

COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment Overview

*Garioch Area Wards –
Key Messages*

This presentation highlights some of the main themes pertaining to the four Garioch Wards – West Garioch, Inverurie and District, East Garioch, Westhill and District.

The document called 'CIA Ward Areas and Intermediate Zones Garioch.docx' (separate document) shows the location of the Intermediate Zones referred to in the presentation, along with notes on the indicators at the end of this document.

This presentation is entirely based on the COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment. It uses a variety of indicators to highlight areas that may potentially be vulnerable in respect of COVID-19 in the four Garioch Area Wards.

Content

1

**Community
Impact Assessment
(COVID-19) –
Aberdeenshire
Overview**

2

**Ward Summaries:
Turriff and District
Mid Formartine
Ellon and District**

**Community Impact
Assessment (COVID-19)**



- Incorporates dozens of indicators to highlight areas potentially vulnerable in respect of COVID-19;
- Provides Ward profiles based on various themes:

1. COVID Vulnerability
2. Demographic Vulnerability
3. Health Vulnerability
4. Economic Vulnerability
5. Other Social Data

In terms of structure, the presentation will essentially cover 2 main items:

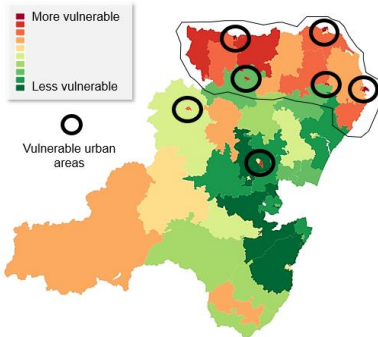
1. The overall findings of the Community Impact Assessment; and
2. Specific vulnerabilities identified per Ward

This presentation is entirely based on the COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment. It uses dozens of indicators to highlight areas that may potentially be vulnerable in respect of COVID-19. There are 5 main themes in the document. These are:

1. **COVID Vulnerability**
2. **Demographic Vulnerability**
3. **Health Vulnerability**
4. **Economic Vulnerability**
5. **Other Social Data**

Which areas are residents most likely to experience hardship as a result of COVID-19?

COVID Vulnerability Map

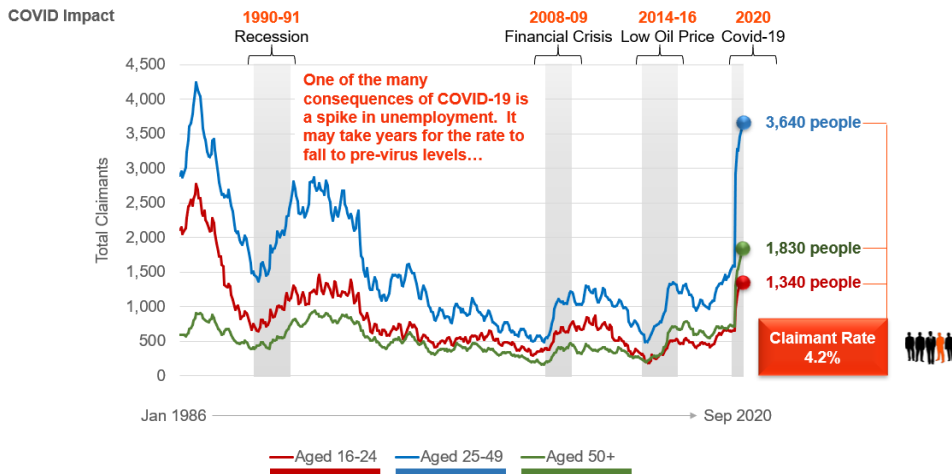


- Areas in **red** are more vulnerable; areas in **green** are less vulnerable.
- Areas in the north of Aberdeenshire and urban areas are generally more vulnerable.
- Deprivation is a factor. Nationally, people in the most deprived areas were over 2 times more likely to die with COVID than those living in the least deprived areas.
- Aberdeenshire is among the least vulnerable areas in Scotland.
- Aberdeenshire's COVID-related death rate is relatively low.

Areas in the north of Aberdeenshire and urban areas tend to be more vulnerable, according to the various indicators and themes contained in the report. Some of the more rural areas, whilst vulnerable in certain respects due to geographic remoteness and poorer internet connections, tend to be less vulnerable overall. Areas to the west and south of Aberdeen City are among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.

Areas in the north tend to be home to a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over who have social care needs and are receiving Attendance Allowance benefits. This is payable to people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision. There is a moderately strong correlation between Attendance Allowance rates and COVID-related death rates in that, where Attendance Allowance rates are relatively high, so too is the COVID death rate. Residents in the north also tend to experience poorer health outcomes and lower life expectancy rates relative to those living elsewhere in Aberdeenshire. The relationship between deprivation and COVID vulnerability isn't just a local phenomenon. National data show that, after adjusting for age, people in the most deprived areas were over 2 times more likely to die with COVID than those living in the least deprived areas. The vulnerable areas you see in the map are based on Aberdeenshire-specific data. Although these areas are vulnerable in the context of Aberdeenshire, they are statistically less vulnerable when viewed alongside other areas in Scotland.

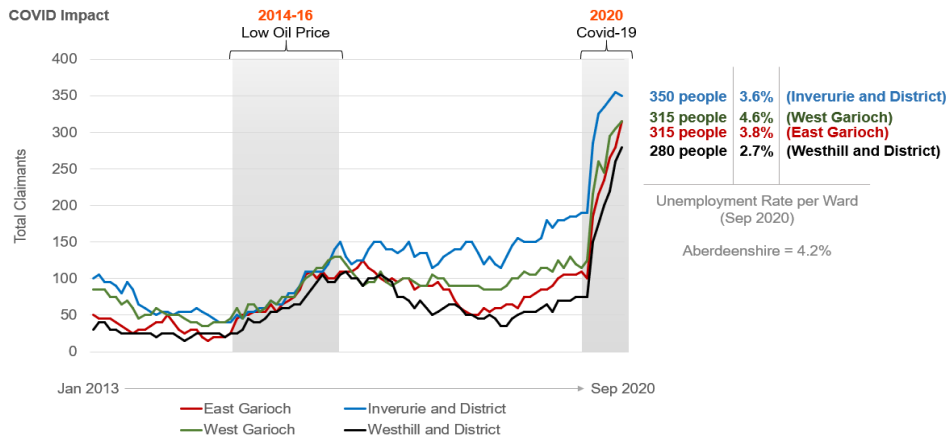
Claimant Count (Unemployment Rate)



The economic consequences of COVID will likely be felt for years to come. Perhaps the most accessible manifestation of that statement is found in the claimant count (or unemployment rate), which we'll track, in the first instance, from January 1986 to September 2020. The COVID pandemic is placed in the context of previous recessions and crises, as shown by the grey vertical bars in the chart. The coloured dots you'll see bouncing in to view simply trace the claimant count of the respective age group over the years.

The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming unemployment related benefit in the UK. Aberdeenshire's claimant count has, like the rest of Scotland, increased over the last few months to levels not seen since the 1990/91 UK-wide recession. Approximately 6,810 people claimed unemployment benefits in Aberdeenshire over the course of September 2020, up from 2,980 in February (prior to Lockdown). That equates to 4.2% of the total population aged 16-64, up from 2.3% in February. Although this is the 3rd lowest rate in Scotland, it is a relative 'shock' in the context of recent local employment data and could potentially push a greater proportion of residents and families closer to the threshold of relative deprivation. The situation may be exacerbated once the existing furlough scheme expires.

Claimant Count (Unemployment Rate)



This slide showing the Claimant count for 16-64 year olds in the four Garioch Wards up to September 2020. The numbers of people unemployed has risen in all wards.

The highest rate in West Garioch at 4.6%, followed by East Garioch 3.8%, Inverurie and District 3.6% and Westhill and District 2.7%. The data (Sept 2020) show that only West Garioch's claimant rate exceeds the Aberdeenshire average – but at 4.6% this is still below the Scottish rate (which is 6.3%) and the UK-wide rate (6.5%). The Aberdeenshire average is 4.2%

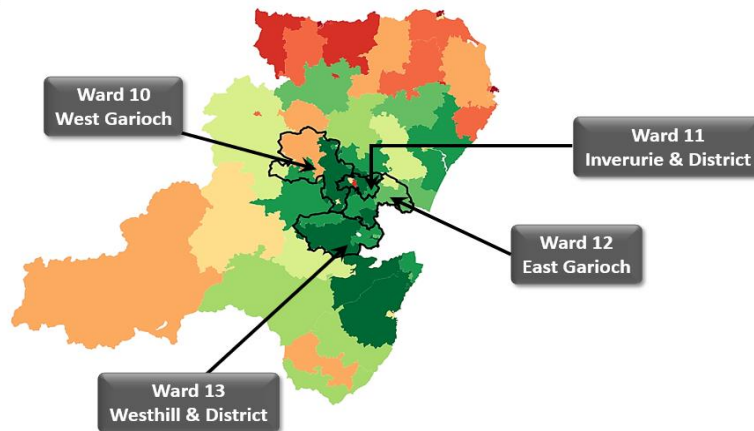
Claimant numbers Feb 2020 Ward 10 - 115, Ward 11 - 190, Ward 12 – 110 Ward 13 - 75

Claimant numbers Sep 2020 Ward 10 - 315, Ward 11 - 350, Ward 12 – 315 Ward 13 - 280

The next few slides look at the Garioch Area Wards individually to and see what the data is telling us.

COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment

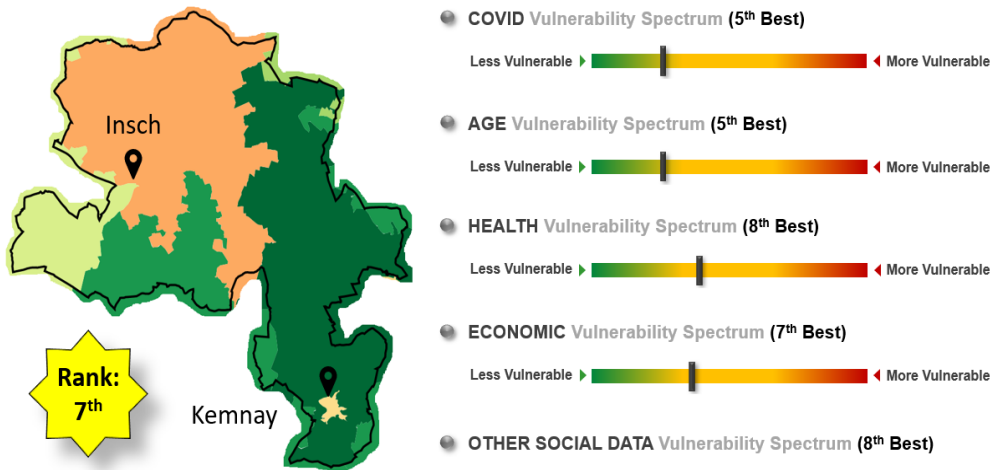
COVID Vulnerability Map



This map shows overall vulnerability per Aberdeenshire Intermediate Zone. The four Garioch Wards are highlighted. . What should be evident is the extent to which green is the prevailing colour within these 4 areas, which suggests they are among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Indeed, Garioch is home to the 2nd least and least vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire respectively.

The map also shows a smattering of red and orange within the general Garioch region, and reasons for this should become apparent when each Ward is summarised over the next few slides.

Ward 10 – West Garioch



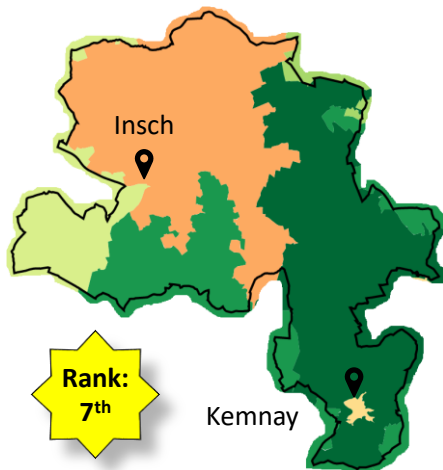
This is an enlarged portion of the map on the previous slide. It shows West Garioch's overall vulnerability per Intermediate Zone. Again, green denotes areas that are less vulnerable overall; reds and oranges denote more vulnerable areas. The towns have been added to the map so everyone can get their bearings.

These are the 5 themes used in the Community Impact Assessment. They simply place the Ward on a spectrum, from least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire to most vulnerable. The closer the black marker is to the green side of the graph the less vulnerable that Ward is relative to all other Wards in Aberdeenshire.

So, in short, the farther the black marker is to the **left**-hand side of the graph, the better. I've also included the Ward's ranking per Theme, as well as the overall ranking (the yellow star at the bottom-left of your screens).

So overall, this Ward is ranked 7th best (or 7th least vulnerable) out of the 19 Wards in Aberdeenshire.

Ward 10 – West Garioch 1 of 3

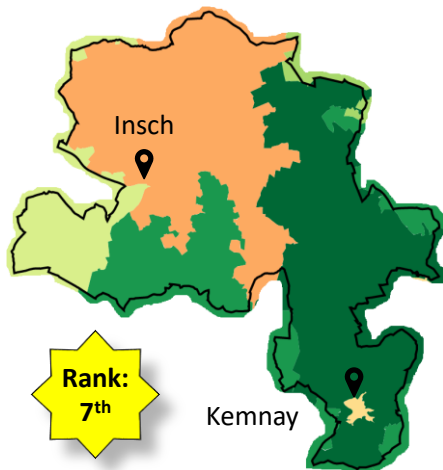


- **Ward is on the less vulnerable end of the spectrum.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells potentially vulnerable (business-related).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells, and Kemnay potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Kemnay arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Ward generally affluent; certain Kemnay residents may experience some hardship.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Remoteness potentially an issue.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, this Ward is among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. In terms of the ScotPHO index, which places an emphasis on health-related indicators, **Kemnay is the most vulnerable area in this Ward** – but is only slightly above (i.e. worse than) the Aberdeenshire average. And it scores relatively well in respect of the more comprehensive British Red Cross index. The opposite is the case for Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells. This is largely a result of business-related vulnerabilities – for example, a relatively high proportion of small businesses are located here, and it contains a high proportion of jobs in the health and transport sectors – both vulnerable in the context of COVID.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, West Garioch is one of the least vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire. **Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells, and Kemnay, would be considered the most vulnerable areas in this particular Ward.** The general Insch area is home to a higher-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over with underlying health conditions (i.e. those in receipt of Attendance Allowance benefits); and Kemnay has a higher-than-average population aged 65 and over. As we know, age is a risk factor in terms of COVID, and the risk increases in populations with a higher incidence of underlying health conditions.

Ward 10 – West Garioch 2 of 3

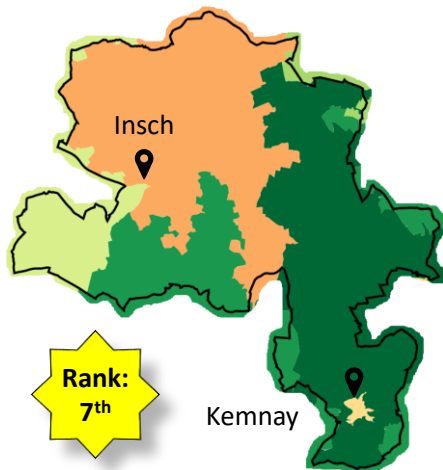


- **Ward is on the less vulnerable end of the spectrum.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells potentially vulnerable (business-related).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells, and Kemnay potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Kemnay arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Ward generally affluent; certain Kemnay residents may experience some hardship.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Remoteness potentially an issue.

Most health-related indicators suggest the general population within the Ward is relatively healthy, albeit the weighted rankings suggest the area is closer to the Aberdeenshire average. This is largely due to the fact that one Intermediate Zone – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells – recorded 4 COVID-related deaths since March 1st, 2020, which is one of the highest numbers in Aberdeenshire. If COVID deaths were taken out of the equation, then **Kemnay would probably have the worst overall health profile in this Ward.**

This is due to a relatively high early death rate from cancer, as well as the rate of patients hospitalised with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and coronary heart disease. The area also ranks poorly in terms of maternal obesity. Kemnay is also home to a relatively large proportion of households in receipt of Universal Credit with Limited Work Capability relative to the other Intermediate Zones in the Ward. This just means a health condition or disability prevents someone from working or limits the amount of work they can do.

Ward 10 – West Garioch 3 of 3



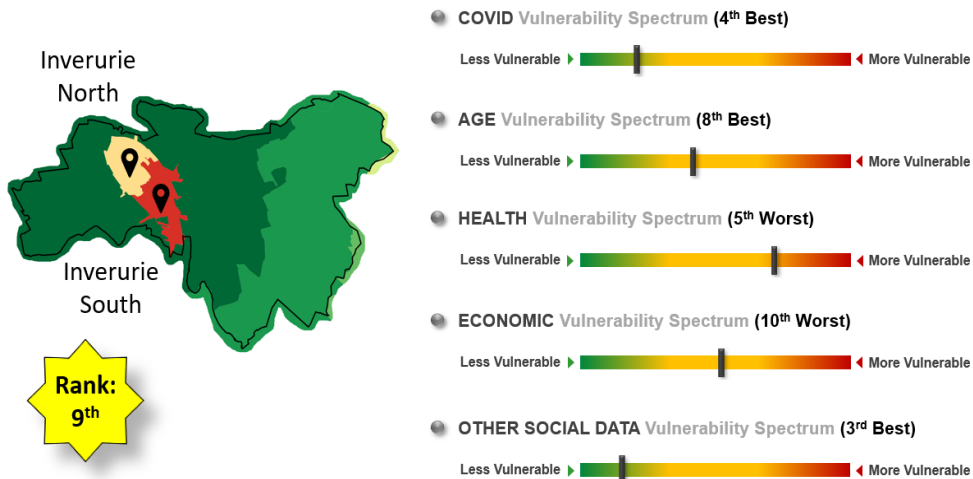
- **Ward is on the less vulnerable end of the spectrum.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells potentially vulnerable (business-related).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells, and Kemnay potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Kemnay arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Ward generally affluent; certain Kemnay residents may experience some hardship.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Remoteness potentially an issue.

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is generally better-than-average, according to the 15 indicators used in the main report. The proportion of households earning less than £20,000 is among the lowest in Aberdeenshire, and median household income is towards the higher end of the spectrum. Kemnay is also home to a relatively high proportion of children living in relative poverty, and a relatively high proportion of people on Universal Credit whilst in employment, suggesting in-work poverty may be an issue. The proportion of pensioners in receipt of Pension Credits is among the lowest in the region, suggesting pensioner poverty is not an issue here – neither is income deprivation generally, although it is relatively high in Kemnay (as is the unemployment rate, albeit at 4.7% it's low by national standards).

The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability are generally in keeping with Aberdeenshire averages. The area arguably suffers a bit in terms of the 'remoteness' indicators, for example average drive times to various local amenities are relatively high, bus accessibility is relatively poor, and access to superfast broadband may be described as patchy. This latter point could hamper or frustrate internet users in some parts, especially if they rely on fast internet connections for work purposes.

In short, Kemnay along with Insch, Oyne and Ythanwells are arguably the most vulnerable areas in this Ward overall.

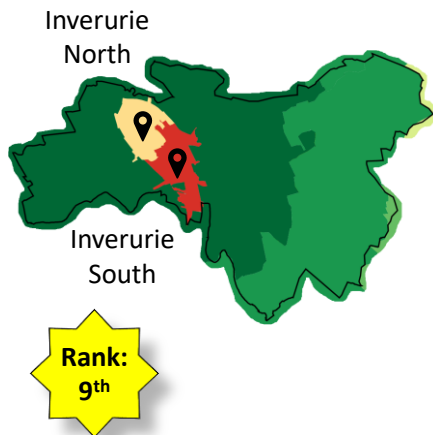
Ward 11 – Inverurie and District



The map suggests the area surrounding Inverurie is generally among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire (denoted by the green colours). However, Inverurie itself – particularly the south of Inverurie – fares less well. If we look at the slider graphs on the right we can see that in a couple of instances the black markers are more towards the right hand side of the spectrum, meaning the Ward is more vulnerable. This is particularly the case in relation to the health theme and, to a lesser extent, the economic theme.

As the yellow star at the bottom-left of the screen shows, the Ward is ranked 9th out of 19. Although it is on the less vulnerable end of the spectrum overall, it is the worst ranked Ward in the Garioch area.

Ward 11 – Inverurie and District 1 of 3

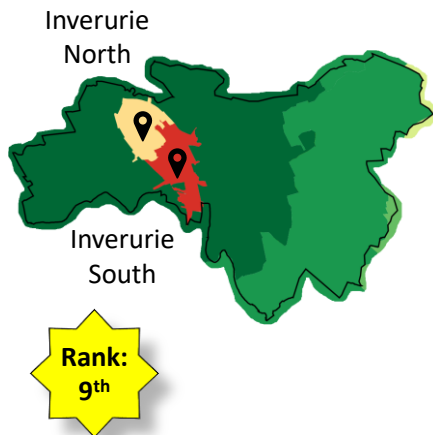


- **Ward has a middling rank overall – the Aberdeenshire average.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Inverurie South potentially vulnerable (ScotPHO – worst 20%).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Inverurie South potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+ with underlying health conditions).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Inverurie South arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Inverurie generally more vulnerable (urban).
- **Other Vulnerability** – Geographic access generally very good. But Inverurie vulnerable due to jobs in retail sector.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, for example, Inverurie and District is among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. According to the ScotPHO study, which places an emphasis on health-related indicators, **Inverurie South is the most vulnerable area in this Ward** – and among the most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Indeed, it is among the top 20% most vulnerable in Scotland on a population-weighted basis. Inverurie North is not far behind, although it scores better in terms of the British Red Cross study of COVID vulnerability, suggesting factors other than health provide residents with a degree of protection in the area.

Kintore and Durno-Chapel of Garioch are situated in the 'Least Vulnerable Quadrant' meaning they are among the least vulnerable areas in Aberdeenshire. In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, Inverurie and District is situated towards the less vulnerable end of the spectrum. **Inverurie and South would be considered the most vulnerable area in this particular Ward.** This is due to the fact that the area is home to a higher-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over with underlying health conditions (i.e. those in receipt of Attendance Allowance benefits), as well as a higher-than-average population aged 65 and over.

Ward 11 – Inverurie and District 2 of 3



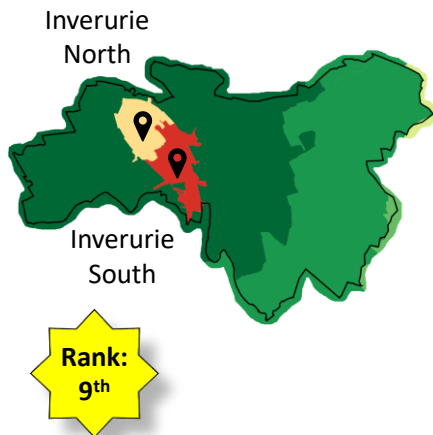
- **Ward has a middling rank overall – the Aberdeenshire average.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Inverurie South potentially vulnerable (ScotPHO – worst 20%).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Inverurie South potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+ with underlying health conditions).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Inverurie South arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Inverurie generally more vulnerable (urban).
- **Other Vulnerability** – Geographic access generally very good. But Inverurie vulnerable due to jobs in retail sector.

The various health-related indicators used in the main report suggest health is a weakness for the area. As the rankings are weighted in favour of COVID-related deaths, the fact that the Ward accrued a total of 9 such deaths over the past few months would largely account for this. Inverurie North recorded 4 COVID-related deaths since March 1st, 2020, which is one of the highest numbers in Aberdeenshire. Again, the location of a care home or other institutional setting may have had some bearing on this outcome.

If COVID deaths were taken out of the equation, then **Inverurie South arguably has the worst overall health profile in this Ward**. This is due to a relatively high rate of hospitalisations for certain conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, coronary heart disease, and certain alcohol-related conditions. The area is also home to a relatively large proportion of households in receipt of Personal Independence Payments (or PIPs). PIPs help with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health.

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is generally in keeping with the Aberdeenshire average in terms of the various indicators used to compile the rankings.

Ward 11 – Inverurie and District 3 of 3



- **Ward has a middling rank overall – the Aberdeenshire average.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Inverurie South potentially vulnerable (ScotPHO – worst 20%).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Inverurie South potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+ with underlying health conditions).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Inverurie South arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Inverurie generally more vulnerable (urban).
- **Other Vulnerability** – Geographic access generally very good. But Inverurie vulnerable due to jobs in retail sector.

There appears to be quite a large disparity, however, between the two Inverurie Intermediate Zones and those surrounding the town. For instance, median household income in Inverurie North and South was £36,500 and £29,800 respectively in 2019. It was nearer to £50,000 in the other two Intermediate Zones. A similar disparity emerges in terms of the respective unemployment rates, as well as the rate of change in unemployment over the past few months. Coupled with relatively high income deprivation and child poverty rates – particularly in Inverurie South – it suggests that certain residents in **Inverurie** may experience financial hardship to a greater degree than those elsewhere in the Ward.

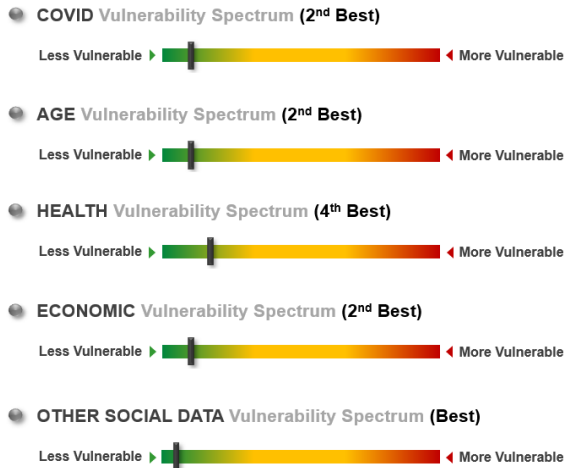
The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability generally show the Ward in a favourable light, suggesting it is among the least vulnerable in terms of 'Other Socio-Economic Data'. Geographic access is relatively good, as is bus accessibility, and superfast broadband availability is high. Residents are also generally close to public playing fields. However, a potential vulnerability may lie in the proportion of jobs in the retail sector, particularly in **Inverurie as a whole – but especially in Inverurie South.**

In short, **Inverurie South** is arguably the most vulnerable area in this Ward overall - and, indeed, the most vulnerable area in the general Garioch region.

Ward 12 – East Garioch



Rank:
2nd



This map shows East Garioch's overall vulnerability per intermediate Zone. Green denotes areas that are less vulnerable overall, reds and oranges denote more vulnerable areas. The map suggests the area within this Ward is generally among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire (denoted by the 'all' green colours). The five slider graphs are representative of the 5 themes used in the Community Impact Assessment. They simply place the Ward on a spectrum, from least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire to most vulnerable. The closer the black marker is to the green side of the graph the less vulnerable that Ward is relative to all other Wards in Aberdeenshire.

So, in short, the farther the black marker is to the **left**-hand side of the graph, the better. East Garioch is ranked the 2nd least vulnerable Ward in Aberdeenshire when all relevant indicators are taken into account. This is evidenced by the map on the left (generally green) and the slider charts on the right (which show the black markers towards the left-hand side of the respective chart).

Ward 12 – East Garioch 1 of 3



- **Ward is one of the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Kintore most vulnerable in Ward but not in the context of Aberdeenshire.
- **Age Vulnerability** – Small 65+ population / few have underlying health conditions.
- **Health Vulnerability** – Newmachar & Fintray arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward – but in line with Shire average.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most affluent residents in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Among the best ranks per indicator in Shire. Remoteness in some parts may be an issue.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, East Garioch is among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. All three Intermediate Zones fall within the least vulnerable quadrant – a rare occurrence in the context of the suite of COVID-19 Ward reports the analysts have produced. **Kintore** (which straddles a couple of Wards in the area) **would be considered the most vulnerable area in this Ward** – but is still among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire, and indeed, Scotland. The same may be said of Newmachar and Fintray. Blackburn tends to fall within the 10% least vulnerable areas in Scotland based on the dozens of indicators used to comprise the two national COVID vulnerability indices.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, East Garioch is one of the least vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire. The Ward is generally home to a lower-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over (Blackburn is home to the lowest rate in Aberdeenshire), and relatively few over 65's receive Attendance Allowance benefits, meaning relatively few over 65's have underlying health conditions.

Most health-related indicators suggest the general population within the Ward is relatively healthy, particularly those near the southern border. In terms of COVID-related deaths, Kintore recorded 2 deaths between March 1st and August 31st 2020, Newmachar and Fintray recorded 1, and Blackburn recorded zero.

Ward 12 – East Garioch 2 of 3



- **Ward is one of the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Kintore most vulnerable in Ward but not in the context of Aberdeenshire.
- **Age Vulnerability** – Small 65+ population / few have underlying health conditions.
- **Health Vulnerability** – Newmachar & Fintray arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward – but in line with Shire average.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most affluent residents in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Among the best ranks per indicator in Shire. Remoteness in some parts may be an issue.

The monthly proxy health indicators reinforce the general ‘good health’ theme. Only 21 households in the Ward were in receipt of Universal Credit with Limited Work Capability, which equates to one of the lowest rates in Aberdeenshire. The same may be said of people receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIPs). All Intermediate Zones in the Ward are among or just outside the top 5 best in Aberdeenshire in that respect.

Newmachar and Fintray arguably has the worst overall health profile in this Ward. The area has ranked relatively poorly in the past in relation to child healthy weight in Primary 1, alcohol-related hospital stays, and bowel screening uptake rates (which may be said of all Intermediate Zones in the Ward, to a greater or lesser degree).

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is better-than-average in virtually every respect. The proportion of households earning less than £20,000 is among the lowest in Aberdeenshire, and median household income is among the highest. The proportion of pensioners in receipt of Pension Credits is among the lowest in the region, suggesting pensioner poverty is not an issue here – neither is income deprivation generally, or child poverty.

Ward 12 – East Garioch 3 of 3

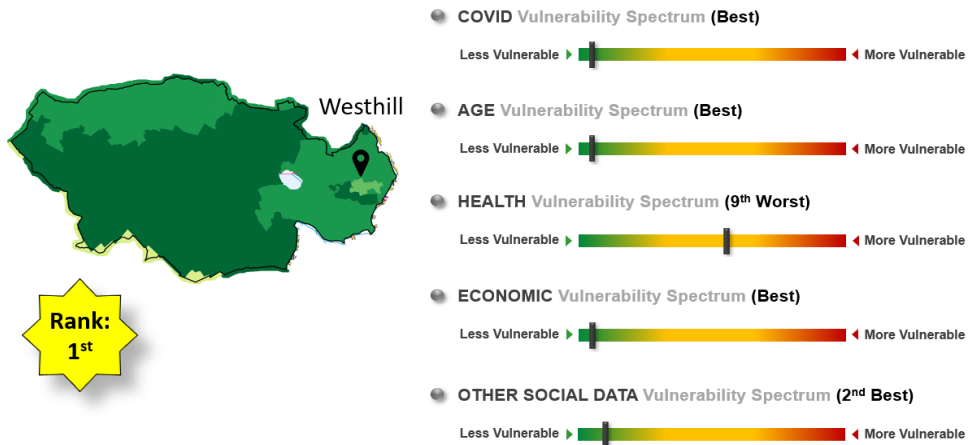


- **Ward is one of the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Kintore most vulnerable in Ward but not in the context of Aberdeenshire.
- **Age Vulnerability** – Small 65+ population / few have underlying health conditions.
- **Health Vulnerability** – Newmachar & Fintray arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward – but in line with Shire average.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most affluent residents in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Among the best ranks per indicator in Shire. Remoteness in some parts may be an issue.

Perhaps surprisingly, although Blackburn may be considered among the most affluent areas in Aberdeenshire, the Intermediate Zone ranks relatively poorly in terms of the proportion of the working age population in receipt of Universal Credit payments whilst in employment. Although the rate is low, this could suggest that certain people may be struggling to make ends meet despite having a job.

The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability are generally among the best in Aberdeenshire. If we're being ultra critical, the area may be said to suffer a bit in terms of the 'remoteness' indicators. For example, average drive times to various local amenities is a bit on the high side – but given the relative affluence of residents in the area, and the high proportion of car ownership, this likely won't cause a problem for most people.

Ward 13 – Westhill and District



This map shows Westhill and District’s overall vulnerability per intermediate Zone. Green denotes areas that are less vulnerable overall, reds and oranges denote more vulnerable areas. The map suggests the area within this Ward is generally among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire (denoted by the ‘all’ green colours). The five slider graphs are representative of the 5 themes used in the Community Impact Assessment. They simply place the Ward on a spectrum, from least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire to most vulnerable. The closer the black marker is to the green side of the graph the less vulnerable that Ward is relative to all other Wards in Aberdeenshire.

So, in short, the farther the black marker is to the **left**-hand side of the graph, the better. East Garioch is ranked the 2nd least vulnerable Ward in Aberdeenshire when all relevant indicators are taken into account. This is evidenced by the map on the left (generally green) and the slider charts on the right (which show the black markers towards the left-hand side of the respective chart).

Ward 13 – Westhill and District 1 of 3



Rank:
1st

- **Ward is the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Dunecht, Durriss & Drumoak most vulnerable in Ward (business-related).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Small 65+ population / few have underlying health conditions.
- **Health Vulnerability** – Westhill North & South recorded 11 COVID deaths (2nd highest in Shire).
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most affluent residents in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Among the best ranks per indicator in Shire. Potential vulnerability – high proportion of hospitality jobs.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, Westhill and District is the least vulnerable Ward in Aberdeenshire. All but one of the Intermediate Zones fall within the least vulnerable quadrant. The exception being **Dunecht, Durriss and Drumoak**. This is largely a result of business-related vulnerabilities: a relatively high proportion of self-employed people were reportedly situated here at the last Census, and more recent data show it contains a high proportion of jobs in the education, accommodation, food services and transport sectors – all vulnerable in the context of COVID. Garlogie and Elrick is among the least vulnerable areas in Scotland, according to the national rankings.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, Intermediate Zones within this Ward are among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Most areas are home to a lower-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over (Westhill Central the only exception). And most areas contain a relatively low proportion of over 65's in receipt of Attendance Allowance payments, which mean relatively few people of pensionable age have underlying health conditions. Indeed, the Ward accrued the lowest rate in Aberdeenshire as at the most recent Quarter.

Most health-related indicators suggest the general population within the Ward is relatively healthy. A relatively small proportion of the working age population receive

Ward 13 – Westhill and District 2 of 3



Rank:
1st

- **Ward is the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Dunecht, Durriss & Drumoak most vulnerable in Ward (business-related).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Small 65+ population / few have underlying health conditions.
- **Health Vulnerability** – Westhill North & South recorded 11 COVID deaths (2nd highest in Shire).
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most affluent residents in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Among the best ranks per indicator in Shire. Potential vulnerability – high proportion of hospitality jobs.

Personal Independence Payments (2.2%, which is among the lowest rates in Aberdeenshire). It appears that Dunecht, Durriss and Drumoak and Howe of Alford are more in line with Aberdeenshire averages in this respect, more so than the other Intermediate Zones in the Ward.

Westhill North and South recorded 11 COVID-related deaths between March 1st and August 31st 2020, which is the second highest in Aberdeenshire after Peterhead Harbour. It is for this reason that the Ward scores poorly in relation to the Health theme relative to most other themes in this report. Again, the location of a care home or other institutional setting may have had a bearing on this outcome. Westhill North and South are the most vulnerable IZs in terms of health in this Ward.

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Median household income is the highest in Aberdeenshire, and the proportion of households earning less than £20,000 is the lowest. The area also accrued the lowest unemployment rate, income deprivation rate, and child poverty rate in Aberdeenshire. Pensioner poverty, as determined by the proportion of people aged 65 and over in receipt of Pension Credits, is also the lowest in Aberdeenshire. A similar story may be said of the proportion of people on Universal Credit. The evidence suggests the area is very much at the more affluent end of the spectrum.

Ward 13 – Westhill and District 3 of 3



Rank:
1st

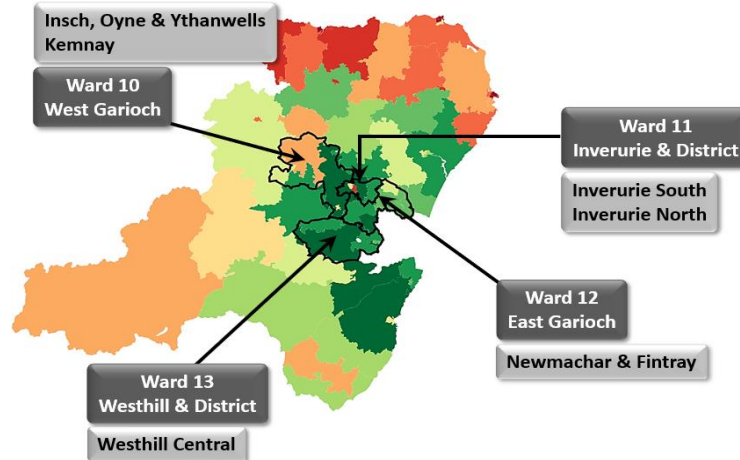
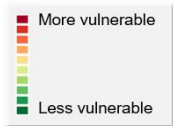
- **Ward is the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Dunecht, Durris & Drumoak most vulnerable in Ward (business-related).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Small 65+ population / few have underlying health conditions.
- **Health Vulnerability** – Westhill North & South recorded 11 COVID deaths (2nd highest in Shire).
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most affluent residents in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Among the best ranks per indicator in Shire. Potential vulnerability – high proportion of hospitality jobs.

The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability generally reinforce the economic theme. Overcrowding in the area is low, as is the proportion of households without access to a car or van. As such, food vulnerability is not an issue, especially when relatively low drive times to various local amenities (including supermarkets) are factored in.

A potential vulnerability exists, however, in relation to the proportion of jobs in the hospitality industry (9.8% of jobs are categorised as such, which is among the higher proportions in Aberdeenshire).

Garioch Wards: Most 'Vulnerable' Areas

COVID Vulnerability Map



The map of Aberdeenshire now includes the most vulnerable Intermediate Zones in the context of each Ward. With the possible exception of Inverurie South, the areas listed on the slide would not be categorised as vulnerable in the context of Aberdeenshire. That is because the Wards in the general Garioch area are among the least vulnerable in the north east region.

In summary

- Ward 10** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Insch, Oyne & Ythanwells, Kemnay**
- Ward 11** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Inverurie South and Inverurie North**
- Ward 12** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Newmachar and Fintray**
- Ward 13** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Westhill Central**

Additional Notes

Digital vulnerability – is not showing as a risk in any of the Kincardine and Mearns IZs. However we do know that many organisations and partners e.g. Citizens Advice Scotland found that there was a need for a rapid shift to **Signposting and online delivery of support** allowing them to deal with the rising numbers of requests for help and distancing measures brought in due to COVID-19.

The Digital Vulnerability measure included data on:

- Broadband speed
- Buying online
- Managing current accounts online
- Mobile phone ownership
- Internet usage
- People agreeing with the statement "computers confuse me, I will never get used to them"

The **Loneliness Prescription Index** is based on an approach developed by the Office for National Statistics' Data Science Campus, which uses GP prescription data to find areas with above-average prescriptions for five conditions where loneliness has been shown to be a risk factor: Alzheimer's, depression, high blood pressure, anxiety and insomnia.

Financial Data is supplied by: © CACI Limited 1996 - 2017 This report shall be used solely for academic, personal and/or non-commercial purposes. The applicable copyright notices can be found at <https://www.caci.co.uk/copyrightnotices.pdf>

The End