



## Data Article

## Integrated statistical indicators from Scottish linked open government data

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## ABSTRACT

Open Government Data (OGD), including statistical data, such as economic, environmental and social indicators, are data published by the public sector for free reuse. These data have a huge potential when exploited using Machine Learning methods. Linked Data technologies facilitate retrieving integrated statistical indicators by defining and executing SPARQL queries. However, statistical indicators are available in different temporal and spatial granularity levels as well using different units of measurement. This data article describes the integrated statistical indicators that were retrieved from the official Scottish data portal in order to facilitate the exploitation of Machine Learning methods in OGD. Multiple SPARQL queries as well as manual search in the data portal were employed towards this end. The resulted dataset comprises the maximum number of compatible datasets, i.e., datasets with matching temporal and spatial characteristics. In particular, the data include 60 statistical indicators from seven categories such as health and social care, housing, and crime and justice. The indicators refer to the 6,976 “2011 data zones” of Scotland, while the year of reference is 2015. Data are ready to be used by the research community, students, policy

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makers, and journalists and give rise to plenty of social, business, and research scenarios that can be solved using Machine Learning technologies and methods.

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## Specifications Table

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Subject                        | Decision Sciences (General)   |
| Specific subject area          | Decision and policy making using Open Government Data and Machine Learning  |
| Type of data                   | Table Excel file  |
| How the data were acquired     | The data were collected from an OGD portal that disseminates official statistics using linked data technologies and a SPARQL endpoint. Multiple SPARQL queries as well as manual search in the data portal were employed to create the dataset. SPARQL is the standard query language and protocol for linked data and RDF databases. Specifically, we used SPARQL queries to find compatible datasets, i.e., datasets with matching temporal and spatial characteristics, and to retrieve the data from these datasets. Since not all datasets of the data portal are available for all years, we submitted the SPARQL query multiple times in order to find the year with the largest number of compatible variables. This was required because the aim is to use the data in Machine Learning problems that require large amounts of data. All datasets of the data portal were also manually searched to find additional compatible datasets that were referring to broader time periods. The data of the final list of compatible datasets were retrieved by submitting a second SPARQL query. |
| Data format                    | Raw<br>Filtered   |
| Description of data collection | Data were collected from the Scottish OGD portal* that disseminates official statistics using linked data technologies. The datasets in the portal measure statistics using dimensions (e.g., area, time), and attributes (e.g., the unit of measure). The statistical indicators of the dataset described in this article are percentages or categorical variables for (a) 6,976 "2011 data zones" of Scotland, (b) year 2015, (c) a single value for the other dimensions (e.g., "male" for the "gender" dimension).  |
| <b>Data source location</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institution: The site <a href="https://statistics.gov.scot/">https://statistics.gov.scot/</a> is managed by the Scottish Government on behalf of all producers of official statistics in Scotland. It provides statistics from a variety of organizations such as the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland, NHS Information Services Division and Transport Scotland.</li> <li>• City/Town/Region: Edinburgh</li> <li>• Country: Scotland</li> <li>• Latitude and longitude (and GPS coordinates, if possible) for collected samples/data: n/a</li> </ul>   |
|                                | <p>The following raw data sources were used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Travel times to key services by car or public transport</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Fire - Type of Incident</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">Child Benefit - Children</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">Child Benefit - Families</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Children in Low Income Families</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">Land Area (based on 2011 Data Zones)</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">Urban Rural Classification (6-Fold)</a></li> <li>8. <a href="#">Age of First Time Mothers</a></li> <li>9. <a href="#">Ante-Natal Smoking</a></li> <li>10. <a href="#">House Prices</a></li> <li>11. <a href="#">Dwellings per Hectare</a></li> <li>12. <a href="#">Dwellings by Type</a></li> <li>13. <a href="#">Household Estimates</a></li> <li>14. <a href="#">Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation - Crime Indicators</a></li> </ol>   |

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|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
|                          | 15. <a href="#">Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation - Employment Indicators</a>  |
|                          | 16. <a href="#">Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation - Health Indicators</a>  |
| Data accessibility       | <p><b>Primary data</b><br/> Repository name: Scotland's official statistics<br/> Data identification number: n/a<br/> Direct URL to data: <a href="https://statistics.gov.scot/">https://statistics.gov.scot/</a></p> <p><b>Secondary data</b><br/> Repository name: Zenodo<br/> Data identification number: 10.5281/zenodo.6901000<br/> Direct URL to data: <a href="https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6901000">https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6901000</a><br/> Direct URL to SPARQL queries used to acquire data:<br/> <a href="https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7304041">https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7304041</a></p> |
| Related research article | A. Karamanou, E. Kalampokis, K. Tarabanis (2022). Linked Open Government Data to Predict and Explain House Prices: The Case of Scottish Statistics Portal, Big Data Research, Volume 30, 100355, ISSN 2214-5796, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bdr.2022.100355">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bdr.2022.100355</a> .  |

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\* <https://statistics.gov.scot>.

## Value of the Data

- Policy makers, government agencies, and researchers can exploit the integrated statistical indicators to explore the potential of OGD using Machine Learning methods (e.g., [1]).
- Integrated statistical indicators and their descriptive analytics can be further analyzed to identify new patterns, trends, and data anomalies.
- Integrated statistical indicators can be employed to define and address problems related to the health of citizens, economics, environment, social problems, and others using Machine Learning.
- Real estate agencies can use the integrated statistical indicators to enhance their Machine Learning models that predict mean house prices.
- Integrated statistical indicators can be also combined with other data that describe, for example, structural features of houses and in various formats, such as satellite images in order to estimate the prices of individual houses (e.g., [2,3]).
- Researchers can use the integrated statistical indicators to create and benchmark Machine Learning models against results already known or benchmark the performance of different types of Machine Learning algorithms for solving the same type of problem (classification, regression, etc.)

## 1. Objective

Open Government Data (OGD), including statistical data, such as economic, environmental and social indicators, are data published by the public sector for free reuse. These data have a huge potential when exploited using Machine Learning methods. Linked Data technologies facilitate retrieving integrated statistical indicators by defining and executing SPARQL queries. However, statistical indicators are available in different temporal and spatial granularity levels as well using different units of measurement. The objective of this data article is to describe the integrated statistical indicators that were retrieved from the official Scottish data portal in order to facilitate the exploitation of Machine Learning methods in OGD. Multiple SPARQL queries as well as manual search in the data portal were employed towards this end. The resulted dataset comprises the maximum number of compatible datasets, i.e., datasets with matching temporal and spatial characteristics. The dataset can be used by the research community, students, policy makers, and journalists and give rise to plenty of social, business, and research scenarios that can be solved using Machine Learning technologies and methods.

## 2. Data Description

Open Government Data (OGD) are data published by the public sector in open and reusable formats without restriction or charge for their use by society [4]. OGD have a huge potential especially when combined with AI technologies to bring new and fruitful insights [5]. OGD is a political priority the last decade in many countries in order to harness multifaceted benefits including enhancing evidence-based policy making and stimulating economic growth. As a result, a large number of public authorities and National Statistical Institutes internationally have already been publishing their data in their official data portals (e.g., <https://www.data.gov> in the U.S. and [www.dati.gov.it](http://www.dati.gov.it) in Italy). However, the current scarce use of OGD has impeded reaching the full potential of OGD [6].

A large part of OGD is of statistical nature, meaning that it consists of highly structured numeric data and multidimensional, i.e., a measure is described based on multiple of dimensions. They also usually concern aggregated data that monitor various indicators such as economic indicators (e.g., labour productivity), environmental indicators (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions), and social indicators (e.g., employment deprivation) across countries.

OGD are often offered by various official data portals (e.g., Scottish OGD portal that disseminates official statistics using linked data technologies<sup>1</sup>) in a standardized manner as Linked Open Government Data (LOGD), hence facilitating their reusability and interlinking [7]. As a result, they significantly contribute towards creating powerful predictive models. However, interoperability conflicts have not been yet addressed and hamper combining and analysing LOGD [7,8].

Integrated data described in this article are LOGD coming from the Scottish OGD portal that disseminates official statistics using linked data technologies. The portal currently hosts 314 datasets covering various societal and business aspects of Scotland classified into 18 themes. Datasets are provided at different levels of spatial granularity in Scotland starting from the level of postcodes to the level of council areas. Users can navigate through the data portal to view and retrieve data as tables, maps, and charts or download them in various formats (e.g., html, json, csv), or, alternatively, retrieve them as linked data by submitting flexible queries to the SPARQL endpoint<sup>2</sup> released by the portal.

Integrated data are included in a single file, namely `statistical_indicators.csv`. The file contains 6,976 rows and 61 columns, i.e., 425536 data points. Each row is a data zone, while the columns include the 60 statistical indicators coming from 16 datasets plus 1 column with the name of the data zone. There are 6037 null values in data (1.4%). [Table 1](#) presents and describes the variables and their type. The majority of the variables are numeric. One (CIF) is integer and one (Urban Rural Classification) is categorical. All data are licensed under the Open Government License (OGL) version 3.0<sup>3</sup>. OGL v3.0 allows users to freely copy, publish, distribute, transmit, and adapt the data.

In addition, [Tables 2](#) and [3](#) present the descriptive statistics for the categorical, and integer and numeric variables respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://statistics.gov.scot>

<sup>2</sup> <https://statistics.gov.scot/sparql>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

**Table 1**  
Variables description.

| a/a | Statistical indicator                                       | Type    | Description  |
|-----|---|---------|--|
| 1   | Travel times (minutes) to GP surgeries by public transport  | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to GP surgeries by public transport at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.   |
| 2   | Travel times (minutes) to post office by public transport   | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to post offices by public transport at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.   |
| 3   | Travel times (minutes) to retail centre by public transport | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to retail centres by public transport at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone. |
| 4   | Travel times (minutes) to petrol station by car             | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to petrol stations by car at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.             |
| 5   | Travel times (minutes) to post office by car                | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to post offices by car at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.                |
| 6   | Travel times (minutes) to GP surgeries by car               | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to GP surgeries by car at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.                |
| 7   | Travel times (minutes) to primary school by car             | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to primary schools by car at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.             |
| 8   | Travel times (minutes) to secondary school by car           | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to secondary schools by car at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.           |
| 9   | Travel times (minutes) to retail centre by car              | Numeric | Drive times in minutes to retail centre by car at data zone level. Average drive times are generated by generating drive times for each Census Output Area (designed specifically for statistical purposes) and then calculating a population weighted average for each data zone.               |
| 10  | Chimney fires (ratio)                                       | Numeric | The rate of fires in chimneys in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 11  | Dwelling fires (ratio)                                      | Numeric | The rate of fires in dwelling in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 12  | Other building fires (ratio)                                | Numeric | The rate of fires in other building fires in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 13  | Other primary fires (ratio)                                 | Numeric | The rate of other primary fires in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 14  | Outdoor fires (ratio)                                       | Numeric | The rate of outdoor fires in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 15  | Refuse fires (ratio)  | Numeric | The rate of refuse fires in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |

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**Table 1** (continued)

| a/a | Statistical indicator                               | Type    | Description  |
|-----|---|---------|--|
| 16  | Vehicle fires (ratio)                               | Numeric | The rate of vehicle fires in data zone level. Data is provided for the total number of fires, including accidental and deliberate causes. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 17  | Accidental chimney fires (ratio)                    | Numeric | The rate of accidental fires caused in chimneys in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 18  | Accidental dwelling fires (ratio)                   | Numeric | The rate of accidental fires caused in dwellings in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 19  | Accidental other building fires (ratio)             | Numeric | The rate of accidental fires caused in other buildings in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 20  | Accidental other primary fires (ratio)              | Numeric | The rate of other, accidental, primary fires caused in chimneys in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 21  | Accidental outdoor fires (ratio)                    | Numeric | The rate of accidental outdoor fires in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 22  | Accidental refuse fires (ratio)                     | Numeric | The rate of accidental refuse fires in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 23  | Accidental vehicle fires (ratio)                    | Numeric | The rate of accidental vehicle fires in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 24  | Not accidental chimney fires (ratio)                | Numeric | The rate of deliberate fires in chimneys in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 25  | Not accidental dwelling fires (ratio)               | Numeric | The rate of deliberate fires caused in dwellings in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 26  | Not accidental other building fires (ratio)         | Numeric | The rate of deliberate fires caused in other buildings in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 27  | Not accidental other primary fires (ratio)          | Numeric | The rate of other, deliberate, primary fires caused in chimneys in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 28  | Not accidental outdoor fires (ratio)                | Numeric | The rate of deliberate outdoor fires in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 29  | Not accidental refuse fires (ratio)                 | Numeric | The rate of deliberate refuse fires in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.  |
| 30  | Not accidental vehicle fires (ratio)                | Numeric | The rate of deliberate vehicle fires in data zone level. Data is entered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service into the Incident Recording System.   |
| 31  | Crime indicators (ratio)                            | Numeric | The percent of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) crimes per 10,000 people in each data zone. The Crime domain is based on five indicators of broad crime types: crimes of violence, sexual offences, crimes of dishonesty, vandalism, drugs offences. The domain is calculated by summing the above types of crime that are recorded within a data zone. These crimes are collectively referred to as 'SIMD crime'. SIMD crime does not include all recorded crimes. Certain crimes have been excluded because of the data quality issues, or because they are less meaningful in terms of deprivation at a neighborhood level. Some crime types are not included in the SIMD on grounds that they are targeted at businesses or are concentrated in centers of retail activity rather than in residential neighborhoods. Fraud and speeding offences are excluded because they are harder to locate geographically. |
| 32  | Children 0-15 living in low income families (ratio) | Numeric | The percentage of children 0-15 years old that live in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (CTC) whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support (IS) or Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). Data zone level.   |
| 33  | Children 0-19 living in low income families (ratio) | Numeric | The percentage of children 0-19 years old that live in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (CTC) whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support (IS) or Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA).  |

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**Table 1** (continued)

| a/a | Statistical indicator   | Type        | Description   |
|-----|---|-------------|---|
| 34  | Age of first time mothers 19 years and under (ratio)              | Numeric     | The percentage of first time mothers who are aged 19 and under in each data zone. The 3 year aggregate shown is for financial year ending 31 March and refers to the year of discharge from hospital.   |
| 35  | Age of first time mothers 35 years and older (ratio)              | Numeric     | The percentage of first time mothers who are aged 35 and over in each data zone. The 3 year aggregate shown is for financial year ending 31 March and refers to the year of discharge from hospital.  |
| 36  | Mothers currently smoking (ratio)                                 | Numeric     | Percentage of mothers reporting smoking at ante-natal booking visit in the community or at hospital. Data are in data zone level.   |
| 37  | Mothers former smokers (ratio)                                    | Numeric     | Percentage of mothers reporting they are former smokers at ante-natal booking visit in the community or at hospital. Data are in data zone level.   |
| 38  | Mothers never smoked (ratio)                                      | Numeric     | Percentage of mothers reporting they have never smoked at ante-natal booking visit in the community or at hospital. Data are in data zone level.  |
| 39  | Mothers not known if they smoke (ratio)                           | Numeric     | Percentage of mothers that didn't report their smoking status at ante-natal booking visit in the community or at hospital. Data are in data zone level.   |
| 40  | Low birth-weight (less than 2500g) babies (single births) (ratio) | Numeric     | The percent of low birthweight (less than 2500g) babies (single births). Data are data zone level. The 3 year aggregate shown is for financial year ending 31st March and refers to the year of discharge from hospital. Low birthweight may have been resulted from being born too soon (i.e. a preterm birth), from poor intrauterine growth or from a combination of the two.  |
| 41  | Employment deprivation (ratio)                                    | Numeric     | The percentage of people who are employment deprived.   |
| 42  | School attendance (ratio)   | Numeric     | Attendance rate of pupils attending publicly funded schools. Information is taken from attendance returns linked to the September Scottish Pupil Census, for academic year 2014/2015, for publicly funded schools. The data does not include: pupils attending special schools; pupils attending independent schools; pupils educated out with the school education system (for example at home); adults attending publicly funded secondary schools.   |
| 43  | Educational attainment of school leavers (score)                  | Numeric     | The score is based on school leavers' highest level of qualification, averaged across all leavers within a data zone. The score is calculated by multiplying the highest qualification level achieved by each pupil by a corresponding factor. Level 3 qualifications are multiplied by three, Level 4 by four, Level 5 by five and Level 6 by six. For example, one pupil who leaves school with four Level 3 qualifications will score three, whilst a pupil leaving school with one Level 5 qualification will score five. The total score is then divided by the total number of school leavers in each data zone. A pupil is assigned to a geographical area based on their home address. If their postcode is missing their school's postcode is used. Data is based on an average of three years and includes all school leavers in secondary schools and special schools. Data from independent schools is not included.  |
| 44  | Land area (in hectares)   | Numeric     | The land area in hectares based on aggregating 2011 data zone data. Land area is provided for each data zone.   |
| 45  | Urban Rural Classification  | Categorical | The classification is based upon two main criteria: (i) population as defined by the National Records of Scotland, and (ii) accessibility based on drive time analysis to differentiate between accessible and remote areas in Scotland. The classification includes the following categories: (1) - Large Urban Areas Settlements of over 125,000 people; (2) - Other Urban Areas Settlements of 10,000 to 125,000 people; (3) - Accessible Small Towns Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more; (4) - Remote Small Towns Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more; (5) - Accessible Rural Settlements of less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more; (6) - Remote Rural Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more. |

(continued on next page)

**Table 1** (continued)

| a/a | Statistical indicator             | Type    | Description   |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| 46  | Comparative Illness Factor        | Integer | Comparative Illness Factor (CIF) is an indicator of health conditions. Greater CIF values indicate poorer health conditions. The Scotland average CIF is 100, hence, data zones with values of CIF greater than 100 indicate poorer health conditions related to Scotland (and vice-versa).   |
| 47  | Dwellings per hectare (ratio)     | Numeric | The percent of dwellings per hectare in each data zone. A 'dwelling' refers to accommodation such as a house or a flat, and includes second homes that are not let out commercially. Caravans count as dwellings if they are someone's main home. Data on number of dwellings is obtained from the Assessors' Portal in December each year, or the following January. The Assessors are, amongst other things, responsible for valuing each dwelling in Scotland for the purposes of assigning it to a Council Tax Band. Dwellings per hectare is calculated by dividing the total number of dwellings by the area in hectares.   |
| 48  | Detached dwellings (ratio)        | Numeric | The percent of detached dwellings in each data zone. A 'dwelling' refers to the accommodation itself, for example a house or a flat, and includes second homes that are not let out commercially. Caravans count as dwellings if they are someone's main home. Type of dwelling is based on 'attachment', i.e., the type of property in relation to its degree of attachment to surrounding properties. This information has been aggregated into five categories: Detached; Semi-detached; Terraced; Flat, maisonette or apartment; and Not known. Data on type of dwelling is obtained from the Assessors' Portal in December each year, or the following January. The Assessors are, amongst other things, responsible for valuing each dwelling in Scotland for the purposes of assigning it to a Council Tax Band. |
| 49  | Flats (ratio)                     | Numeric | The percent of flats in each data zone. Type of dwelling is based on 'attachment', i.e., the type of property in relation to its degree of attachment to surrounding properties. This information has been aggregated into five categories: Detached; Semi-detached; Terraced; Flat, maisonette or apartment; and Not known. Data on type of dwelling is obtained from the Assessors' Portal in December each year, or the following January. The Assessors are, amongst other things, responsible for valuing each dwelling in Scotland for the purposes of assigning it to a Council Tax Band.  |
| 50  | Semi-detached dwellings (ratio)   | Numeric | The percent of semi-detached dwellings in each data zone. Type of dwelling is based on 'attachment', i.e., the type of property in relation to its degree of attachment to surrounding properties. This information has been aggregated into five categories: Detached; Semi-detached; Terraced; Flat, maisonette or apartment; and Not known. Data on type of dwelling is obtained from the Assessors' Portal in December each year, or the following January. The Assessors are, amongst other things, responsible for valuing each dwelling in Scotland for the purposes of assigning it to a Council Tax Band.  |
| 51  | Terraced dwellings (ratio)        | Numeric | The percent of terraced dwellings in each data zone. Type of dwelling is based on 'attachment', i.e., the type of property in relation to its degree of attachment to surrounding properties. This information has been aggregated into five categories: Detached; Semi-detached; Terraced; Flat, maisonette or apartment; and Not known. Data on type of dwelling is obtained from the Assessors' Portal in December each year, or the following January. The Assessors are, amongst other things, responsible for valuing each dwelling in Scotland for the purposes of assigning it to a Council Tax Band.   |
| 52  | Dwellings of unknown type (ratio) | Numeric | The percent of dwelling in each data zone whose type is not known. Type of dwelling is based on 'attachment', i.e., the type of property in relation to its degree of attachment to surrounding properties. This information has been aggregated into five categories: Detached; Semi-detached; Terraced; Flat, maisonette or apartment; and Not known. Data on type of dwelling is obtained from the Assessors' Portal in December each year, or the following January. The Assessors are, amongst other things, responsible for valuing each dwelling in Scotland for the purposes of assigning it to a Council Tax Band.   |

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**Table 1** (continued)

| a/a | Statistical indicator                         | Type    | Description  |
|-----|---|---------|--|
| 53  | Long-term empty households (ratio)            | Numeric | The percentage of dwellings in each data zone that are long-term empty properties. Long-term empty properties include properties subject to discounts and levies due to long-term empty status. The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes.   |
| 54  | Occupied households (ratio)                   | Numeric | The percentage of occupied households in each data zone. Occupied household is any dwelling apart from those which are vacant or second homes. The number of occupied dwellings is a good estimate of the number of households. The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes.   |
| 55  | Second-home households (ratio)                | Numeric | The percentage of dwellings in each data zone that are used as second homes. Second homes are dwellings that are not someone's main residence and that are occupied for at least 25 days a year. These include self-catering holiday accommodations available to let for a total of less than 140 days per year. Second homes which are let out for 140 days or more are not included in these figures as they are classed as business so pay non-domestic rates rather than Council Tax. Each council has discretion to apply a discount of between 10% and 50% on second homes, or may choose to apply no discount. The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes. |
| 56  | Vacant households (ratio)                     | Numeric | The percentage of dwellings in each data zone that are vacant households. Vacant households are dwellings that are exempt from Council Tax and are unoccupied; and dwellings which are recorded on Council Tax systems as being long-term empty properties. The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes.   |
| 57  | Households with occupied exemptions (ratio)   | Numeric | The percentage of households in each data zone with occupied exemptions. Occupied exemptions are dwellings exempt from Council Tax, which are occupied. This includes: dwellings only occupied by students, armed forces accommodation owned by the Secretary of State for Defense, dwellings which are the sole residence only of people aged under 18 or people who are classed as severely mentally impaired, trial flats used by registered housing associations, and prisons. The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes.  |
| 58  | Households with unoccupied exemptions (ratio) | Numeric | The percentage of households in each data zone with unoccupied exemptions. Unoccupied exemptions are dwellings exempt from Council Tax, which are unoccupied, such as new dwellings, those undergoing repair or awaiting demolition and dwellings where the previous owner has died. The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes.  |

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**Table 1** (continued)

| a/a | Statistical indicator                          | Type    | Description  |
|-----|--|---------|--|
| 59  | Households with single adult discounts (ratio) | Numeric | The percentage of households in each data zone with single adult discounts. Households with single adult discounts are dwellings subject to a Council Tax discount of 25 per cent. This may include, for example, dwellings with a single adult, dwellings with one adult living with one or more children, or with one or more adults who are 'disregarded' for Council Tax purposes.<br>The estimates are based on two Council Tax data collections carried out each year in September. Council Tax data contains information on the various discounts/exemptions awarded to each dwelling in Scotland. From these we can determine which dwellings are occupied and which are vacant or second homes. |
| 60  | House prices                                   | Numeric | The mean price of houses in each data zone based on sales that are recorded/registered in the given time period whether they are cash purchases or funded by mortgages. Data zones with less than 5 sales have the number and value of sales suppressed to help minimize the risk of data disclosure and to ensure that any averages presented are based on at least 5 records.  |

**Table 2**

Descriptive statistics for categorical variable.

| Statistical indicator      | Unique values | Counts and percentages per value   |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Urban Rural Classification | 6             | 1: 1958 (28%), 2: 2210 (31.7%), 3: 536 (7.7%), 4: 225 (3.2%), 5: 705 (10.1%), 6: 380 (5.5%), null: 962 (13.8%) |

**Table 3**

Descriptive statistics for the integer and numeric variables.

| Statistical indicator                                       | Null values  | Mean   | Std    | Min | 25% | 50%  | 75%    | max     |
|---|--------------|--------|--------|-----|-----|------|--------|---------|
| Travel times (minutes) to GP surgeries by public transport  | 962 (13.79%) | 10.33  | 6.32   | 1.6 | 6.3 | 8.8  | 12.4   | 108.8   |
| Travel times (minutes) to post office by public transport   | 962 (13.79%) | 8.63   | 4.54   | 2   | 5.6 | 7.5  | 10.3   | 40.3    |
| Travel times (minutes) to retail centre by public transport | 962 (13.79%) | 13.56  | 10.43  | 1.9 | 7.9 | 11.2 | 16.4   | 190     |
| Travel times (minutes) to GP surgeries by car               | 962 (13.79%) | 3.42   | 2.86   | 0.6 | 1.9 | 2.7  | 4      | 87.8    |
| Travel times (minutes) to petrol station by car             | 962 (13.79%) | 3.7    | 3.02   | 0.6 | 2.1 | 2.9  | 4.1    | 63.5    |
| Travel times (minutes) to post office by car                | 962 (13.79%) | 2.76   | 1.64   | 0.6 | 1.7 | 2.4  | 3.3    | 17.3    |
| Travel times (minutes) to primary school by car             | 962 (13.79%) | 2.54   | 3.41   | 0.7 | 1.6 | 2.2  | 2.9    | 186.1   |
| Travel times (minutes) to secondary school by car           | 962 (13.79%) | 6.17   | 5.2    | 1.2 | 3.7 | 4.8  | 6.7    | 116.1   |
| Travel times (minutes) to retail centre by car              | 962 (13.79%) | 5.26   | 6.2    | 0.7 | 2.8 | 4    | 6      | 190     |
| Chimney fires (ratio)                                       | 962 (13.79%) | 19.39  | 73.37  | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0      | 1183.43 |
| Dwelling fires (ratio)                                      | 962 (13.79%) | 96.45  | 142.95 | 0   | 0   | 0    | 146.2  | 1535.84 |
| Other building fires (ratio)                                | 962 (13.79%) | 42.87  | 114.18 | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0      | 1884.25 |
| Other primary fires (ratio)                                 | 962 (13.79%) | 15.03  | 54.09  | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0      | 1257.86 |
| Outdoor fires (ratio)                                       | 962 (13.79%) | 105.11 | 241.11 | 0   | 0   | 0    | 133.29 | 4310.34 |
| Refuse fires (ratio)  | 962 (13.79%) | 112.63 | 261.49 | 0   | 0   | 0    | 138.7  | 6729.48 |
| Vehicle fires (ratio)                                       | 962 (13.79%) | 33.96  | 85.78  | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0      | 1715.69 |
| Accidental chimney fires (ratio)                            | 962 (13.79%) | 19.35  | 73.3   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0      | 1183.43 |

(continued on next page)

**Table 3** (continued)

| Statistical indicator  | Null values   | Mean    | Std     | Min  | 25%   | 50%   | 75%    | max       |
|--|---------------|---------|---------|------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Accidental dwelling fires (ratio)                                | 962 (13.79%)  | 87.18   | 130.49  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 139.08 | 1094.89   |
| Accidental other building fires (ratio)                          | 962 (13.79%)  | 32.99   | 100.12  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 1749.66   |
| Accidental other primary fires (ratio)                           | 962 (13.79%)  | 19.35   | 73.3    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 1183.43   |
| Accidental outdoor fires (ratio)                                 | 962 (13.79%)  | 20.78   | 68.26   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 1130.52   |
| Accidental refuse fires (ratio)                                  | 962 (13.79%)  | 20.34   | 101.48  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 4771.37   |
| Accidental vehicle fires (ratio)                                 | 962 (13.79%)  | 21.84   | 63.58   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 724.64    |
| Not accidental chimney fires (ratio)                             | 962 (13.79%)  | 0.04    | 2.2     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 142.05    |
| Not accidental dwelling fires (ratio)                            | 962 (13.79%)  | 9.27    | 39.44   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 540.54    |
| Not accidental other building fires (ratio)                      | 962 (13.79%)  | 9.87    | 44.88   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 1029.3    |
| Not accidental other primary fires (ratio)                       | 962 (13.79%)  | 0.04    | 2.2     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 142.05    |
| Not accidental outdoor fires (ratio)                             | 962 (13.79%)  | 84.33   | 218.55  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 111.73 | 4310.34   |
| Not accidental refuse fires (ratio)                              | 962 (13.79%)  | 92.29   | 219.13  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 121.65 | 4441.45   |
| Not accidental vehicle fires (ratio)                             | 962 (13.79%)  | 12.13   | 52.65   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0      | 1715.69   |
| Children 0-15 living in low income families (ratio)              | 1179 (16.9%)  | 14.12   | 11.05   | 0    | 5.1   | 11.3  | 20.8   | 63.4      |
| Children 0-19 living in low income families (ratio)              | 1179 (16.9%)  | 14.02   | 10.81   | 0.3  | 5.1   | 11.3  | 20.5   | 63.4      |
| Educational attainment of school leavers (score)                 | 1126 (16.14%) | 5.57    | 0.5     | 3.2  | 5.25  | 5.62  | 5.93   | 6.8       |
| School attendance (ratio)  | 971 (13.9%)   | 94.02   | 1.88    | 81.2 | 92.8  | 94.3  | 95.4   | 98.7      |
| Land area (in hectares)  | 962 (13.8%)   | 1194.09 | 5958.34 | 1.56 | 14.08 | 22.35 | 44.94  | 116251.04 |
| Age of first time mothers 19 years and under (ratio)             | 981 (14%)     | 0.69    | 1.09    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 1      | 10        |
| Age of first time mothers 35 years and older (ratio)             | 981 (14%)     | 1.51    | 1.61    | 0    | 0     | 1     | 2      | 16        |
| Mothers currently smoking (ratio)                                | 963 (13.8%)   | 14.12   | 11.98   | 0    | 4.55  | 12    | 22     | 66.67     |
| Mothers former smokers (ratio)                                   | 963 (13.8%)   | 12.84   | 9.24    | 0    | 6.25  | 11.54 | 18.18  | 66.67     |
| Mothers never smoked (ratio)                                     | 963 (13.8%)   | 70.1    | 15.73   | 0    | 59.26 | 70.83 | 82.14  | 100       |
| Mothers not known if they smoke (ratio)                          | 963 (13.8%)   | 2.94    | 5.33    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 4.55   | 50        |
| Low birthweight (less than 2500g) babies (single births) (ratio) | 964 (13.81%)  | 0.39    | 0.67    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 1      | 5         |
| Dwellings per hectare (ratio)                                    | 962 (13.8%)   | 19.66   | 20.65   | 0    | 8.19  | 16.07 | 24.47  | 219.67    |
| Detached dwellings (ratio)                                       | 962 (13.8%)   | 24.75   | 26.17   | 0    | 1.5   | 14.8  | 43.1   | 100       |
| Flats (ratio)  | 962 (13.8%)   | 32.83   | 31.98   | 0    | 5.2   | 22.3  | 53.98  | 100       |
| Semi-detached dwellings (ratio)                                  | 962 (13.8%)   | 21.48   | 16.95   | 0    | 8.2   | 18.9  | 31.2   | 98.8      |
| Terraced dwellings (ratio)                                       | 962 (13.8%)   | 20.38   | 20.82   | 0    | 4.5   | 13.7  | 29.7   | 100       |
| Dwellings of unknown type (ratio)                                | 962 (13.8%)   | 0.54    | 2.17    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0.2    | 58.8      |
| Long-term empty households (ratio)                               | 1354 (19.4%)  | 5.55    | 7.22    | 0    | 1     | 3     | 7      | 114       |

(continued on next page)

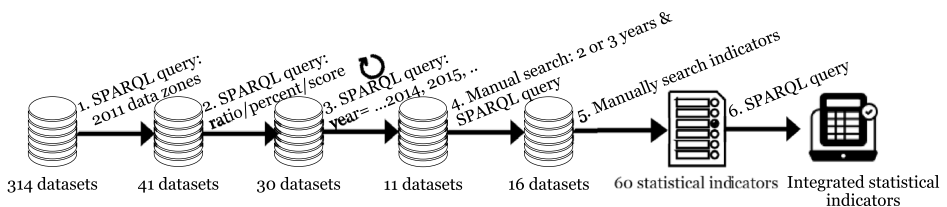
**Table 3** (continued)

| Statistical indicator                          | Null values  | Mean      | Std      | Min   | 25%      | 50%      | 75%      | max     |
|--|--------------|-----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Occupied households (ratio)                    | 1354 (19.4%) | 363.88    | 102.98   | 118   | 295      | 352      | 418      | 2104    |
| Second-home households (ratio)                 | 1354 (19.4%) | 4.1       | 12.54    | 0     | 0        | 1        | 3        | 294     |
| Vacant households (ratio)                      | 1354 (19.4%) | 11.41     | 10.94    | 0     | 5        | 9        | 14       | 132     |
| Households with occupied exemptions (ratio)    | 1354 (19.4%) | 11.47     | 38.82    | 0     | 2        | 4        | 9        | 1562    |
| Households with unoccupied exemptions (ratio)  | 1354 (19.4%) | 5.87      | 6.16     | 0     | 3        | 5        | 8        | 131     |
| Households with single adult discounts (ratio) | 1354 (19.4%) | 140.92    | 68.65    | 11    | 93       | 128      | 176      | 520     |
| Crime indicators (ratio)                       | 1354 (19.4%) | 309.03    | 455.52   | 16    | 112      | 204      | 366.75   | 14580   |
| Employment deprivation (ratio)                 | 1354 (19.4%) | 10.06     | 7.09     | 0     | 5        | 8        | 14       | 52      |
| House Prices                                   | 962 (13.8%)  | 163478.87 | 91903.48 | 20604 | 101720.5 | 142158.5 | 199864.5 | 1244910 |

### 3. Experimental Design, Materials and Methods

The integrated data described in this article are Linked Open Government Data (LOGD) retrieved from the Scottish OGD portal that disseminates official statistics using linked data technologies. We hence, used SPARQL queries to collect them. Specifically, we used two SPARQL queries; the first one to find compatible datasets and the second one to retrieve the data from the compatible datasets and create the statistical indicators.

The methodology employed for the creation of the dataset is presented in Fig. 1. We first gradually constructed a SPARQL query to find compatible datasets in the Scottish data portal (steps 1 – 4 in the Figure). Compatible datasets are those that their (a) year of reference, and (b) granularity level of the geography dimension match. We started by querying the 314 datasets available in <https://statistics.gov.scot> and get only the datasets for 2011 data zones (step 1). We resulted in 41 datasets. We then updated the SPARQL query to keep only the datasets that use ratio, percent, or score (step 2). We resulted in 30 datasets. We then further updated the previous SPARQL query in order to select the year. Since not all datasets of the data portal are available for all years, we submitted this SPARQL query multiple times that used various years each time in order to find the year with the largest number of compatible variables (step 3). This was required because the aim was to use data in Machine Learning problems that require large amounts of data. We selected 2015 as the year with the most compatible datasets (11 datasets). In addition, since some datasets in the data portal use a two year or three-year time period instead of one year, the last SPARQL query could not find them. We, hence, manually searched through all datasets of the portal to find them (step 4). We found 5 more datasets. For these datasets we selected the value of the time dimension that is closer to 2015. For example, in cases of datasets that refer to two years (e.g., 2014-2015, 2015-2016, etc.), we selected 2014-



**Fig. 1.** The methodology of the creation of the dataset.

```

PREFIX sdmx-dim: <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#>
PREFIX qb: <http://purl.org/linked-data/cube#>
SELECT DISTINCT ?ds
WHERE {
  ?obs qb:dataSet ?ds ;
       sdmx-dim:refArea
       [?m <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/foi/collection/data-zones-2011>].
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs sdmx-dim:refPeriod <http://reference.data.gov.uk/id/year/2015>.
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs sdmx-dim:refPeriod <http://reference.data.gov.uk/id/government-year/2014-2015>.
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs sdmx-dim:refPeriod <http://reference.data.gov.uk/id/gregorian-interval/2014-01-01T00:00:00/P3Y>.
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs <http://purl.org/linked-data/cube#measureType> <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/ratio>.
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs <http://purl.org/linked-data/cube#measureType> <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/percent>.
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs <http://purl.org/linked-data/cube#measureType> <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/mean>.
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?obs <http://purl.org/linked-data/cube#measureType> <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/rank>
  }
}

```

**Fig. 2.** The SPARQL query to retrieve compatible datasets [9]. The query searches for datasets that describe ratio, percent, mean, and rank statistical indicators about 2011 data zones and the time periods 2015, 2014-2015, or 2014-2016.

```

SELECT ?area ?price ?employmentdeprivation ?schoolattendancerate WHERE {
  {
    ?a qb:dataSet <http://statistics.gov.scot/data/house-sales-prices>;
    <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#refPeriod> <http://reference.data.gov.uk/id/year/2015>;
    <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#refArea> ?area.
    ?areaa <http://publishmydata.com/def/ontology/foi/memberOf> <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/foi/collection/data-zones-2011> .
    ?a <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/mean> ?price .
  }
  OPTIONAL{
    ?u qb:dataSet <http://statistics.gov.scot/data/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation---employment-indicators>;
    <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#refPeriod> <http://reference.data.gov.uk/id/government-year/2014-2015>;
    <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#refArea> ?area;
    <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/ratio> ?employmentdeprivation.
  }
  OPTIONAL {
    ?f qb:dataSet <http://statistics.gov.scot/data/school-attendance-rate>;
    <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#refPeriod> <http://reference.data.gov.uk/id/government-year/2014-2015>;
    <http://purl.org/linked-data/sdmx/2009/dimension#refArea> ?area;
    <http://statistics.gov.scot/def/measure-properties/ratio> ?schoolattendancerate.
  }
}

```

**Fig. 3.** Part of the SPARQL query to retrieve data from the Scottish data portal. The query retrieves data for the 2015 house prices in all data zones, along with data from two compatible datasets describing (i) the ratio of employment deprivation in 2014-2015, and (ii) the ratio of school attendance in 2014-2015. The final SPARQL query can be found in [9].

2015. In the same way, in datasets with three-year intervals we selected 2014-2016. The final SPARQL query used to find all compatible datasets (step 4) is presented in Fig. 2 [9]. The query searches for datasets with (a) 2015, 2014-2015, or 2014-2016 year of reference, (b) 2011 data zones as the granularity level of the geography, and (c) ratio, percent, mean, or score (rank).

The SPARQL query of Fig. 2 resulted in 16 compatible datasets. In order to find the statistical indicators that could be used in the creation of a predictive model, we manually locked the different values of the dimensions of the datasets (step 5). For example, in the “Age of First Time Mothers” dataset<sup>4</sup> the “Age” dimension holds three values, i.e., (a) 19 years and under, (b) 35 years and over, and (c) all. If we lock the “Reference Period” dimension to “2014/15-2016/17” and the “Reference Area” dimension to “2011 Data Zones”, then we can result in three variables, one per different value of the “Age” dimension. We, hence, resulted in 60 variables that come from 16 datasets of the Scottish data portal.

We then retrieved the data for the 60 selected variables (step 6). Towards this end, we submitted a new SPARQL query [9] to the Scottish data portal. Part of the query can be seen in Fig. 3. The query selects three statistical indicators for all 2011 data zones; (a) the prices of

<sup>4</sup> <https://statistics.gov.scot/data/age-at-first-birth>

houses in 2015, (b) the ratio of employment deprivation for the years 2014–2015, and (c) the ratio of school attendance during the years 2014–2015.

## Ethics Statement

The present work did not involve human subjects, animals or information from social media platforms.

## CRediT Author Statement

**Areti Karamanou:** Formal analysis, Data Curation, Software, Writing - Original Draft; **Evangelos Kalampokis:** Methodology, Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing - Review & Editing; **Konstantinos Tarabanis:** Supervision.

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Data Availability

[Integrated Statistical Indicators from Scottish Linked Open Government Data \(Original data\)](#) (Zenodo).

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