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IMD2019: ISLINGTON NOW 53RD MOST DEPRIVED IN ENGLAND

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The newly released 'English Indices of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD) for 2019 has shown a considerable fall in Islington's ranking, continuing from the fall seen in the 2015 IMD ranking. This brief report looks in detail at what has driven the change in ranking.

- Islington has moved from the 24th most deprived local authority in England in 2015 to 53rd most deprived in 2019 (out of 317 local authorities). Islington is now the 6th most deprived local authority in London (it was 5th in 2015).
- This is based on the rank of average score method, one of five variants published.
- Three quarters of LSOAs have better rankings than in 2015 for the income and employment domains, the main components of the Index
- The living environments, crime, and health and disability domains have smaller weights in the Index but most have better rankings than in 2015 (95%, 89%, 84%).
- The barriers to housing and services, and education, skills and training domains have shown smaller relative improvements.
- Islington has England's tenth highest level of income deprivation affecting children, and fourth highest in England for income deprivation affecting older people.
- However, it should be noted that the IMD can only be used to identify deprivation relative to other areas; not whether an area is more or less deprived than in 2015.
- The majority of data used to update the IMD are from between 2014 and 2016, so any more recent changes in deprivation will not be represented here.

Background to the IMD

The English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are an official measure of deprivation in England. Thirty-nine indicators are used to build a measure of the level of deprivation experienced by residents in small areas, called LSOAs. These scores are then ranked from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area), so that neighbourhoods and local authorities can be ranked against other areas of the country.

The indicators are grouped across seven domains: income, employment, education, skills and training, health deprivation and disability, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. These indicators are measured through a range of data sources, including the Office for National Statistics, central government departments, and from the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

The MHCLG's main report, guidance note, and the background data are available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019.

What are LSOAs?
A Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) is a small geographic area, used for reporting small area statistics in England and Wales. Postcodes are grouped together based on similar socio-demographic characteristics, and contain about 1500 residents on average.
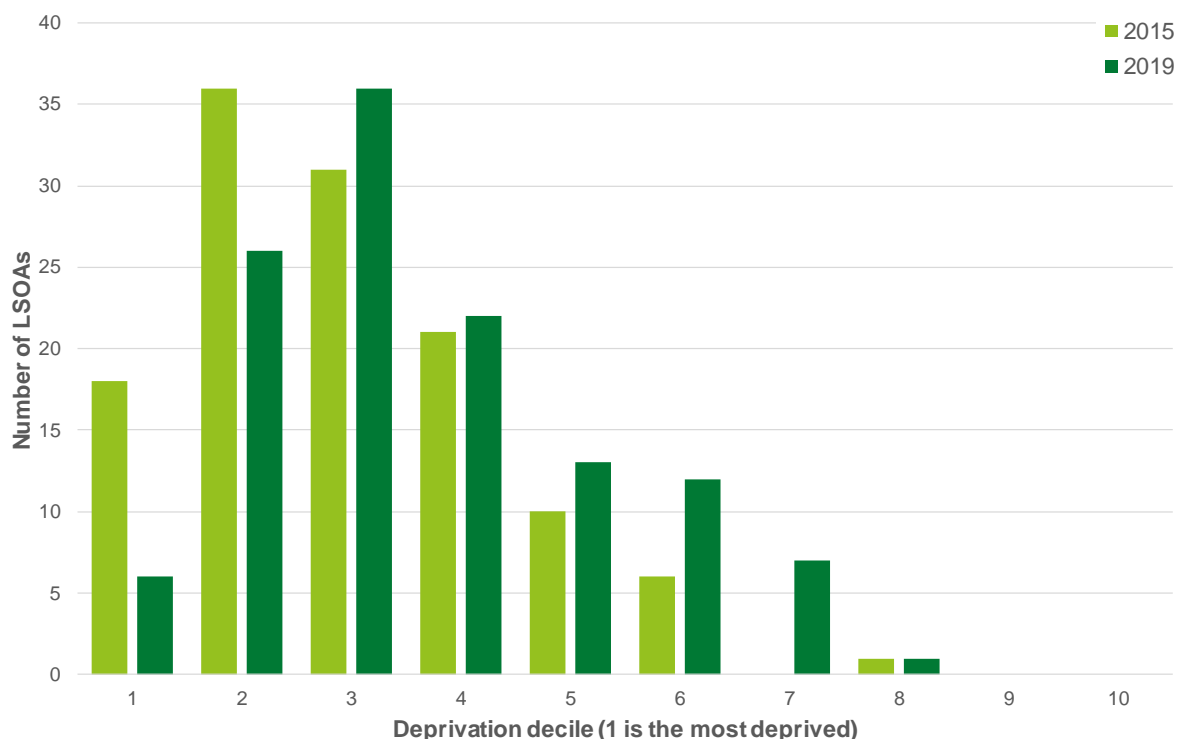

Quintiles and deciles
To allow easier comparisons, areas are grouped in to 10 equal groups, called deciles, to allow us to look at the most deprived 10%, least deprived 10%, and so on. At local levels, where there are fewer LSOAs, they can also be grouped in to five equal groups (quintiles), to allow comparisons between the most deprived 20%, second most deprived 20%, and so on.

The Islington Picture

The 2019 Index has shown a relative improvement in rankings across Islington. The jump from 24th most deprived borough to 53rd most deprived nationally has come through a number of LSOAs having significantly improved rankings compared to previous years. However, again, it should be noted that the Index only measures relative deprivation, so it is not possible to distinguish whether this is a result of Islington becoming less deprived or other boroughs becoming more deprived, though it's most likely to be a mixture of the two.

In 2015 44% of Islington's LSOAs were in the two most deprived deciles in the country – that is now down to 26%. Moreover, in 2015 just seven of Islington's LSOAs were in the least deprived half of the country, whereas now 20 LSOAs are in the least deprived half (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Spread of LSOAs by national deprivation decile; IMD 2015 compared with IMD 2019

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2015 and 2019

Of Islington's 123 LSOAs, 119 have become relatively less deprived compared to other areas of England, and four have become more deprived, relative to the rest of England.

In a further improvement from 2015, the spread across Islington shows that Clerkenwell and Bunhill do not have any LSOAs in the most deprived 20% of England. Meanwhile, Finsbury Park is still the most deprived ward in the borough (Map 1, see appendix).

Individual indicator domains

Looking in more detail at the domains of the IMD, Islington has lower rankings across most of the domains, though there are marked differences in the level of change seen (Table 1).

For the income deprivation and employment deprivation domains, around three quarters of the borough's LSOAs have become relatively less deprived than in 2015. These measures are closely linked, as one looks at people on low incomes and out of work, while the other looks at those excluded from the labour market involuntarily. These two indicators make up 45% of the overall score, hence it mirroring the overall picture.

The health deprivation and disability domain, which looks at premature death, illness and disability, emergency hospital admissions, and mental ill health, shows the greatest relative improvement, with 84% of LSOAs showing an improvement their rankings on 2015. This domain also showed a large improvement between 2010 and 2015.

The crime domain has also seen a large relative improvement, with 89% of LSOAs ranked as relatively less deprived than in 2015.

Changes in other domains include:
- 70% of LSOAs have less relative deprivation in access to education, skills, and training than in 2015;
- 63% of LSOAs have less relative deprivation in access to housing and services. This includes the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services;
- 95% of LSOAs have less relative deprivation in terms of their living environment, which includes the quality of local housing, air quality, and number of road traffic accidents.

Table 1: Change in ranking between 2015 IMD and 2019 IMD, by deprivation score, Islington LSOAs

Indicator Domain	Rank decreased (became more deprived)	Rank increased (became less deprived)
Overall	4	119
Income deprivation	32	91
Employment deprivation	35	88
Health and disability	20	103
Education, skills, and training	37	86
Barriers to housing and services	45	78
Crime	13	110
Living environment	6	117
Children*	41	82
Older people*	68	55

* Children and Older People domains are supplementary indices, and are subsets of the income domain.

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Ward-level analysis

The MHCLG analysis does not include analysis by ward, however average scores for each Islington ward have been calculated in Table 2. These figures show that Finsbury Park has the highest level of deprivation in Islington, as in 2015. The ward-level ranking has generally stayed similar to in 2015, with the exception of Junction, which has become relatively more deprived than the rest of the borough, and Bunhill, which has become relatively less deprived.

Table 2: Rank and average deprivation score using the 2019 IMD, and rank in the 2015 IMD, Islington wards, approximate calculations

Rank in 2019	Ward	Average score	Rank in 2015
1	Finsbury Park	34.4	1
2	Junction	30.9	6
3	Tollington	30.8	3
4	Caledonian	30.2	2
5	Hillrise	30.2	5
6	Holloway	29.2	4
7	Mildmay	29.0	7
8	St George's	28.4	8
9	Canonbury	28.3	9
10	St Peter's	27.3	10
11	Clerkenwell	25.9	14
12	St Mary's	25.6	11
13	Barnsbury	24.0	13
14	Highbury West	24.0	15
15	Bunhill	23.7	12
16	Highbury East	20.8	16

Note: These figures have been calculated based on the average score of the LSOAs in each ward. These are approximate figures, not definite, as they do not account for the differences in population for each LSOA.

IDACI and IDAOPI

Islington ranks as much more deprived on the indices that focus on children (IDACI) and older people (IDAOPI). Islington ranks as tenth highest for the proportion of children living in income deprived households in the country (27%), from third in 2015 in the country – Islington ranks highest for London, where it was previously the second highest. The 2019 income measures are based on data from 2015, when the benefit changes were coming in. The change seen may, therefore, be reflecting that a lower proportion of people are eligible for the benefits after the changes came in. Islington also ranks the fourth highest for income deprivation affecting older people (33%) behind Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham, and a slight deterioration from ranking fifth in 2015. Two thirds of the borough's LSOAs have lower rankings in IDACI, and just 45% have lower rankings in the income deprivation affecting older people indicator.

Other IMD resources

MHCLG have developed an interactive mapping tool for analysis of the IMD: http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html and a Local Authorities dashboard, available here. The GLA usually produce analysis of the IMD, once complete it will be published at https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/.

NOTES:

The IMD only looks at relative deprivation, it cannot be used to quantify real terms changes. We can only say that areas of Islington have become *relatively* more or less deprived compared to other areas, we cannot say that areas have actually become less deprived.

The index also only measures deprivation, it does not use a scale from deprivation to wealth or affluence, so we cannot use this information to say that Islington has become more affluent, only that it is less deprived.
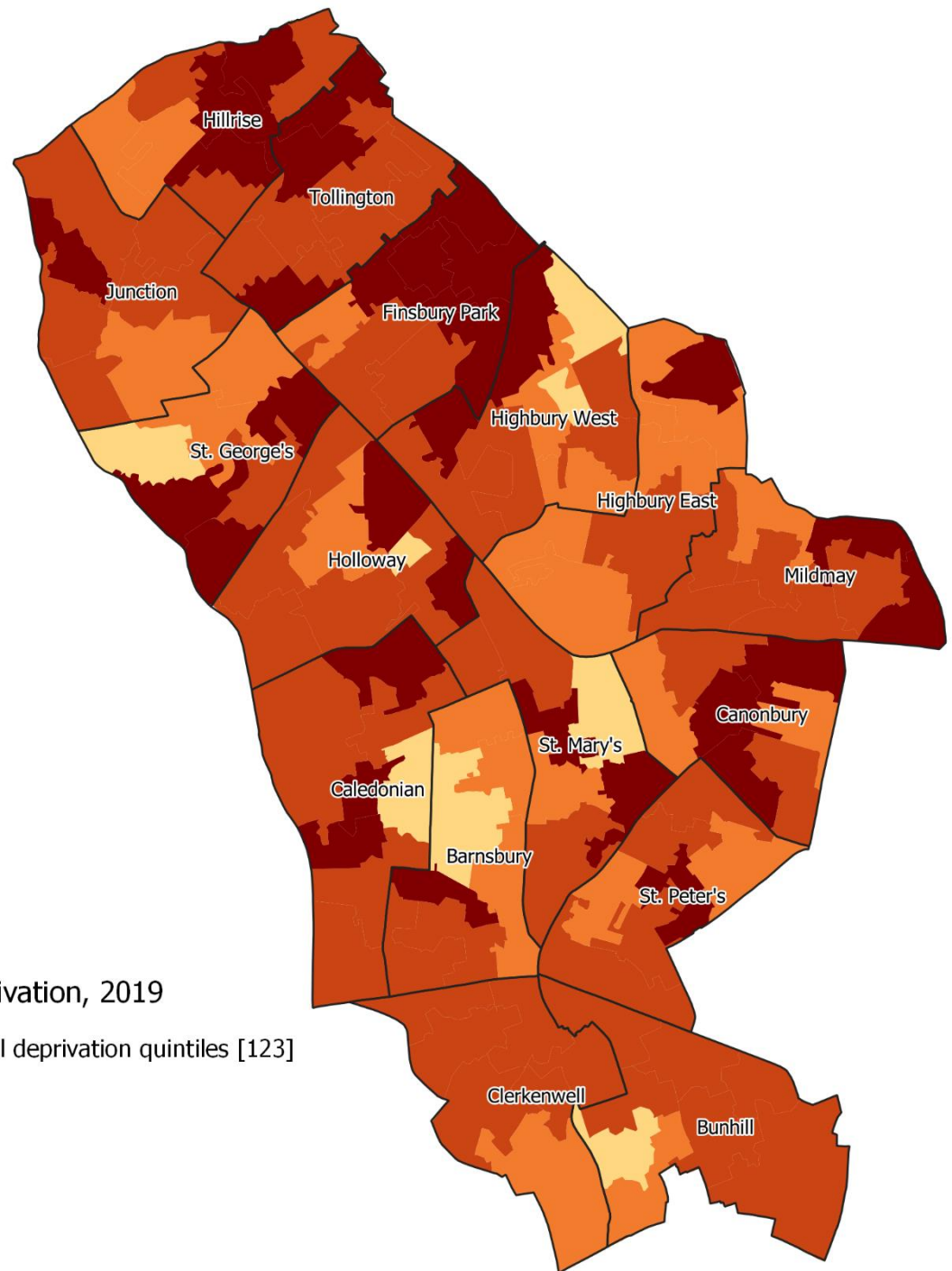
The data used in the 2019 IMD calculation come from a range of sources, generally routinely collected datasets, and cover a range of dates between 2008 and 2014 (Table 3). This means that in many cases the most recent changes will not be represented in deprivation scores. The full list of indicators and data sources are available from the IMD2019 web page: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

Table 3: Dates covered by the datasets used in IMD2019

Domain	Date range covered
Income deprivation	2015
Employment deprivation	2015/16
Education, skills, and training deprivation	2010 to 2016/17
Barriers to housing and services	2011 to 2019
Health deprivation	2013 to 2019
Living environment deprivation	2011 to 2016
Crime	2016/17 to 2017/18

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2019 and 2015 IMD maps by national quintiles

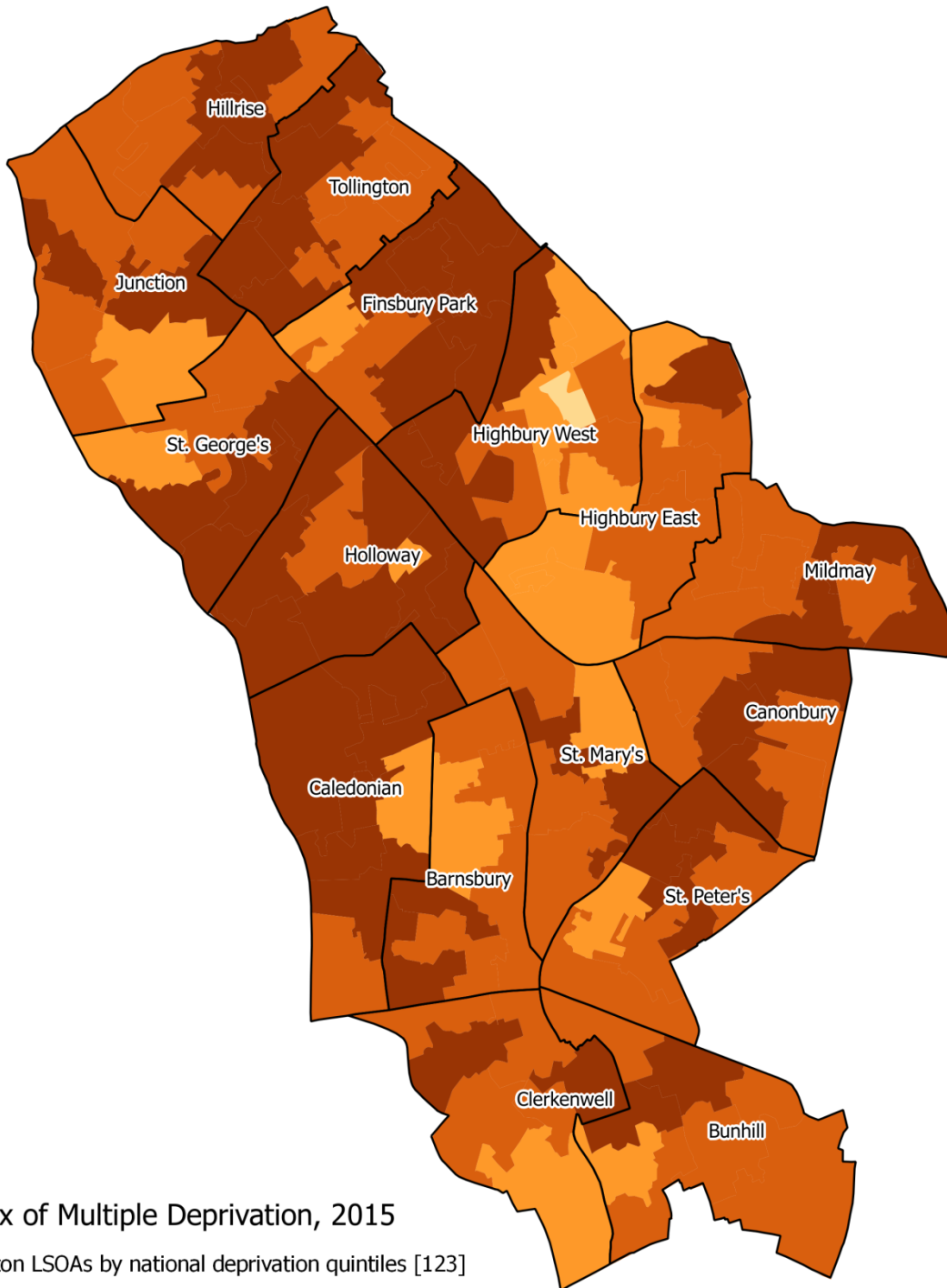## Map 1: Map of Islington LSOAs, by national deprivation quintiles, 2019 IMD

Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019

Islington LSOAs by national deprivation quintiles [123]

- Most deprived [32]
- 2 [58]
- 3 [25]
- 4 [8]
- Least deprived [0]

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Map 2: Map of Islington LSOAs, by national deprivation quintiles, 2015 IMD
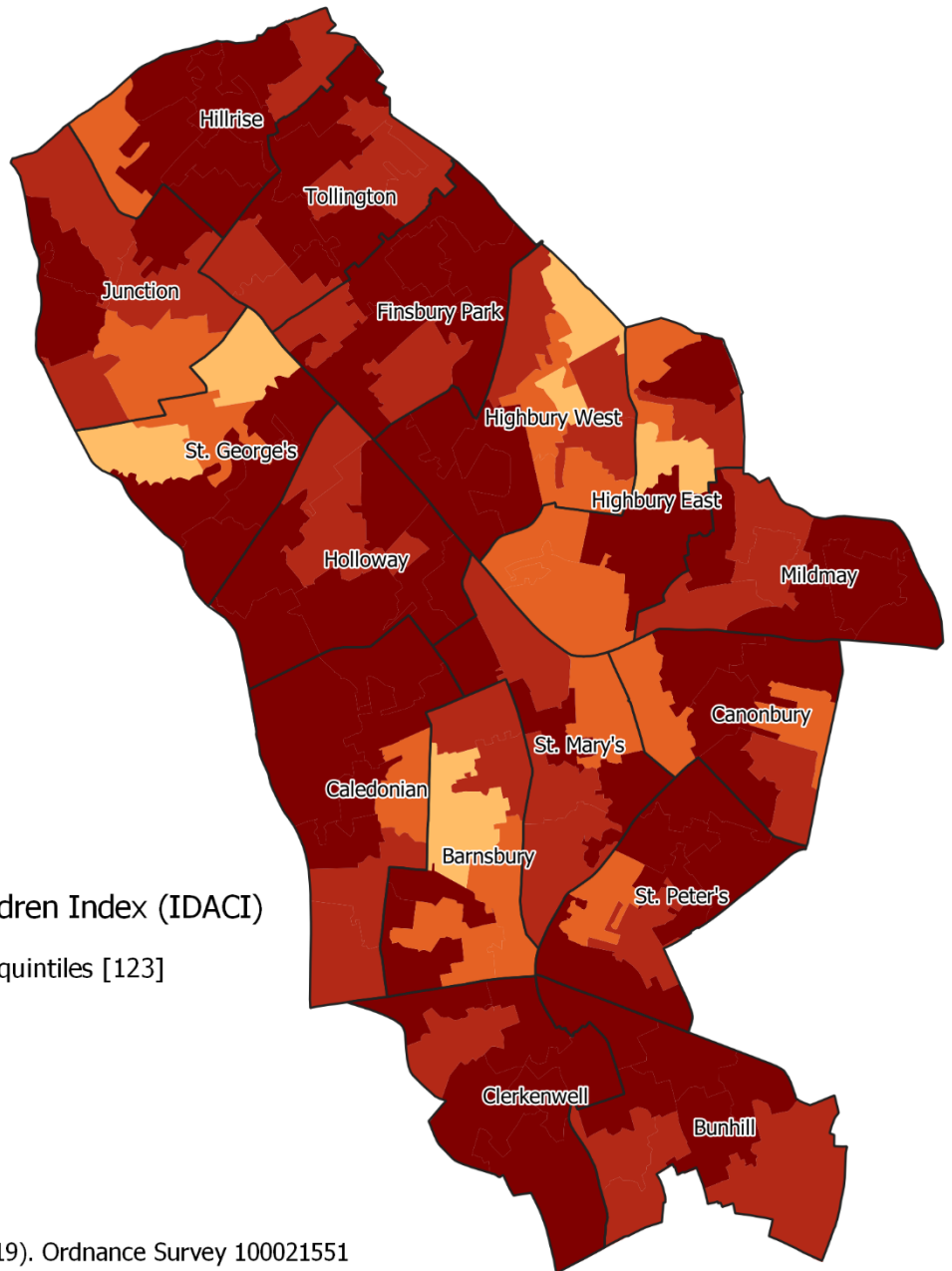

Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2015

Islington LSOAs by national deprivation quintiles [123]

- ■ Most deprived [54]
- ■ 2 [52]
- ■ 3 [16]
- ■ 4 [1]
- □ Least deprived [0]

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2019 maps of IDACI and IDAOPI by national quintiles

Map 2: Map of Islington LSOAs, by national deprivation quintiles, 2019 IDACI

Hillrise

Tollington

Junction

Finsbury Park

Highbury West

St. George's

Highbury East

Holloway

Mildmay

Canonbury

St. Mary's

Caledonian

Barnsbury

St. Peter's

Clerkenwell

Bunhill

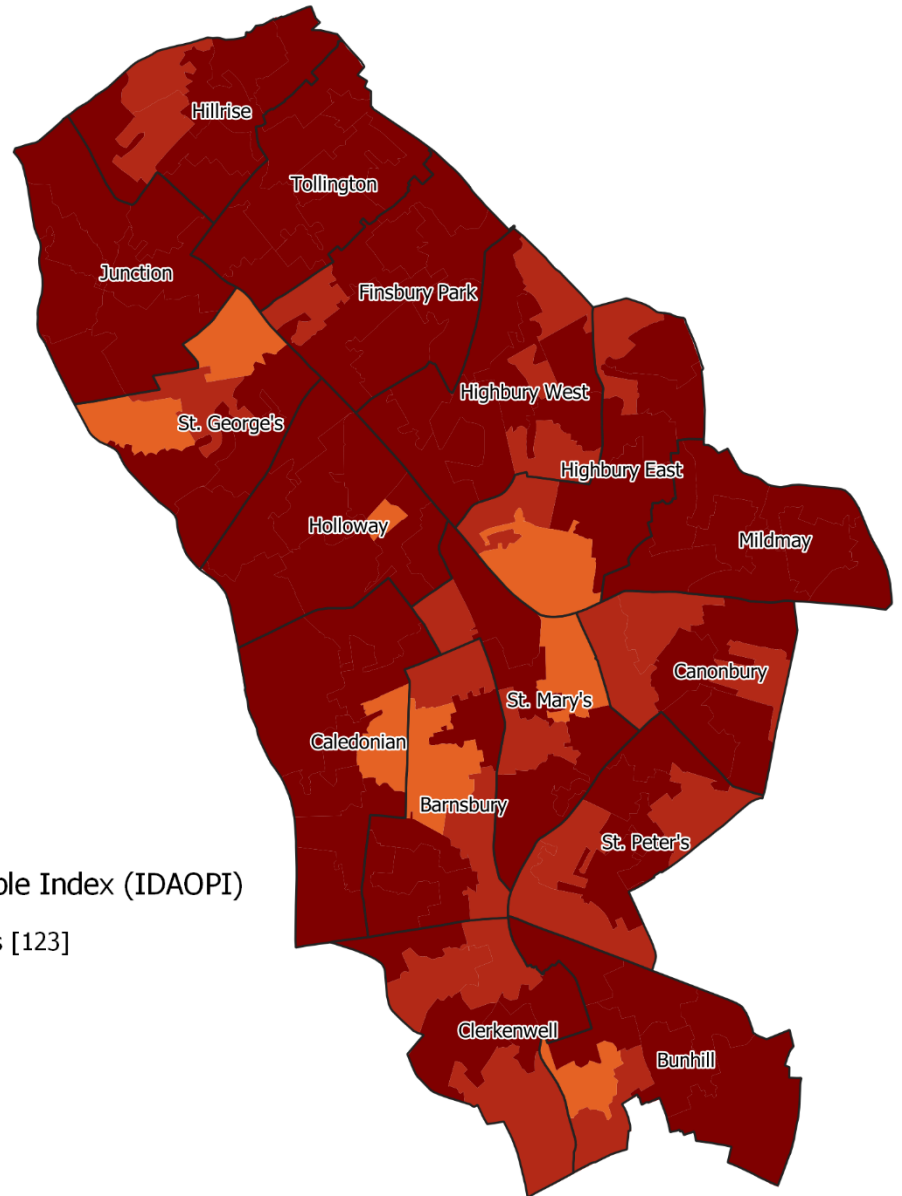### Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

Islington LSOAs by national deprivation quintiles [123]

- Most deprived [69]
- 2 [33]
- 3 [15]
- 4 [6]
- Least deprived [0]

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Map 2: Map of Islington LSOAs, by national deprivation quintiles, 2019 IDAOPI

Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI)

Islington LSOAs by national deprivation quintiles [123]

■	Most deprived [92]
■	2 [23]
■	3 [8]
■	4 [0]
□	Least deprived [0]

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