minimum throughout.

## Education data

- Hammersmith & Fulham Local Education Authority (LEA) is responsible for all state schools situated within the borough boundary.
- Not all school age children resident in the borough will be educated at borough schools, and conversely some children resident outside the borough will attend schools in the borough.
- Due to the differences between 'borough resident children' and 'borough school pupils', the education data has been provided, where appropriate, on a school by school basis at primary and secondary level.
- This allows an overview of how educational establishments within Hammersmith & Fulham LEA, and the pupils educated therein, are performing.
- Contextual comparative data has also been provided where available.

## Sourcing information

- All data sources used in the report have been quoted alongside the actual data.
- Where assumptions have been drawn, proxies have been used, or data has been extrapolated, this has been clearly noted on the relevant page.

## Geography

- As noted above, where appropriate, data in this report has been provided at the most detailed level possible.
- In most instances, this means that data is broken down at electoral ward level. Electoral wards are the geographical administrative units used to elect local councillors and form a key part of the political geography of the borough. It should be noted that the population count of wards varies both between and within local authorities. Ward boundaries are also subject to change, and sometimes complete reclassification, by the Boundary Commission.
- In some cases it has been possible to break the data down into a more detailed level of provision, namely, Super Output Areas (SOAs).
- SOAs as a level of data provision were introduced by the Office for National Statistics to improve the quality and comparability of small area statistics in England and Wales. SOAs are groupings of Output Areas (OAs) used in the Census. There are 111 SOAs in Hammersmith & Fulham as compared to 16 electoral wards.
- SOAs have two main advantages over electoral wards when supplying data. Firstly, SOAs are fixed in size (dependent on the level of population residing therein) and secondly, SOA boundaries will not change over time. This promotes comparability of data both geographically (throughout England and Wales) and over time.
- SOAs are being used for the national collection of neighbourhood statistics on three levels:
  - Upper layer SOA:  
size still to be determined
  - Middle layer SOA:  
mean population 7,200
  - Lower layer SOA:  
mean population 1,500
- Where SOA level data has been provided in the report it is at the lower layer SOA level unless otherwise stated.

*Note: for more information on data geography see [www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp)*

## Further information

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