

# Two Islingtons: Understanding the problem

## Paper 1: What is the picture for Islington? Understanding the evidence base

### Introduction

1. It has become rather clichéd to say that Islington is a place where rich and poor live cheek by jowl. In fact Islington is one of the most deprived local authority areas in the country, but it is also home to some of the wealthiest and influential people in Britain.
2. This document attempts to provide a short, accessible statistical overview of the life of people living in Islington. It highlights differences in the experience of different groups within the community. There are inevitably some gaps in the data and it is likely to raise at least as many questions as it answers.

### Population overview

3. Islington's population is very diverse. Of the 200,000 residents just over a quarter are from BME communities and a further fifth are white but not of British heritage. Islington has a lot of young adults, attracted by job opportunities in the capital, but fewer older people and children compared to London.
4. About one in six people has a disability or long-term illness that affects their day to day activities. The borough has one of the highest proportions of social tenants in the country, a large private rented sector but relatively few home owners.

	<b>Islington</b> (% of population)	<b>London</b> (% of population)
<b>Tenure<sup>1</sup></b>		
Social rented	44%	26%
Owner occupier	32%	57%
Private rented	24%	17%
<b>Age<sup>2</sup></b>		
0-17	18%	22%
18-34	35%	28%
35-59	35%	34%
60+	12%	15%
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>		
White	74%	65%
Black	13%	14%
Asian	5%	12%
Other	8%	9%
<b>Long-term limiting illness (LLI)<sup>3</sup></b>		
Disabled or LLI	18%	15.5%
Not Disabled/LLI	82%	84.5%

### Deprivation and prosperity in Islington.

5. One of the most useful tools in understanding relative deprivation and poverty within Islington is the Index of Multiple Deprivation<sup>4</sup> (IMD). According to the IMD, Islington is the eighth most deprived area in the country and the fourth most deprived in London.
6. There is a clear 'band of deprivation' through north and east London with runs through Islington (see Figure 1 in Annex 1). This provides a visual measure of the depth of deprivation in the borough (and neighbouring areas).
7. Two thirds of the 118 'super output areas' (SOAs) in the borough are among the 20% most deprived SOAs in the country. Figures 2 and 3 shows the pattern of deprivation within the borough, with darker areas representing the more deprived areas. The concentration of these is in the northern half of the borough, with a substantial cluster to the south east and pockets of deep deprivation scattered elsewhere.

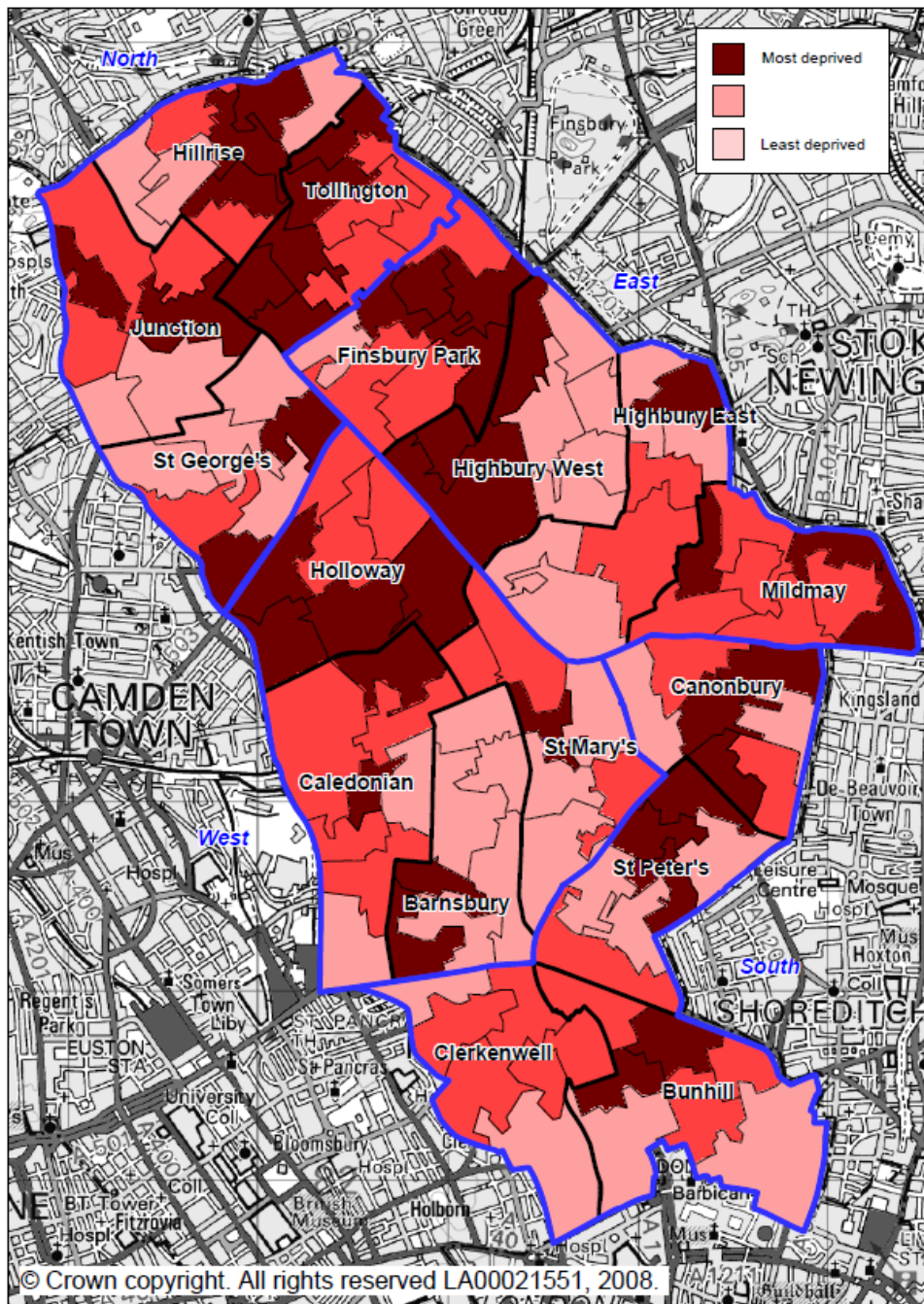
<sup>1</sup> Source: Islington Housing Needs Assessment, 2007 (Islington); Census 2001.

<sup>2</sup> GLA Population Projections 2008 Round, Greater London Authority.

<sup>3</sup> Limiting long-term illness covers any long-term illness; health problem or disability which limits daily activities. Census 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2007, Communities and Local Government is constructed by combining seven 'domains' each of which relates to a major social or economic deprivation. The data is calculated at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) across the country. There are 118 LSOAs in Islington (housing an average of around 1700 people each).

## Deprivation map of Islington



8. Rather perplexingly, despite being one of the most deprived local authorities in the country Islington ranks highly nationally on a prosperity index (Local Futures, 2010) too. Reflecting variables such as average income, house prices and two-car households, Islington's prosperity score of 163 places it in the top 20 most prosperous districts nationally. This may seem counter-intuitive but does reflect a wealthy minority living in the borough.
9. Demographic profiling using Mosaic<sup>5</sup> enables the borough's population to be divided into different categories. In Islington there are two main groups that together account for over

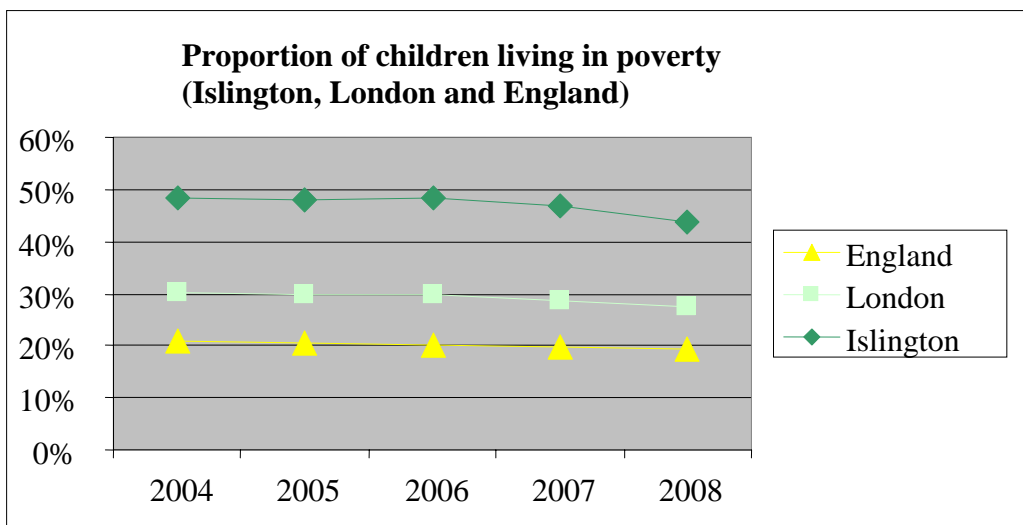
<sup>5</sup> Mosaic is a tool that has been developed by Experian UK Ltd. It divides the population into one of 15 groups and within these into 67 mosaic 'types'

90% of the population. They are described as “young people renting flats in high density social housing” (43%) and “young well educated city dwellers” (48%). These descriptions are inevitably very sweeping but suggest two very different demographics. According to Mosaic there is a small minority of Islington residents (3%) classified as “wealthy people living in the most sought after neighbourhoods” and a further 3% described as “lower income workers in urban terraces”. Figure 4 shows the distribution.

### Child poverty

10. Of the 40,000 children and young people in the borough 45% live in poverty. This equates to 18,000 children and is the second highest rate in the country. Of these, 73% live in lone parent households. Only one in seven is in a low income working household. Child poverty in Islington is overwhelmingly a phenomenon associated with worklessness.

**“Nearly half of Islington’s children live in poverty, and almost all are in workless families.”**

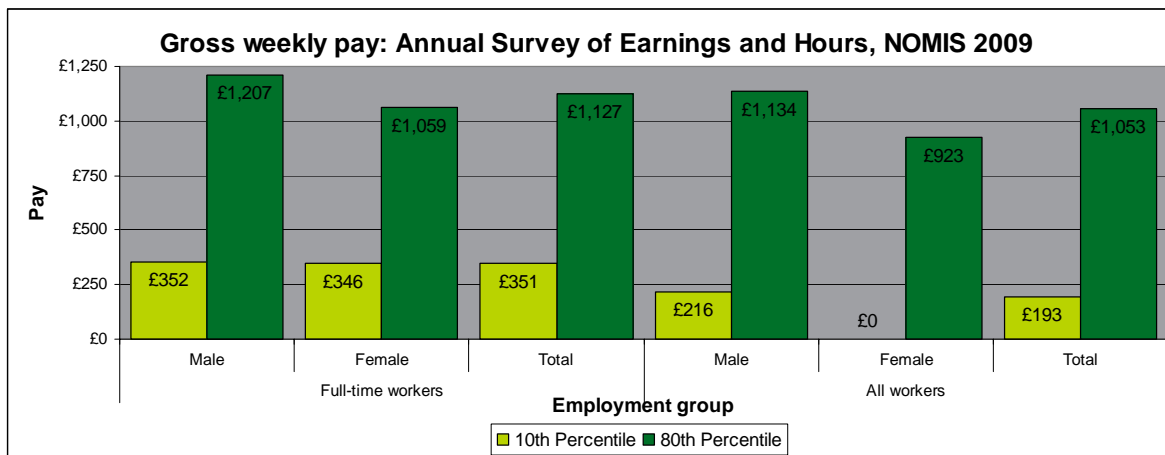


### Income and debt

11. Reliable data on income is difficult to obtain. Paycheck (modelled household income data, developed by CACI) data for Islington shows that there is a wide range of household incomes. Fifteen percent of households having an income of less than £15,000 and just under half have an income of under £30,000. One in six households in the borough has an income of over £60,000 (see Figure 6).

12. Data on earned income suggests that in Islington the gross full-time earnings of the lowest earners is £351 per week compared to gross earnings of £1,127 of the top 20% of earners. In other words the higher earners are paid nearly four times as much as the lower earners.

**“The lowest paid workers in Islington earn, on average, only a quarter of the better paid earners.”**

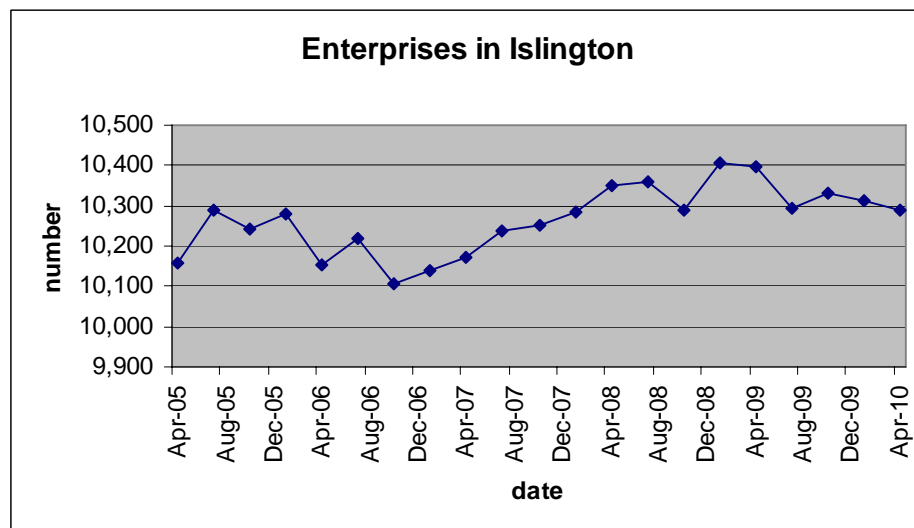


13. Debt is a problem faced by a large number of Islington residents. Recent research suggests that over 11,000 people have debts of between £5-15,000 and a further 13,000 people have unsecured debts exceeding £15,000 (Rocket Science report into Debt in Islington, January 2010).

14. Postcode analysis shows that a relatively high proportion of low income postcodes have significant levels of unsecured debt of over £15,000.

### Enterprise, jobs and skills

15. There are 10,300 businesses in Islington providing a total of 176,000 jobs. Despite the recession the number of businesses has increased slightly in the last five years, and 25,000 more people are employed than in 2005.



16. Four fifths of local businesses have 10 or fewer employees, but the 200 biggest companies account for nearly half the jobs in the borough. The vast majority of jobs in the borough are professional and business services, such as finance, IT, health and education (Figures 5c and 5d).

17. There are 140,000 people in Islington of working age. Two thirds of them are in employment. The number who are in work has fallen over the last year and is lower than the London average despite there being 1.3 jobs located in the borough for each resident of working age.
18. Islington has a relatively skilled workforce with a higher than average number of people qualified to degree level or the equivalent (47%), but 18,000 residents of working age have no qualifications at all and a further 13,000 have fewer than five GCSE passes<sup>6</sup>.
19. Two thirds of employed Islington residents work in professional and technical occupations, a fifth work in administrative, skilled and semi-skilled occupations, and the remainder – about 9,000 residents - work in unskilled occupations (Figure 8b).
20. Official unemployment in Islington is also higher than average. The current rate is 5.5% which is the eighth highest in London, and Islington residents are likely to claim Job Seekers Allowance for longer than claimants elsewhere in London.
21. Unemployment by ward varies from 7.7% in Finsbury Park to 3.6% in Clerkenwell. (Figures 9 and 10). Young people are much more likely to be unemployed than the population as a whole, as are people from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups (fig 11).
22. Four hundred 16 to 18 year olds are not in employment, education or training (NEET) and 95% of these live in families where nobody works. There are some groups where the proportion of NEETs is significantly higher than the average. For example 19% of young people who are disabled.

## Health

23. NHS Islington has recently produced a report on health inequalities in Islington<sup>7</sup>. It provides an accessible overview of the health inequalities in the borough. It puts the context of health in Islington into perspective in a single, stark paragraph:

“Islington residents experience poorer physical and mental health that results in early deaths from cancer and circulatory disease. This is mainly because of deprivation across all Islington wards coupled with unhealthy lifestyle choices and poor access to the right services at the right time.”
24. Deprivation and health inequalities are inextricably linked, and deprivation stands out as the main risk factor for early death and poor health in Islington.
25. At present in Islington:
  - Men in Islington have the lowest life expectancy in London (75.1 years)
  - Women in Islington have the fourth lowest life expectancy in London (81.0 years)
  - Although life expectancy in Islington is increasing, the gap between Islington and elsewhere is widening as life expectancy is increasing elsewhere at a faster rate.
26. Deprivation and poverty has a direct correlation with unhealthy lifestyle behaviours. The major lifestyle factors that contribute to early deaths in Islington are smoking, poor diet, low

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<sup>6</sup> Qualifications Jan-Dec 2008, Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, 2010.

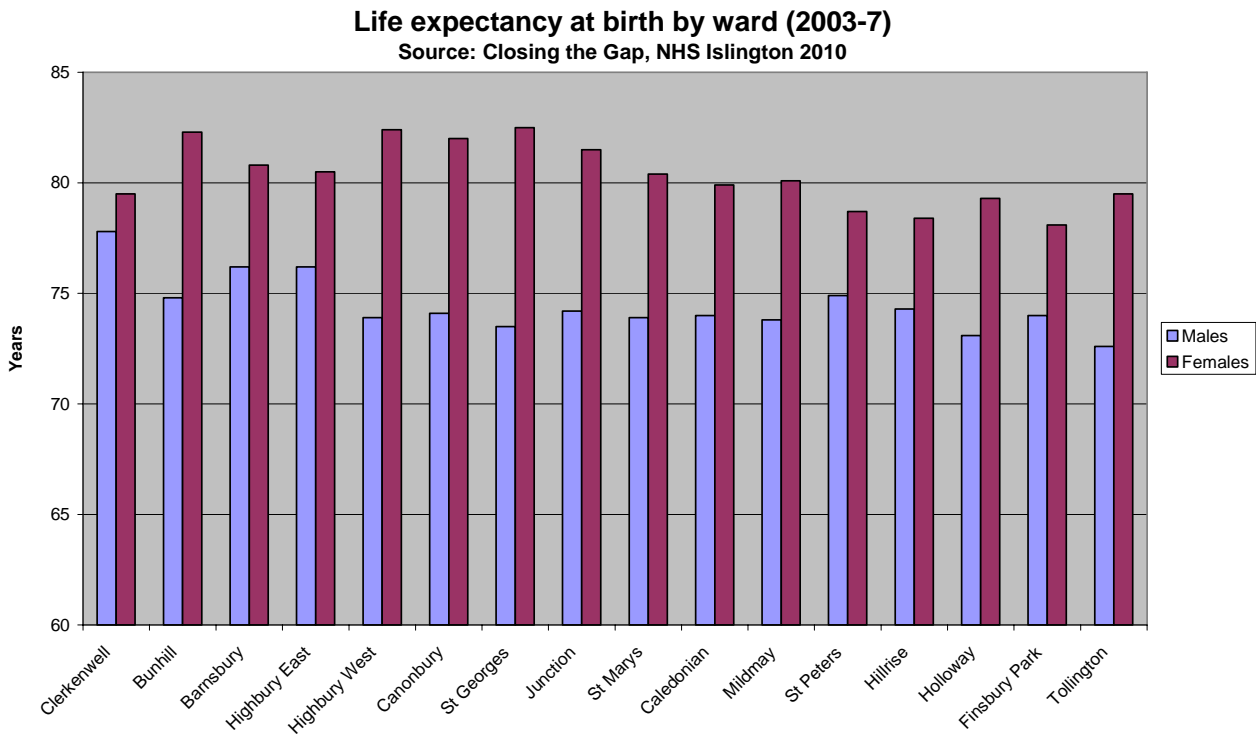
<sup>7</sup> Closing the Gap, Tackling Health Inequalities in Islington, June 2010



levels of physical activity, poor mental health, alcohol and substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and sexual health, but geographical differences are also apparent.

27. Between 2003 and 2007 Clerkenwell had the highest life expectancy for men (77.8 years) and Tollington had the lowest (72.6 years) – a difference of over 5 years. For women, St George’s ward had the highest life expectancy (82.5 years) and Finsbury Park had the lowest (78.1 years).

**“Women live much longer than men but there are also big differences in life expectancy depending on where in the borough you live.”**



28. Figure 15 shows standardised mortality ratios (SMRs)<sup>8</sup> by ward in Islington. Death rates from cardiovascular disease, cancer, smoking related diseases and mental health are all higher in Islington than the rest of the country.

**Education**

29. There is plenty of evidence that pupils from poorer families and looked after children have lower levels of attainment than pupils from more prosperous backgrounds.

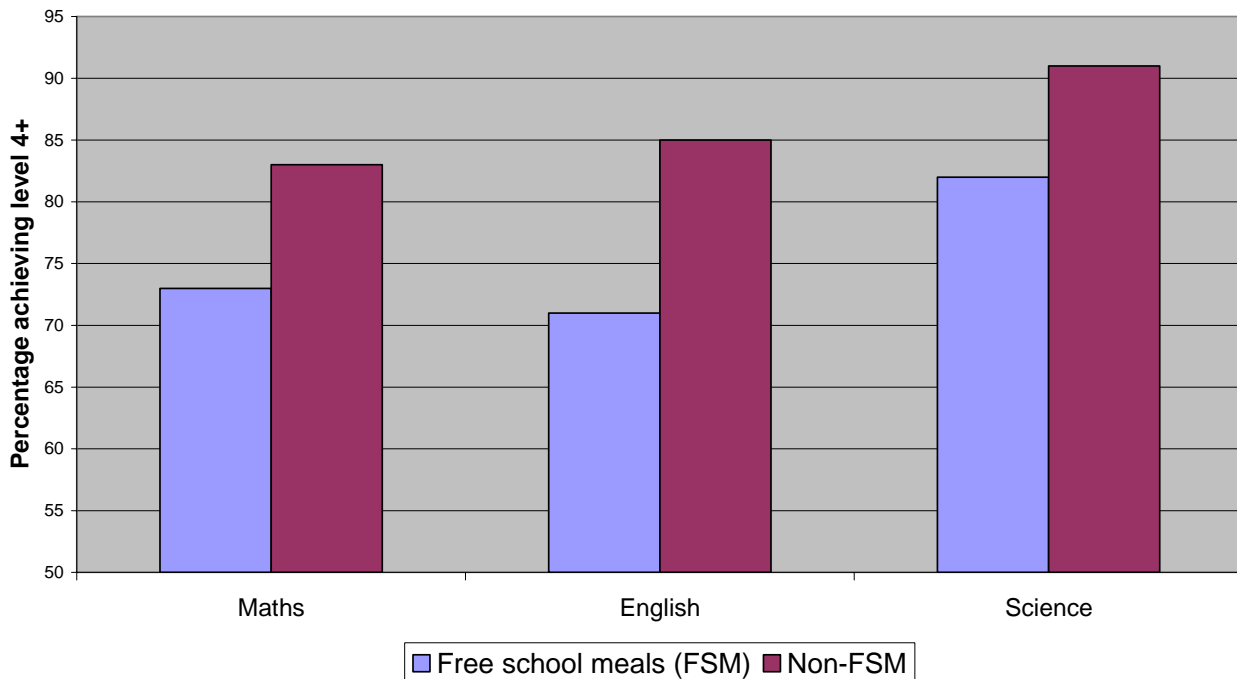
30. The situation is no different in Islington. The achievement of pupils at key stage 2 (end of primary school) and in their GCSEs shows that pupils from less prosperous backgrounds do not perform as those from wealthier backgrounds.

31. Only 73% of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) achieved level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2 compared to 83% of pupils who were not eligible for FSM – a gap of ten percentage points. In English the gap was 14 points and in science nine points.

<sup>8</sup> Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) shows the mortality rate after adjusting for the differences in the age profile of different areas. The overall SMR for England is by definition 100.

**“Pupils from poorer families perform less well at school than those from wealthier homes.”**

**Performance at Key Stage 2 by eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM)**



32. The picture is repeated at GCSE level, though the gaps are not quite so marked. Of pupils eligible for FSM, 63% got five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C compared to 67% of those not eligible for FSM (see Figure 17).

33. Similar differences are apparent when looking at the performance of pupils by Acorn<sup>9</sup> classification (see Figures 18 and 19).

34. Another significant variation is pupils' performance by gender and ethnicity. At GCSE white British pupils under-perform other ethnic groups. Overall boys slightly outperform girls. This is most pronounced among Turkish students (see Figure 20).

35. At Key Stage 2, boys outperform girls in maths while for English it is the other way round. But the most significant pattern is that white British pupils outperform the other ethnic groups in both maths and English at Key Stage 2 (Figure 21 and 22).

## **Crime and safety**

36. Islington has one of the highest rates of reported crime in the country. In the last 12 months there were just over 28,000 reported crimes in the borough. Crime – and the fear of crime – is not uniformly distributed throughout the borough. The types of crimes are not evenly distributed either, though some wards have higher crimes rates than others (see Figure 23 and the table overleaf).

<sup>9</sup> Acorn is a socio-demographic modelling tool (similar to Mosaic) provided by a company called CACI.



37. St Mary's ward for example experiences more crime than any other in the borough. However on closer examination it has, by some margin, the highest rate of theft (which includes shoplifting, pickpocketing etc) reflecting the number of shops and businesses and the high footfall in the area around Upper Street.

38. Violence against the person is most prevalent in Finsbury Park and St Mary's both of which are over 60% higher than the Islington average. Robbery is a much less common offence but again is most common in Finsbury Park, followed by Junction and Mildmay (Figure 24). Clerkenwell, Bunhill and Finsbury Park are the wards with the highest rates of burglary. The wards with the lowest level of crime overall are Highbury East, Highbury West and Hillrise.

**“Finsbury Park and St Mary's have twice the level of some crimes than wards like Hillrise and Highbury East.”**

Ranking of offences per 1,000 population by ward (June 2008 - May 2010)							
	Violence Against The Person	Robbery	Burglary	Theft & Handling	Criminal Damage	Other Notifiable Offences	Total Notifiable Offences
Barnsbury	4	14	14	4	4	4	5
Bunhill	3	4	2	3	9	5	2
Caledonian	5	9	12	7	5	2	7
Canonbury	10	12	6	9	10	12	9
Clerkenwell	7	15	1	2	8	15	3
Finsbury Park	1	1	3	6	1	1	4
Highbury East	15	10	10	11	16	11	15
Highbury West	13	13	16	13	14	8	14
Hillrise	16	16	15	16	15	16	16
Holloway	12	5	13	12	12	14	12
Junction	6	2	4	8	6	9	8
Mildmay	14	3	5	14	13	13	13
St George's	11	7	11	10	3	10	10
St Mary's	2	11	8	1	2	3	1
St Peter's	8	8	9	5	7	6	6
Tollington	9	6	7	15	11	7	11

39. Fear of crime is measured through resident surveys. The vast majority of residents (87%) feel safe when they are out in their local area during the day, but at night less than half of residents say they feel safe. There are also significant differences between different groups' perceptions of safety.

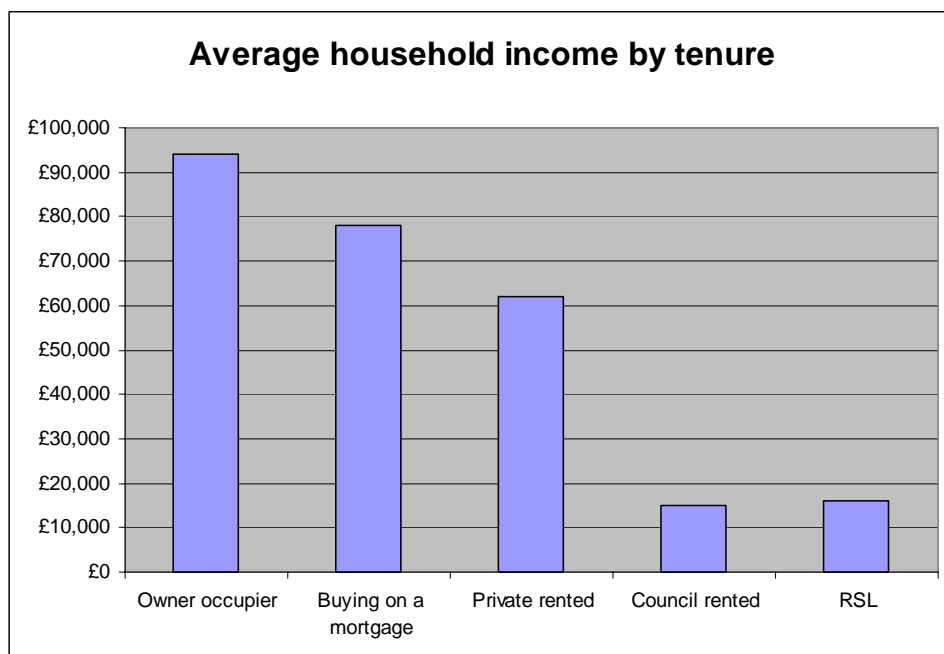
40. Women feel less safe than men after dark and the over 60s feel less safe than other age groups. There was no detected difference in the perceptions of white and BME residents. Finally, social housing tenants were much more likely to feel unsafe at night than people in other forms of tenure (see Figure 25).

41. There are variations by ward too. Well over half of residents in Clerkenwell, Bunhill and St George's wards feel safe after dark, but fewer than 40% of residents in Caledonian, Finsbury Park, Holloway and Junction wards feel safe once night falls (see Figure 26).

## Housing

42. Islington has an unusual housing profile. Approaching half the homes in the borough (44%) are social rented housing and it is estimated that approaching a quarter (24%) is private rented housing. The remaining third (32%) is owner occupied.<sup>10</sup>
43. Social renting varies between wards while owner occupation is more consistently distributed, with the exception of Highbury East (46%) and Bunhill (20%). See figs 27 & 28.
44. The second characteristic of the housing stock is the large number of flats – about four in five properties is a flat. According to the Census only one in three households has its lowest floor at ground level, and half are located on upper floors compared to around one in nine nationally.
45. Overcrowding is a significant issue for many residents. It is estimated that over 6,000 households in the borough are overcrowded. Nearly two thirds of overcrowded households are social tenants (Figure 29) and a further quarter are renting privately.
46. House prices are a barrier to entry into the owner occupied market for all but the wealthiest. Average property prices in Islington in May 2010 were just below £425,000 with flats averaging over £350,000 (see Figure 30).
47. There is a stark variation in the average household income of Islington residents by tenure. Council and RSL tenants average income is around £15,000 while owner-occupiers with a mortgage have an average household income of nearly £100,000.

**“The average income of home owners in Islington is six times that of social tenants.”**



Source: Housing Needs Assessment, 2007

<sup>10</sup> Islington Housing Needs Assessment, 2007 (in the 2001 census the split was 49% social rented, 19% private rented and 32% owner occupied)

## **Democracy and engagement**

48. There is countless anecdotal evidence about who is engaged in democratic process and which groups are hardest to engage. For example young people are rarely seen at public meetings.
49. In this respect Islington is similar to other London boroughs. The hard to engage groups include young people, some black and minority ethnic communities (especially more recent arrivals in the UK) and people with disabilities that make it more difficult to take part in engagement activities.
50. The Place Survey provides a useful insight into the more and less engaged groups. Just over a third of Islington residents agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area. This is in line with the London average. However there is variation between Islington wards and between the experiences of some demographic groups.
51. For example 40% of St George's residents felt they could influence local decisions, but only 18% of St Mary's residents agreed. BME residents are significantly more likely to feel they can influence decisions than white residents, while fewer younger adults and private rented tenants feel they can influence decisions in their local area (see Figure 32 and 33).
52. A third of residents would like to be more involved in the decisions that affect their local area. Owner occupiers and men are more likely to agree with this statement, while social tenants, the over 60s, women and BME groups are less likely to agree.
53. Evidence from general council consultations suggests that white, middle-class middle-aged people are more likely to participate than other groups. For example over 2,000 people took part in the budget consultation in late 2008. Of these, people aged 45-64 were twice as likely to send in their comments by post than their representation in the population while the response by 16-34 year olds was only a third of what would have been expected.
54. Information on income is not collected, but owner occupiers were nearly twice as likely to respond as council tenants despite being outnumbered by them in the wider population. Younger people and BME residents were more likely to respond on-line than by post, although they were still under-represented.

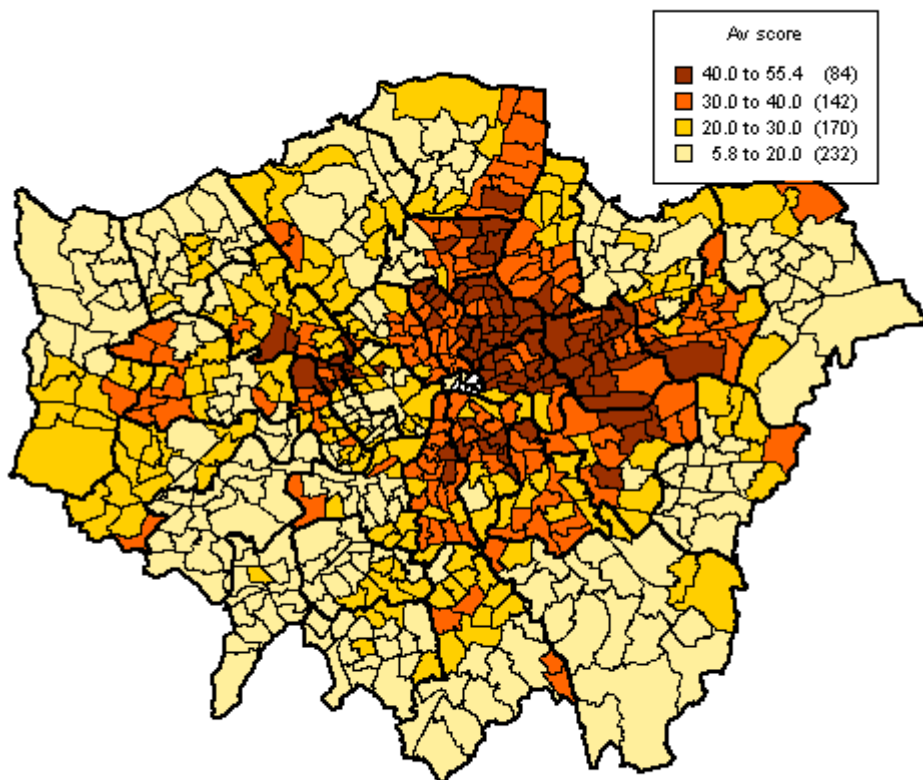
## **Mapping patterns across the borough**

55. The appendix also contains a number of maps showing aspects of deprivation. These 'deprivation domains' together form the Index of Multiple Deprivation (mentioned previously). They paint a broad picture of the areas most (and least) affected. The maps in figures 34-40 show the patterns of:
- income deprivation affecting older people
  - housing deprivation
  - crime deprivation
  - education and skills deprivation
  - employment deprivation
  - health deprivation
  - income deprivation affecting children

## Annex 1: Maps, charts and graphs

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Figure 38: Map of employment deprivation in Islington (IMD 2007)	
Figure 39: Map of health deprivation in Islington (IMD 2007)	

**Figure 1: Putting Islington's deprivation in a London context**  
**Deprivation by ward**



Source: Local Futures, drawn from Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007.



Figure 2: Deprivation in Islington, IMD 2007

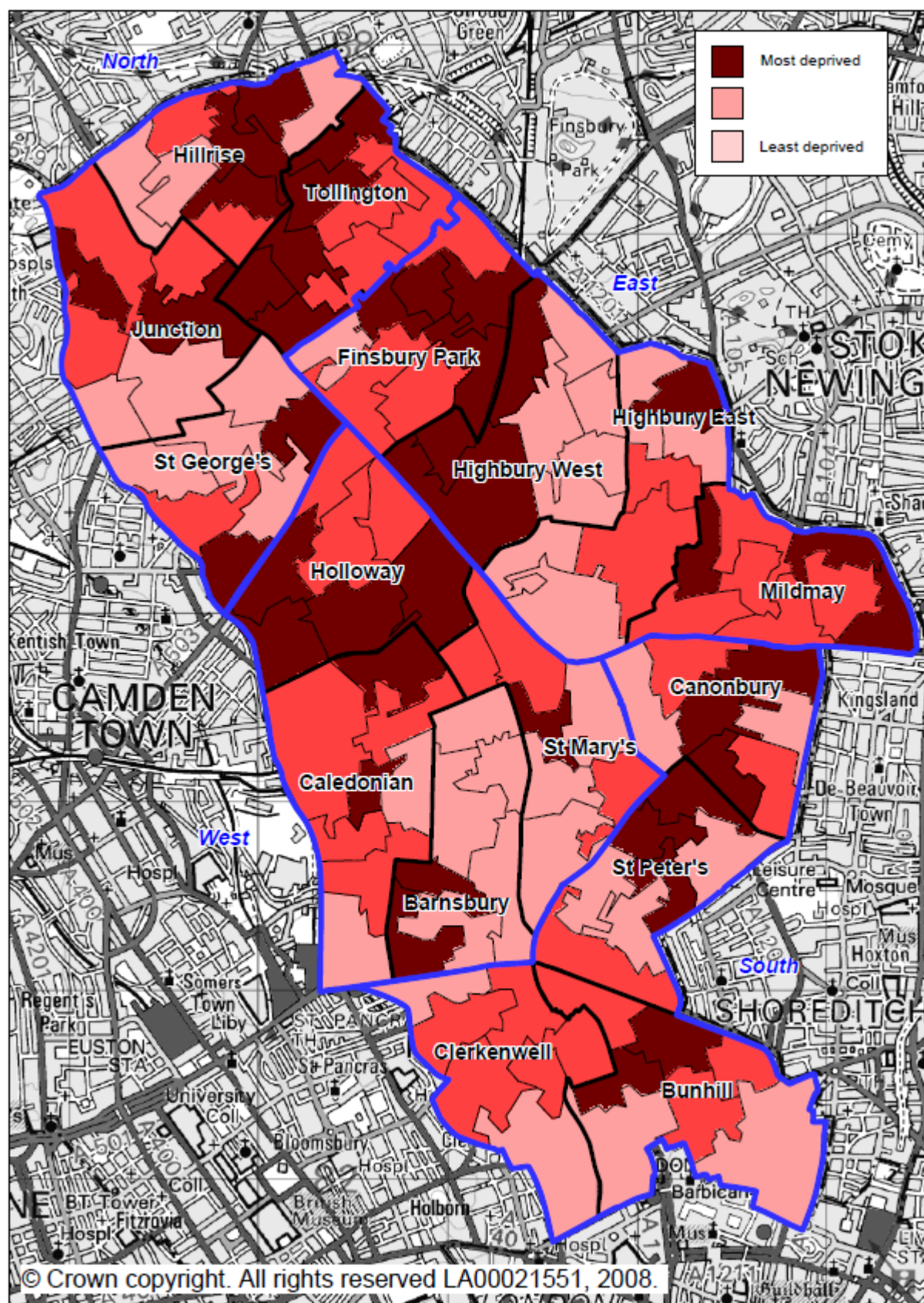
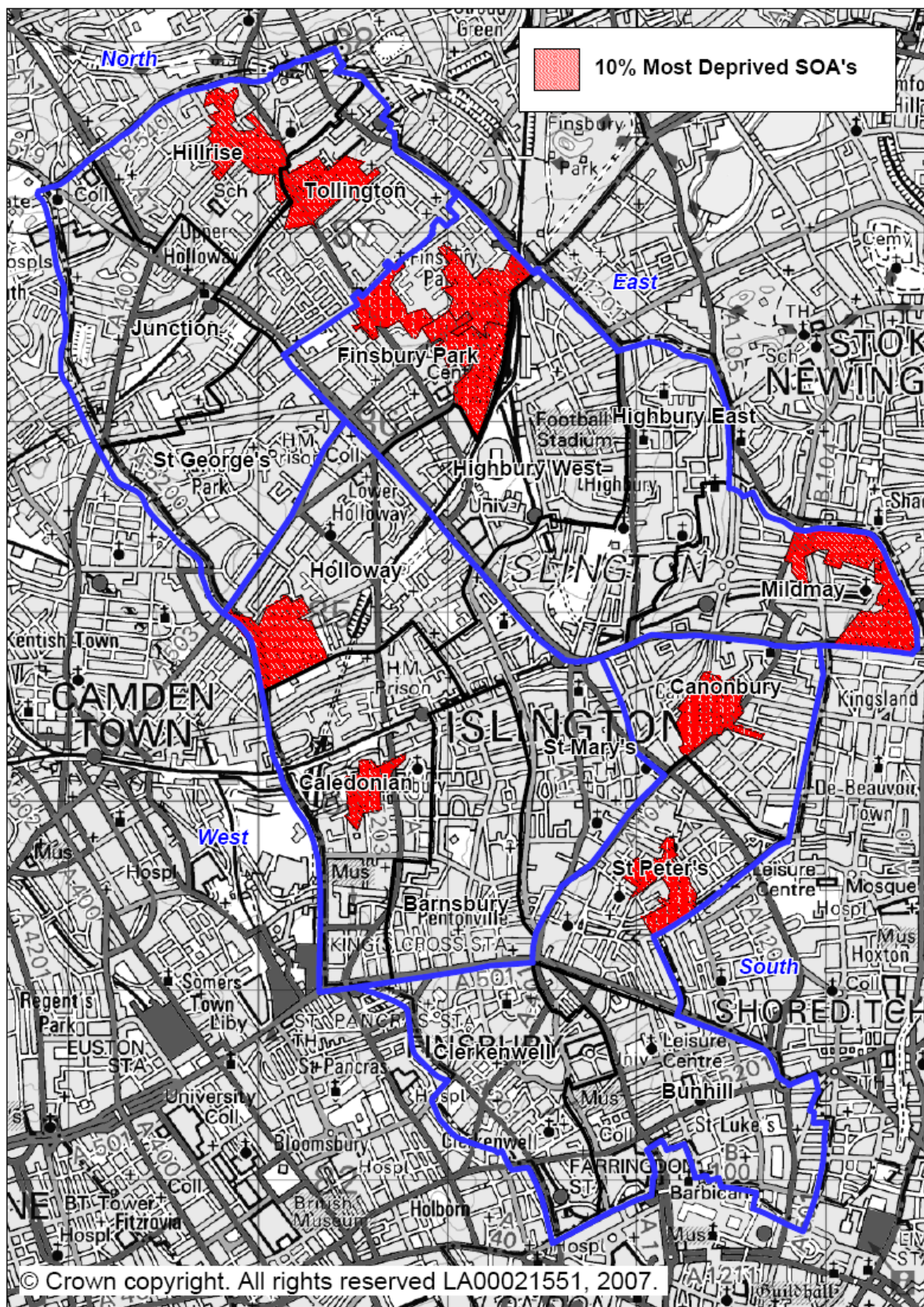




Figure 3: The 10% most deprived super output areas (SOAs) in Islington, IMD 2007

10% most deprived super output areas in Islington - Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2007



Source: 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation



Figure 4: Mosaic profile of the borough

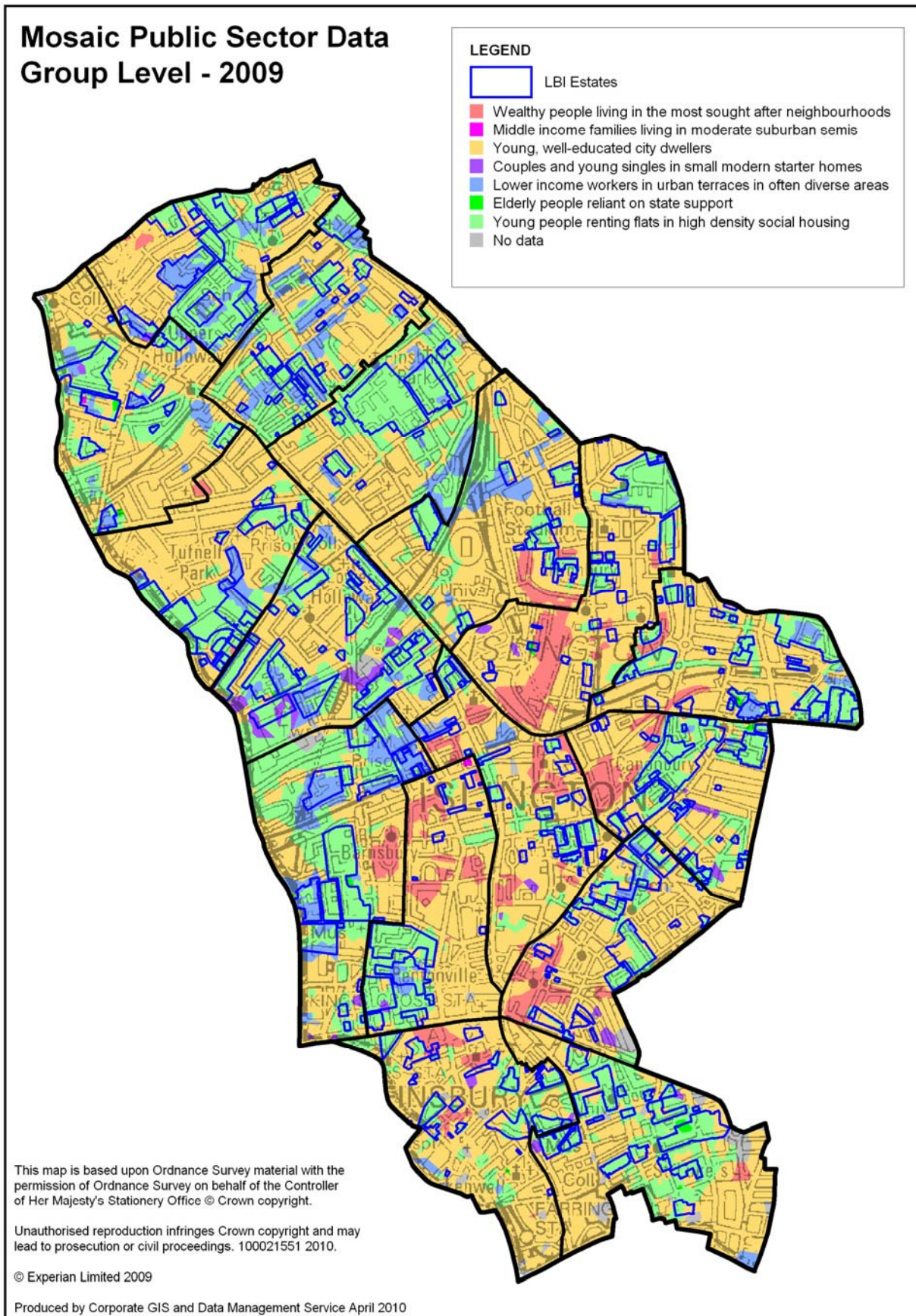
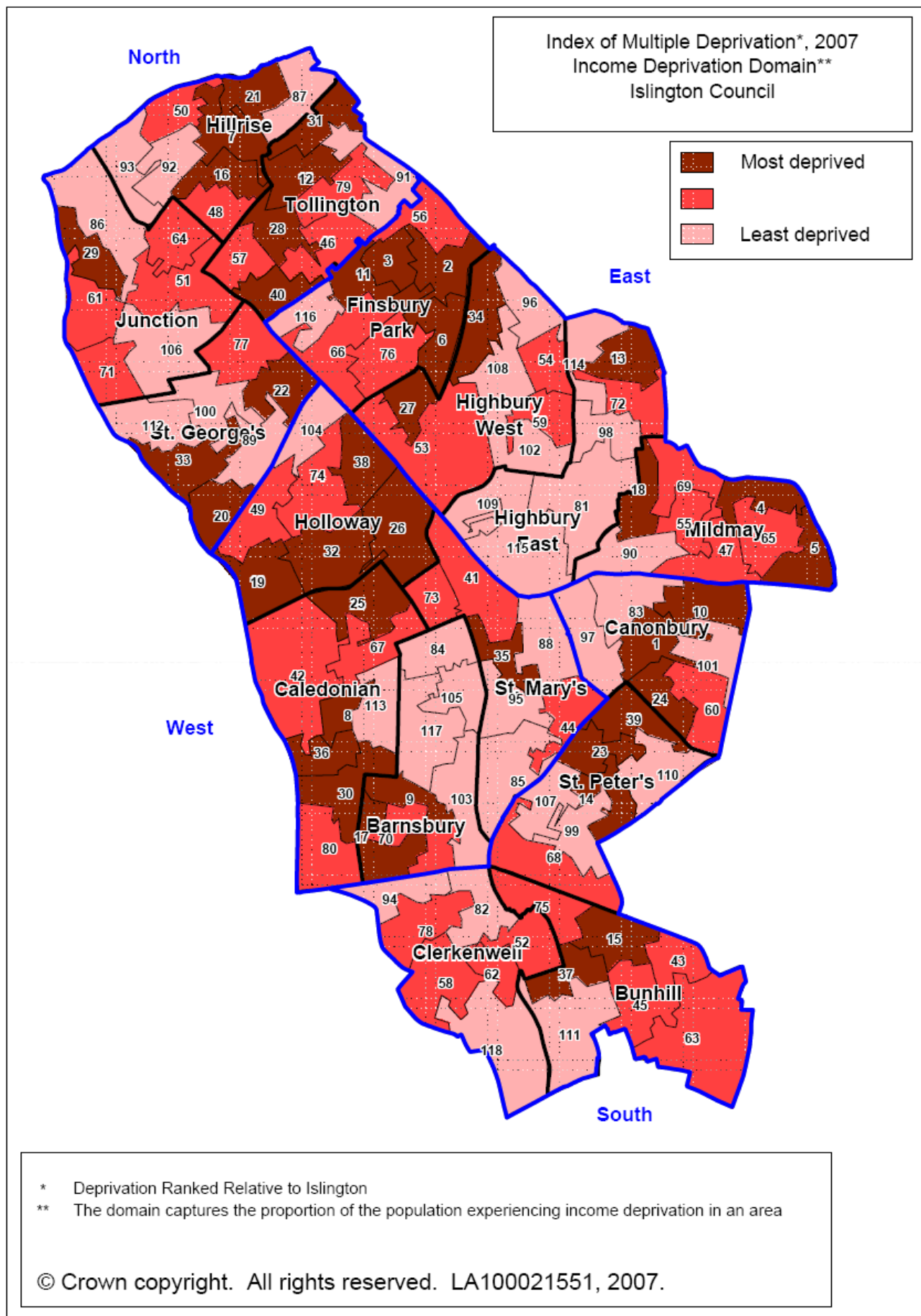


Figure 5a: Income deprivation in Islington, IMD 2007



**Figure 5b: Proportion of children living in poverty (Islington, London and England)**

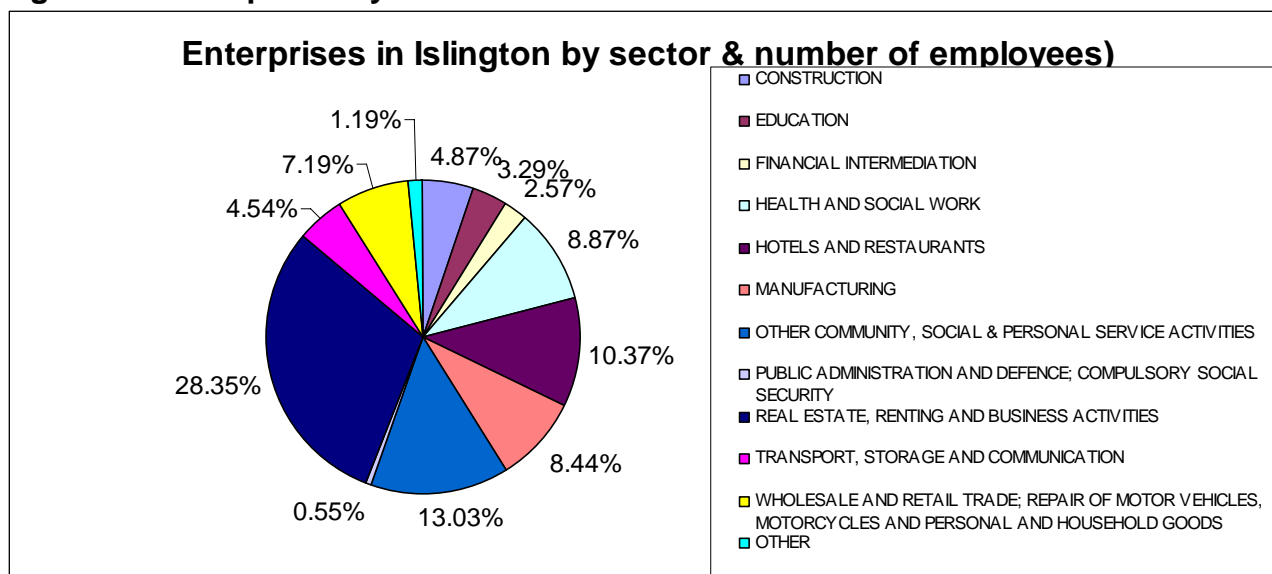


**Figure 5c: Number of businesses and number of jobs by business size**

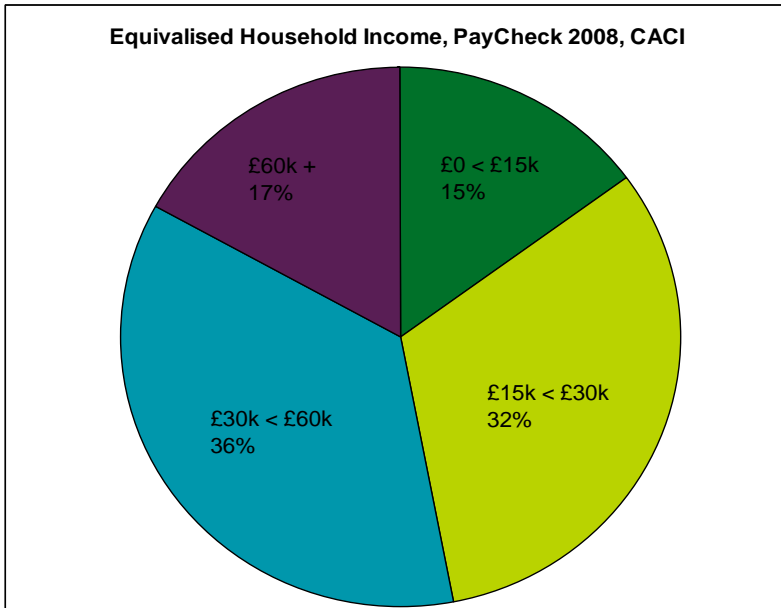
Size of business	Number of businesses	Number of jobs
1-5 employees	6,242	16,204
6-10 employees	1,783	14,178
11-20 employees	1,051	16,366
21-50 employees	723	24,967
51-100 employees	226	17,447
101-250 employees	136	22,861
250+ employees	79	64,094
Size unknown	49	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,289</b>	<b>176,117</b>

Source: Beta Model, April 2010

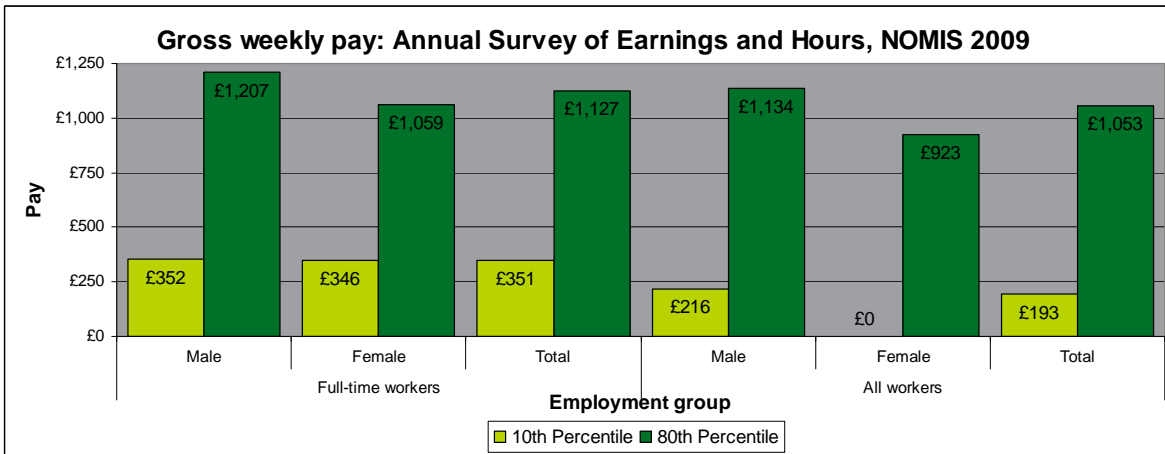
**Figure 5d: Enterprises by business sector**



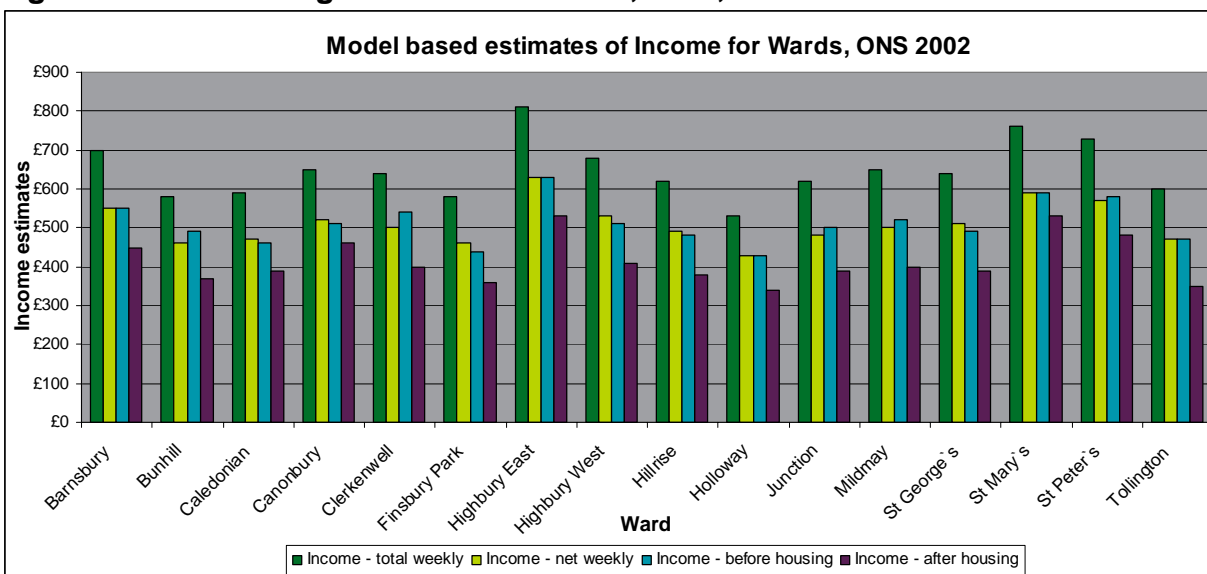
**Figure 6: Household income, 2008**



**Figure 7: Gross weekly pay in Islington (bottom 10% and top 20% earners), 2009**

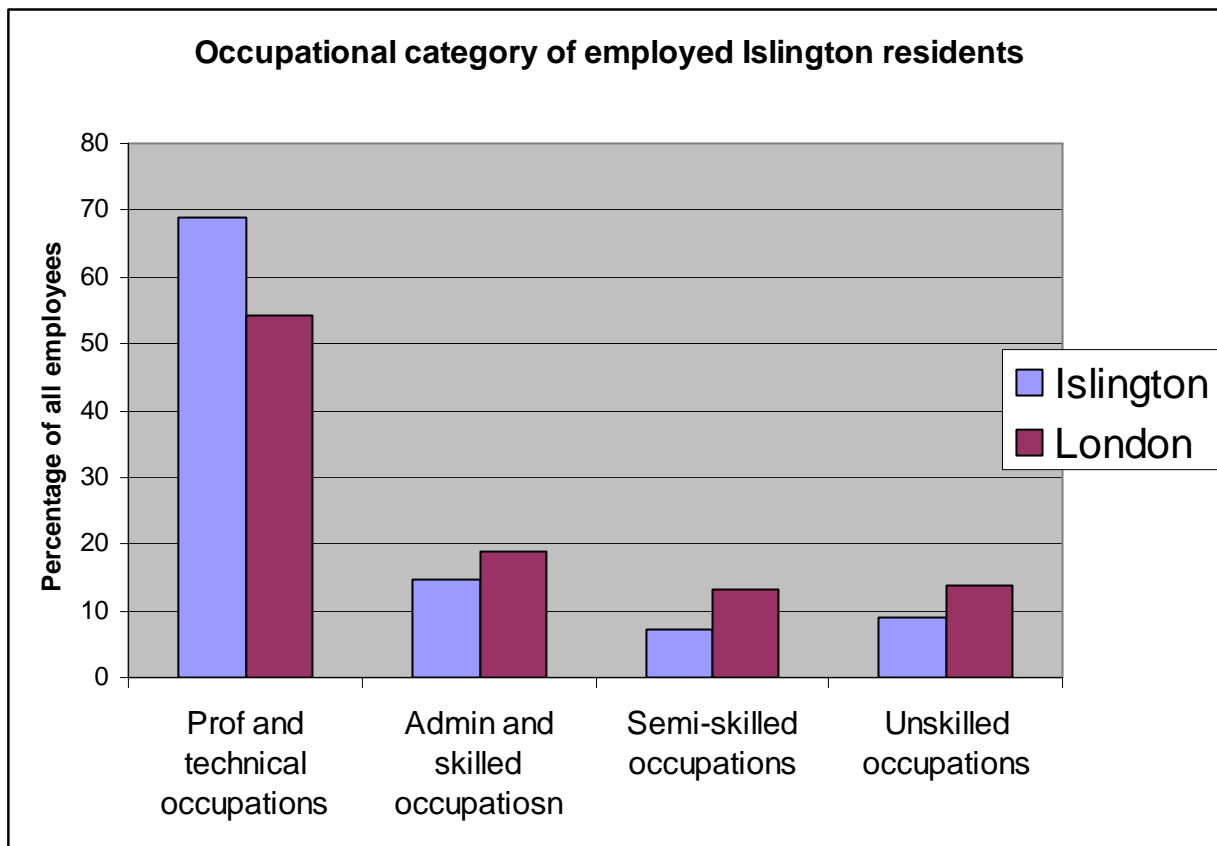


**Figure 8: Ward average income estimates, ONS, 2002**



Source: National Statistics website: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

**Figure 9: Occupational category of employed Islington residents**

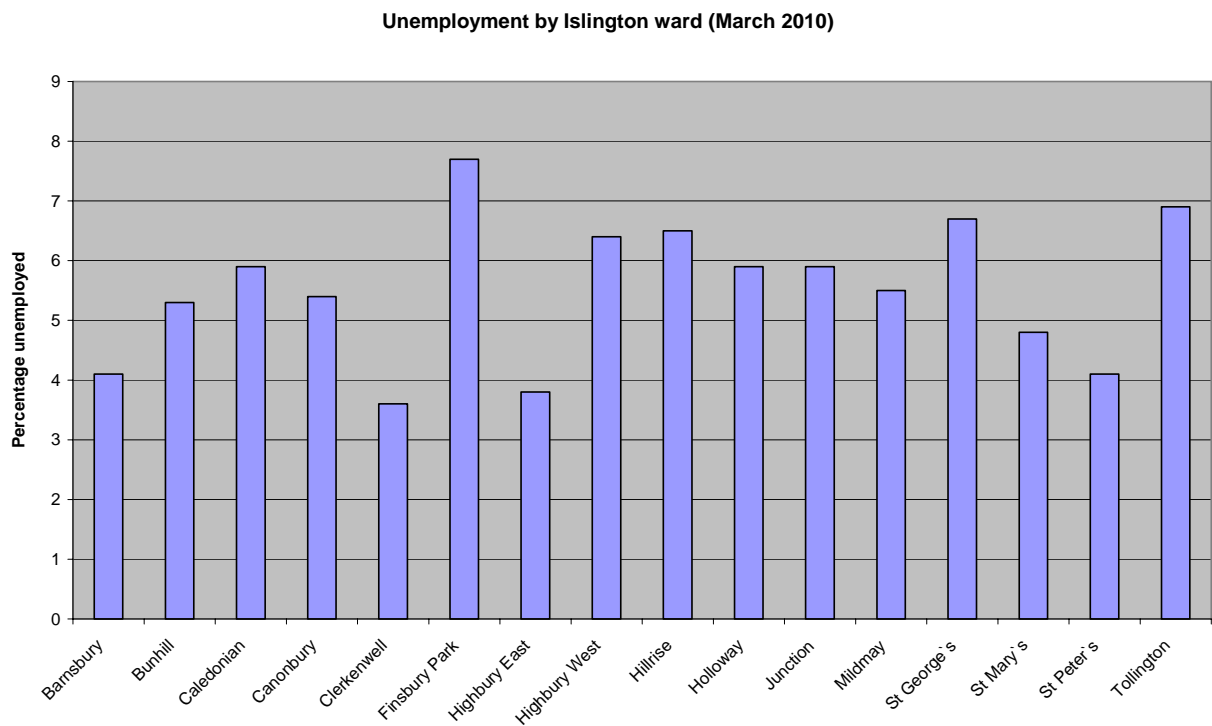


**Figure 10a: Unemployment in Islington and London**

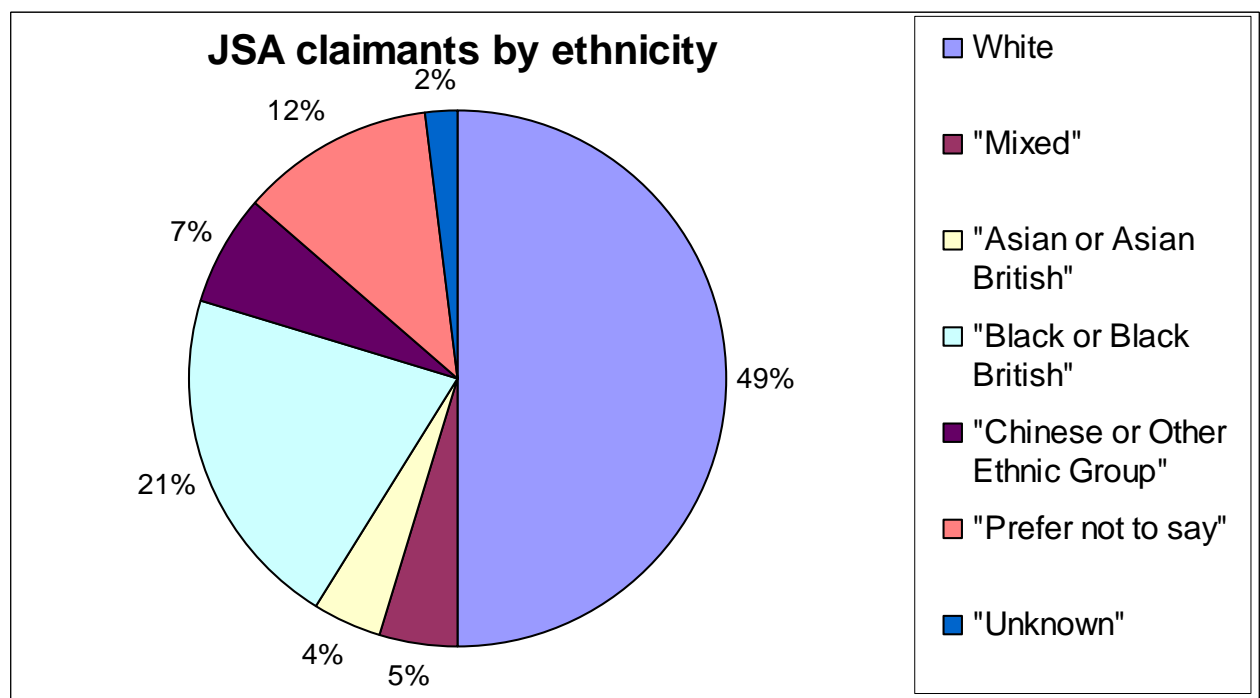




**Figure 10b: Unemployment in Islington wards**

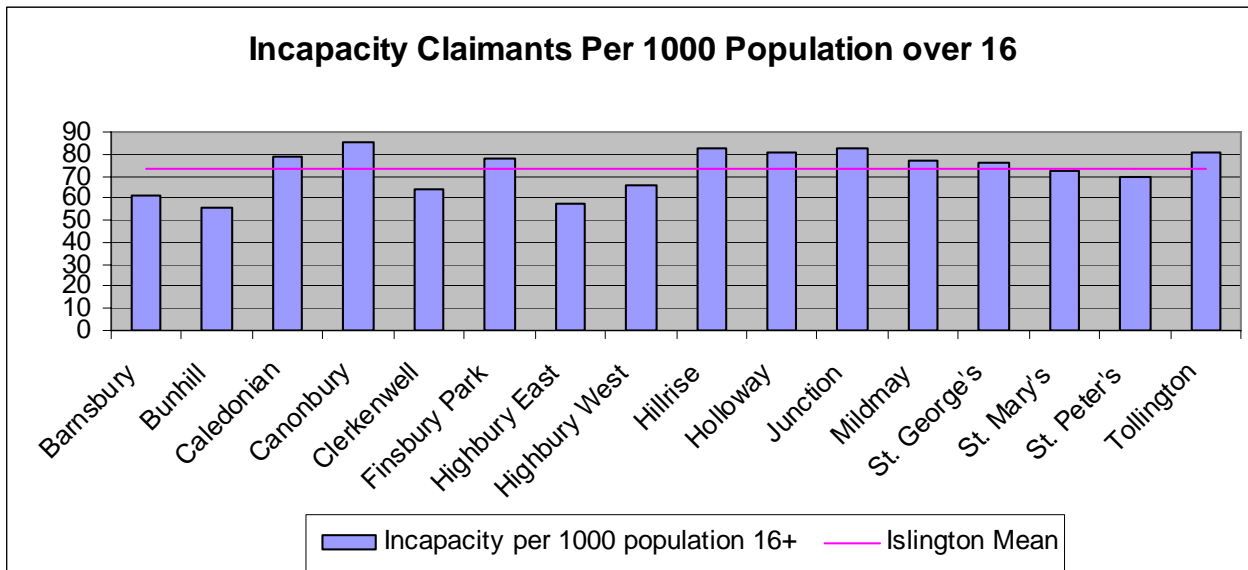


**Figure 11: Job seekers allowance claimants by ethnicity**

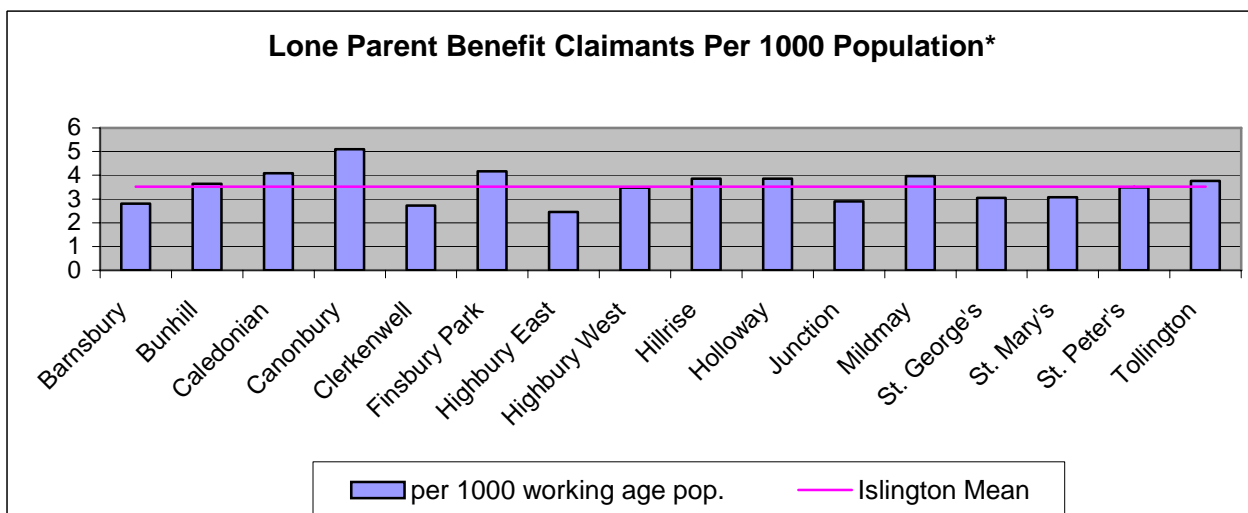


Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 21 June 2010]

**Figure 12: Incapacity benefit claimants per 1,000 population by ward**

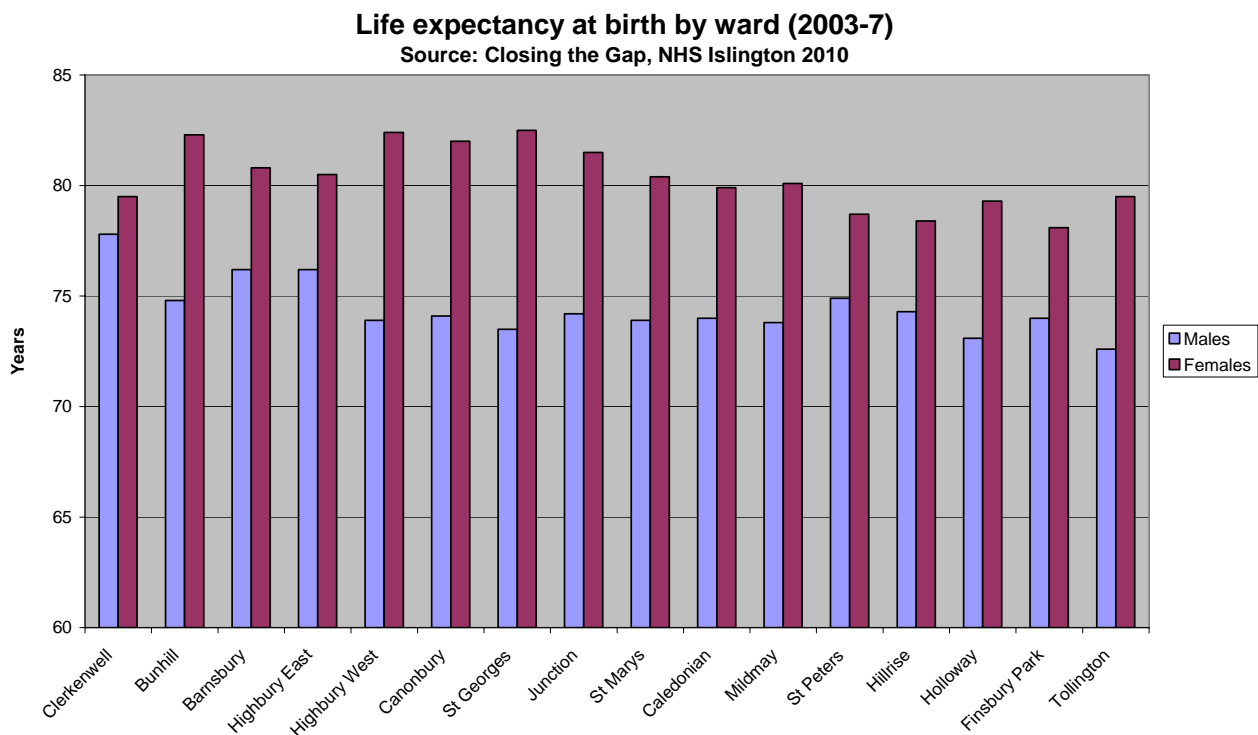


**Figure 13: Lone parent benefit claimants per 1,000 population by ward**

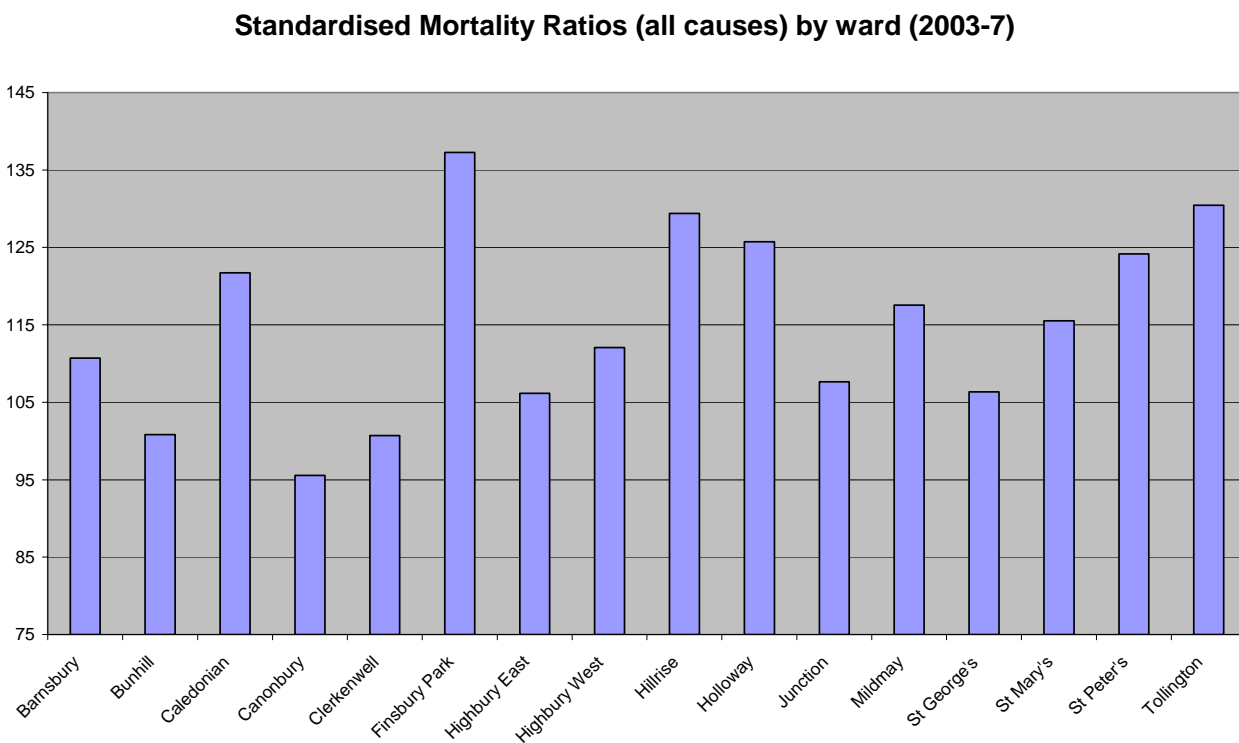


Source: Nomis

**Figure 14:**

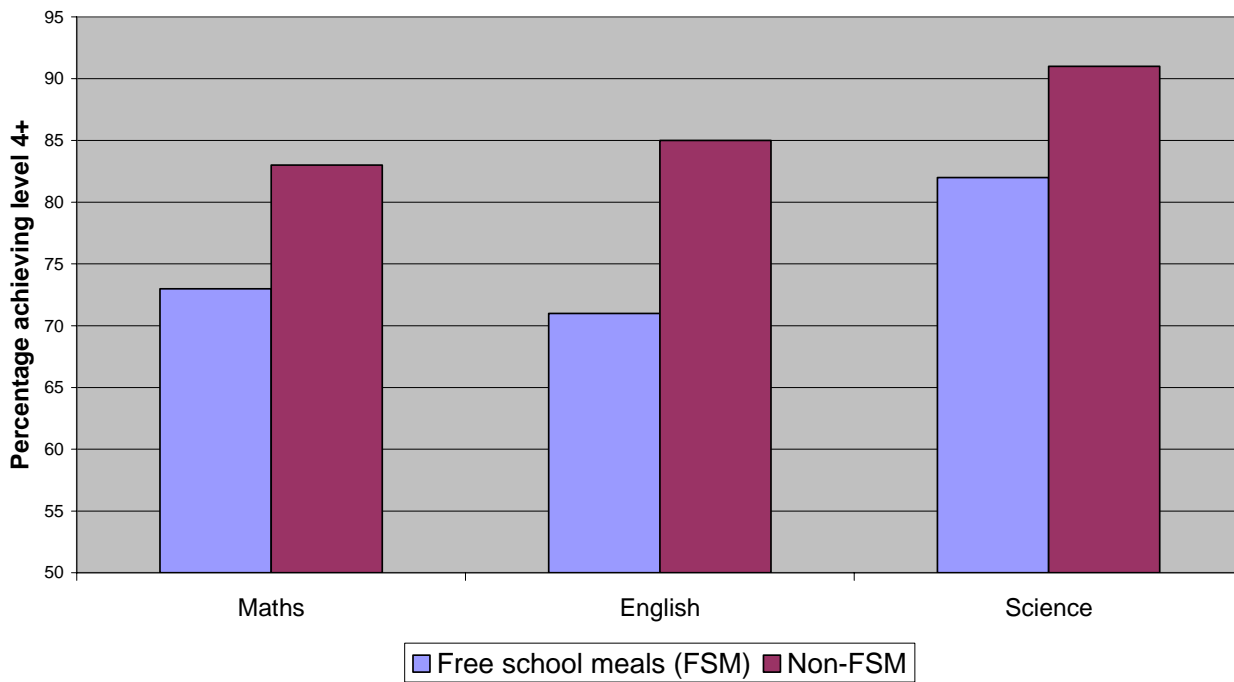


**Figure 15:**



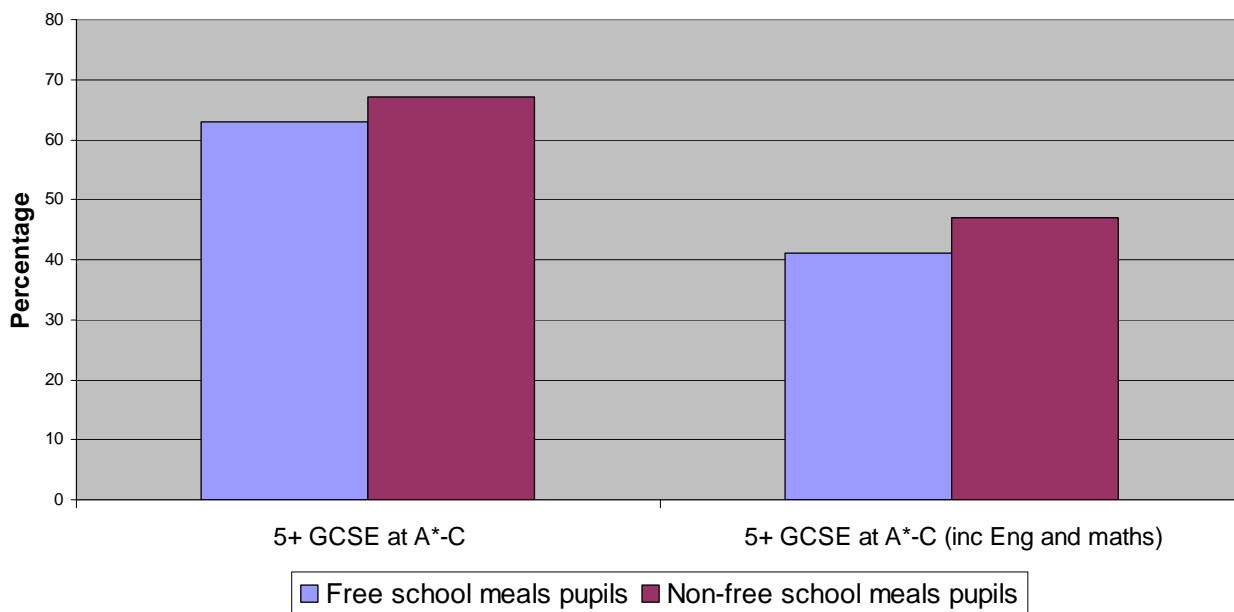
**Figure 16:**

**Performance at Key Stage 2 by eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM)**



**Figure 17:**

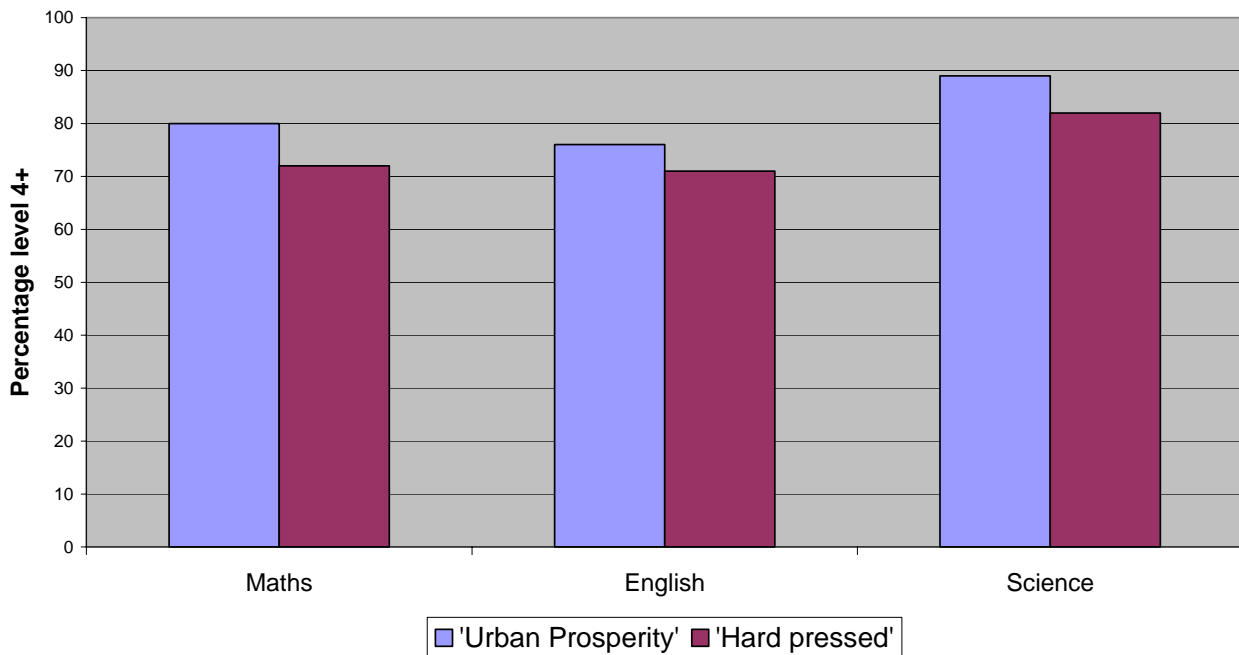
**Percentage of pupils achieving GCSE success by free school meal eligibility (2009)**



**Figure 18**

**Performance at Key Stage 2 by Acorn classification (2007)**

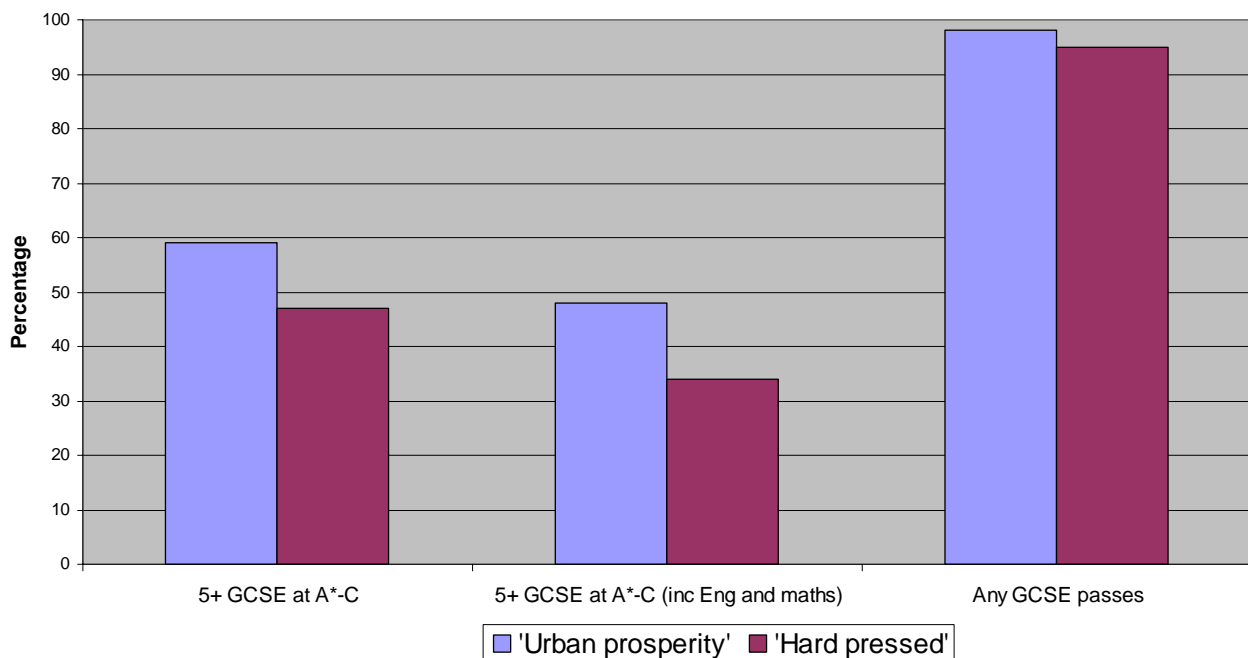
Acorn is a socio-economic classification system developed by CACI



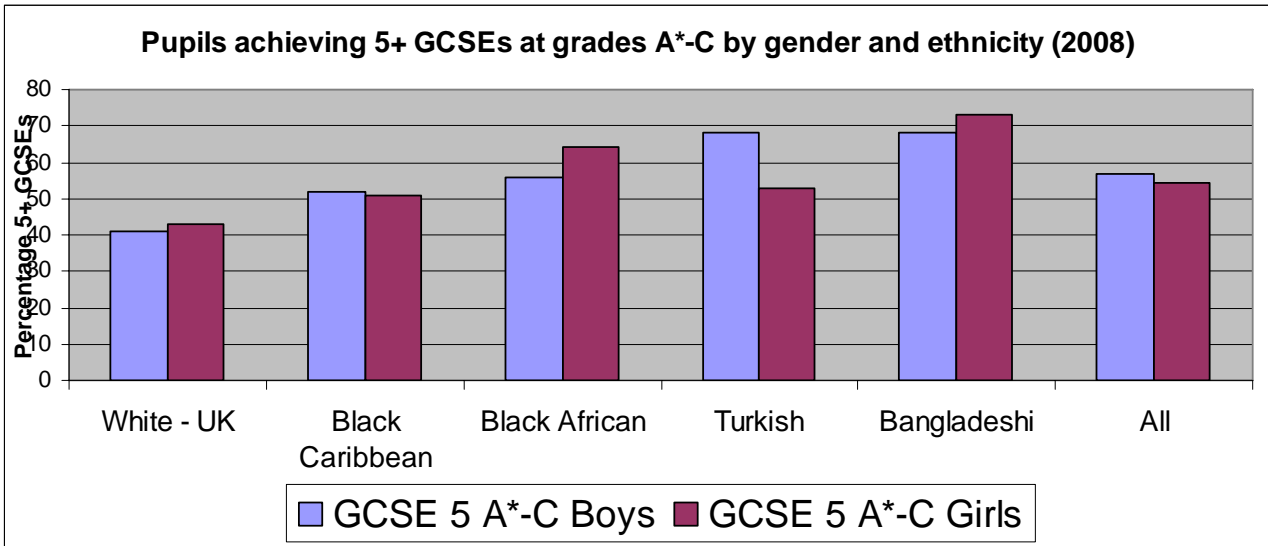
**Figure 19**

**Performance at GCSE by Acorn classification (2007)**

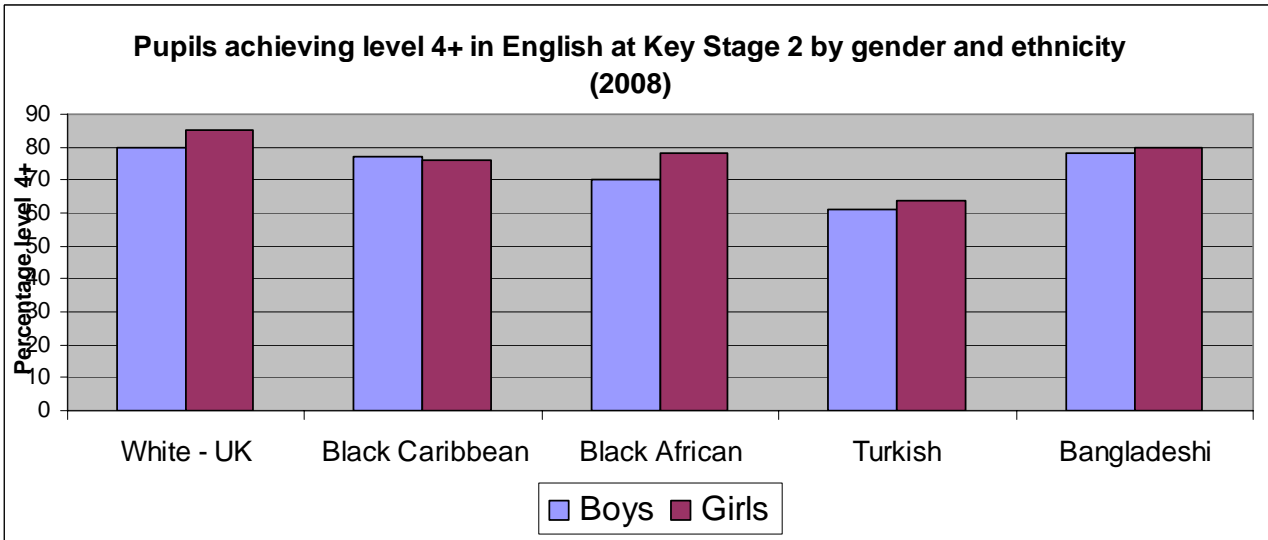
Acorn is a socio-economic classification system developed by CACI



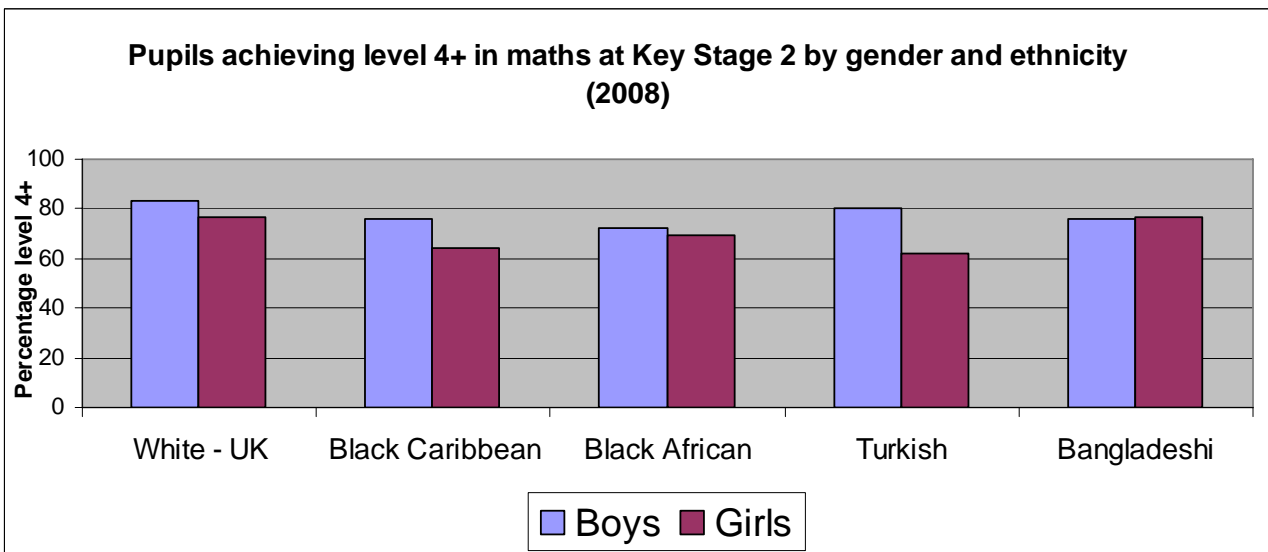
**Figure 20:**



**Figure 21:**

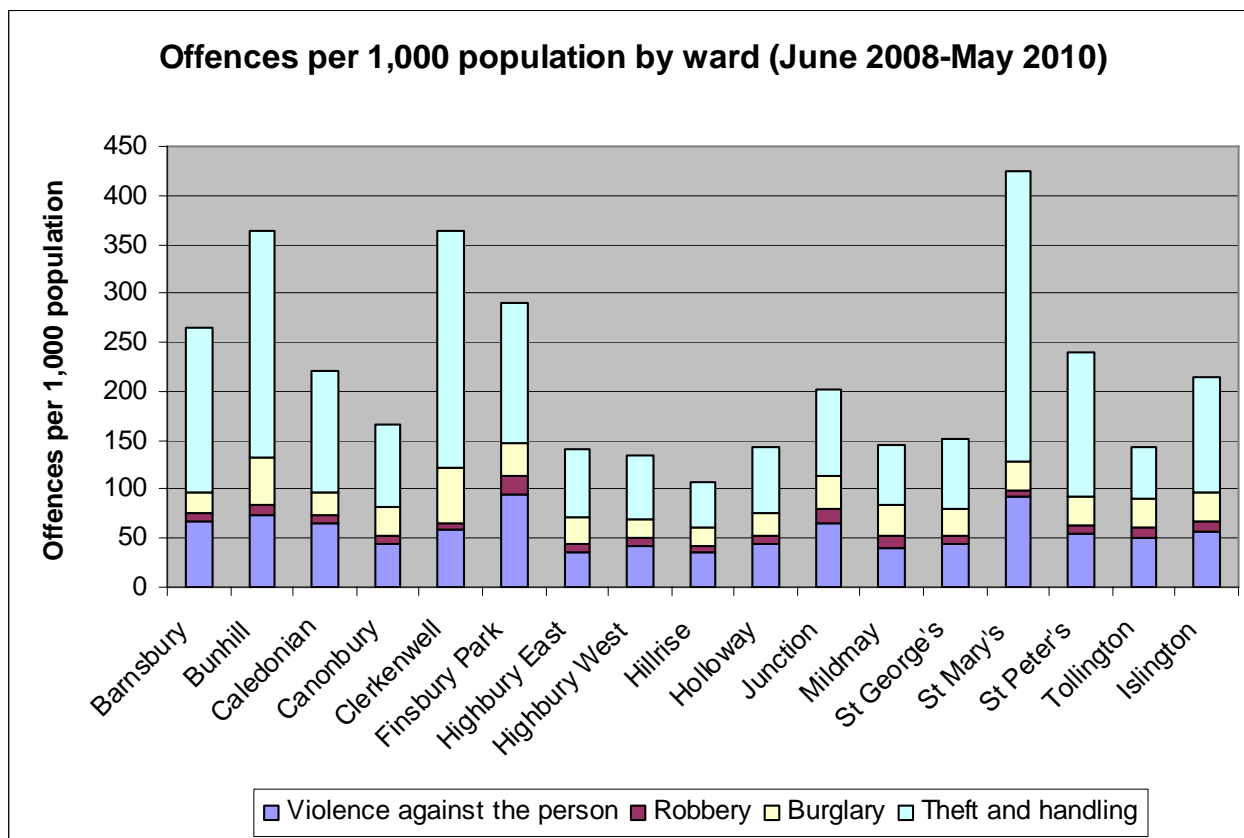


**Figure 22:**





**Figure 23:**

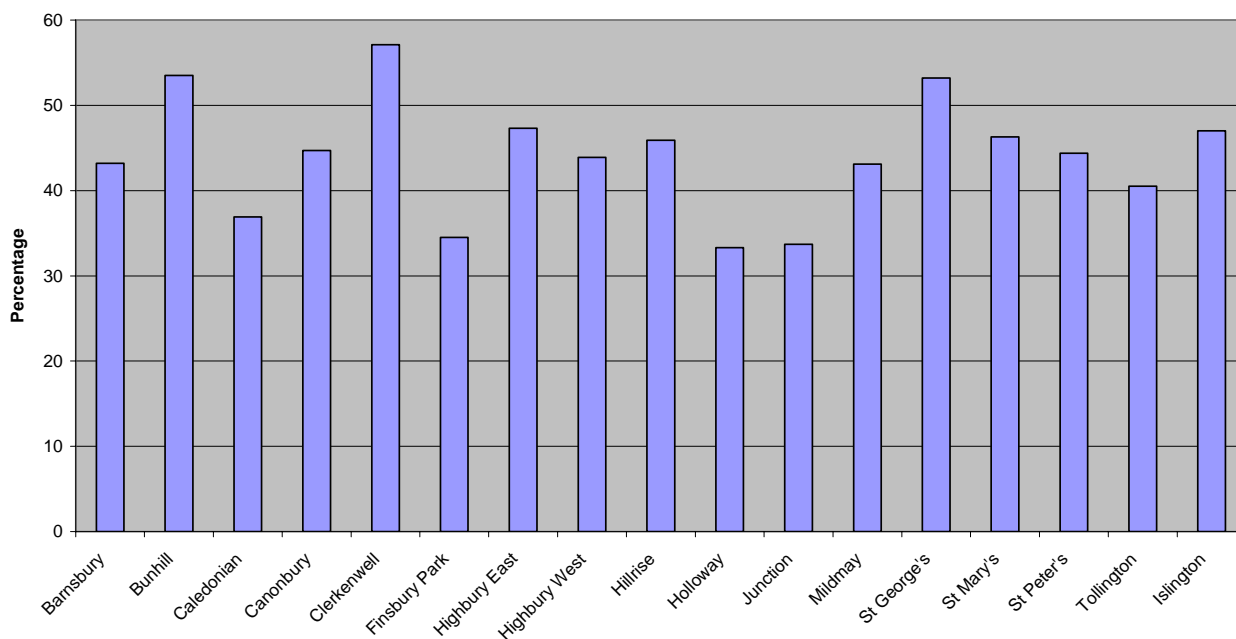


**Figure 24: Ranked crime types by ward (2008-10)**

Ranking of offences per 1,000 population by ward (June 2008 - May 2010)							
	Violence Against The Person	Robbery	Burglary	Theft & Handling	Criminal Damage	Other Notifiable Offences	Total Notifiable Offences
Barnsbury	4	14	14	4	4	4	5
Bunhill	3	4	2	3	9	5	2
Caledonian	5	9	12	7	5	2	7
Canonbury	10	12	6	9	10	12	9
Clerkenwell	7	15	1	2	8	15	3
Finsbury Park	1	1	3	6	1	1	4
Highbury East	15	10	10	11	16	11	15
Highbury West	13	13	16	13	14	8	14
Hillrise	16	16	15	16	15	16	16
Holloway	12	5	13	12	12	14	12
Junction	6	2	4	8	6	9	8
Mildmay	14	3	5	14	13	13	13
St George's	11	7	11	10	3	10	10
St Mary's	2	11	8	1	2	3	1
St Peter's	8	8	9	5	7	6	6
Tollington	9	6	7	15	11	7	11

**Figure 25:**

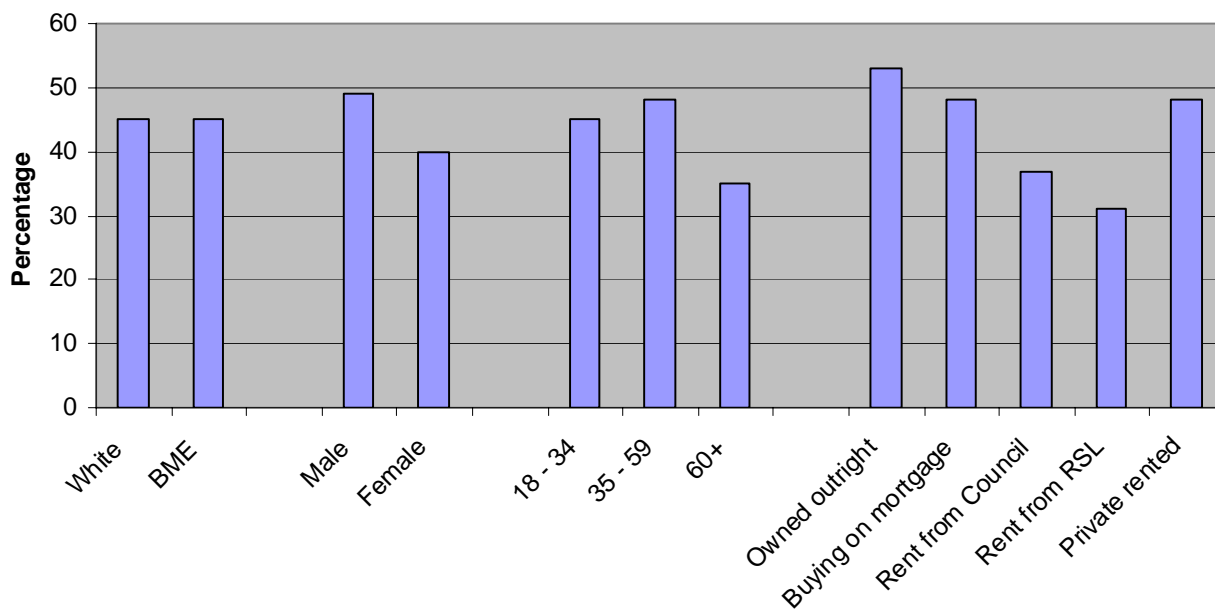
**Percentage of residents who feel safe after dark in their local area**



Source: Place Survey 2008 and 2009

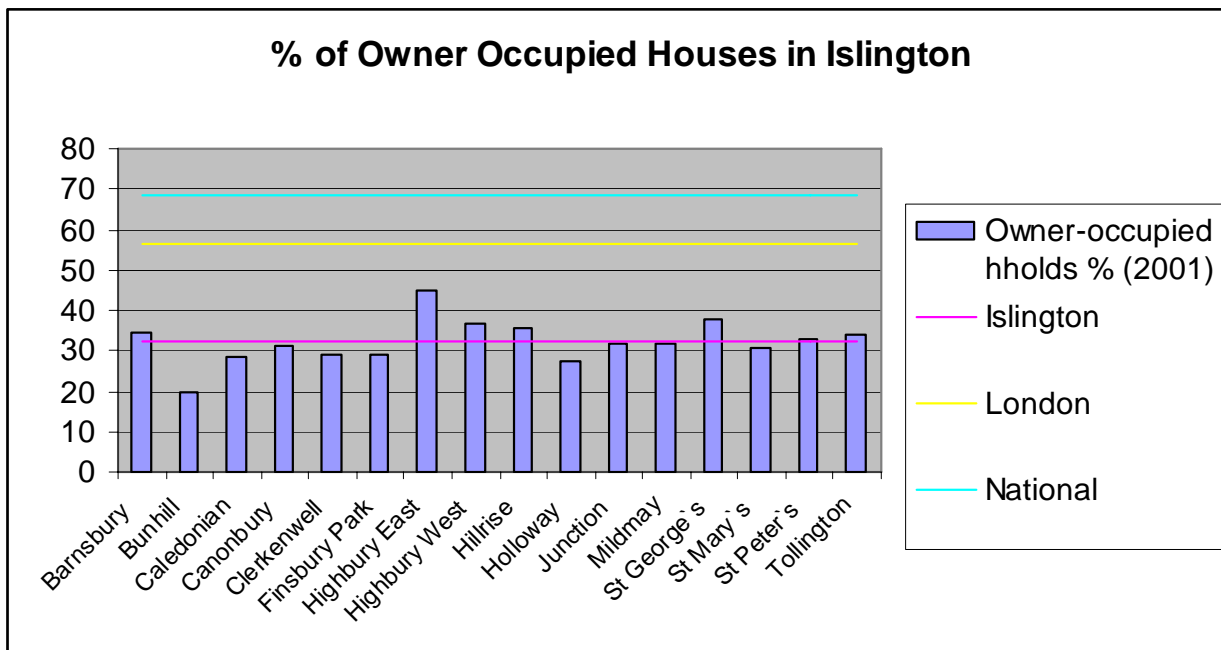
**Figure 26:**

**Percentage of residents who feel safe after dark by demographic**



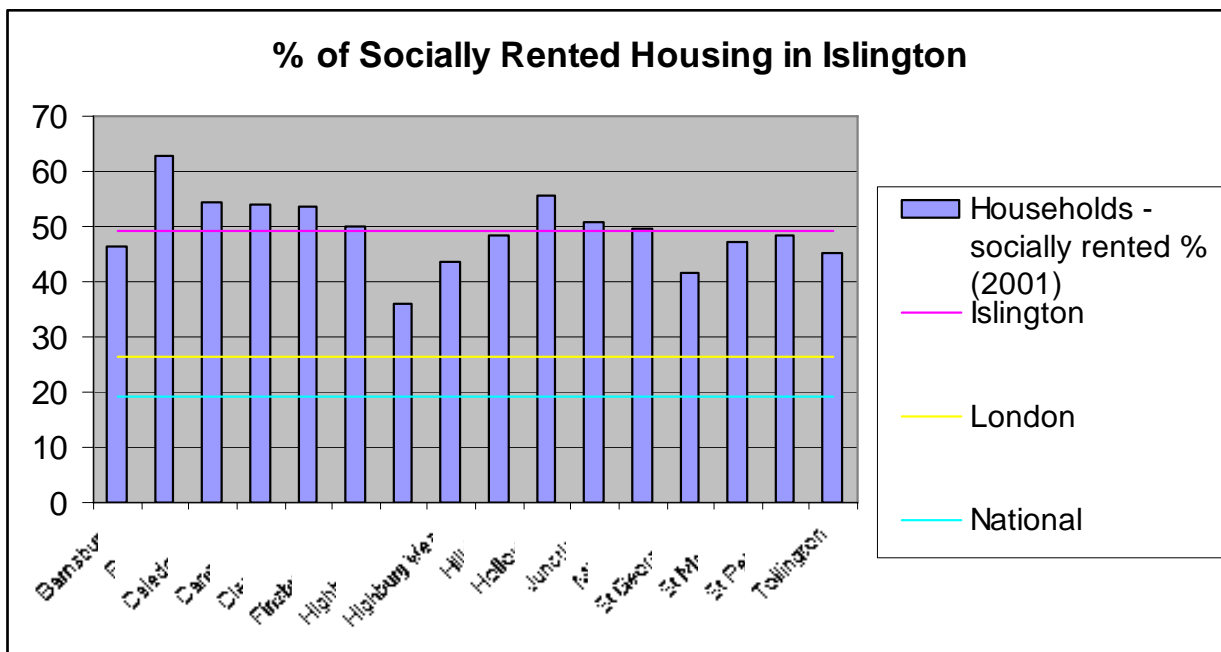
Source: Place Survey 2008 and 2009

**Figure 27:**



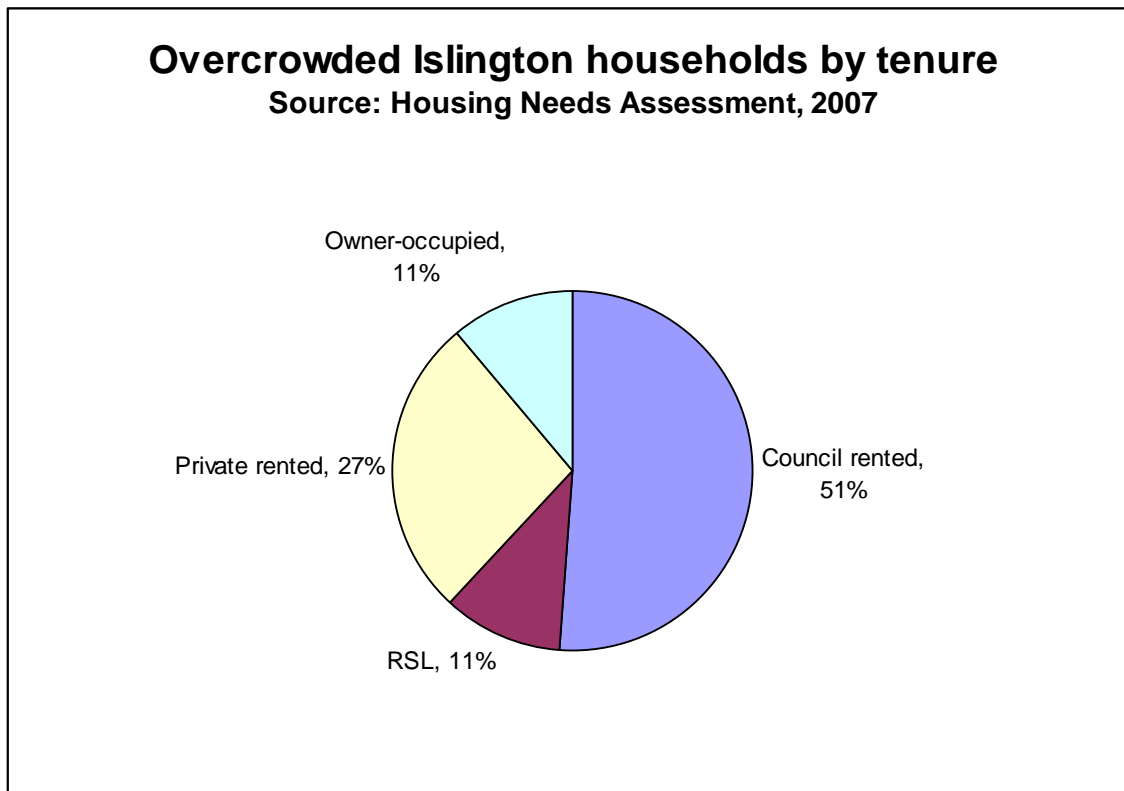
Source: 2001 Census

**Figure 28:**

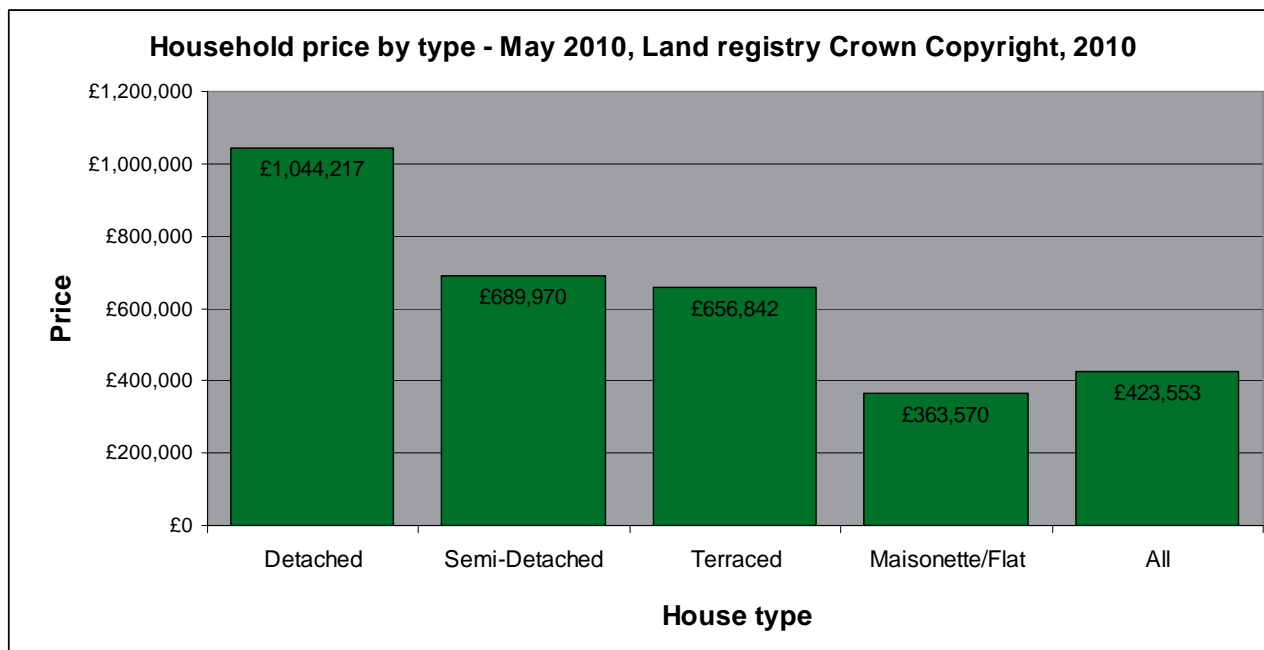


Source: 2001 Census

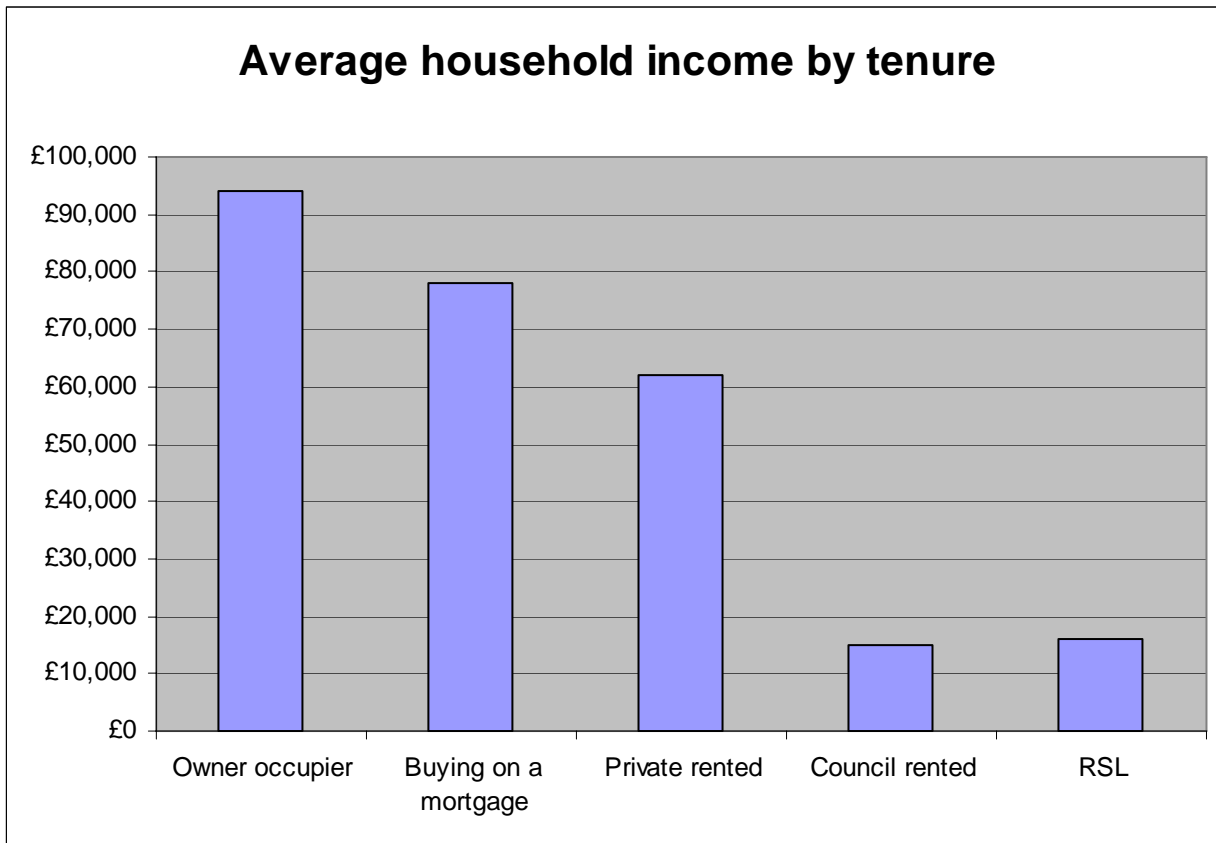
**Figure 29: Overcrowding by tenure**



**Figure 30: Average property price by property type (Islington)**

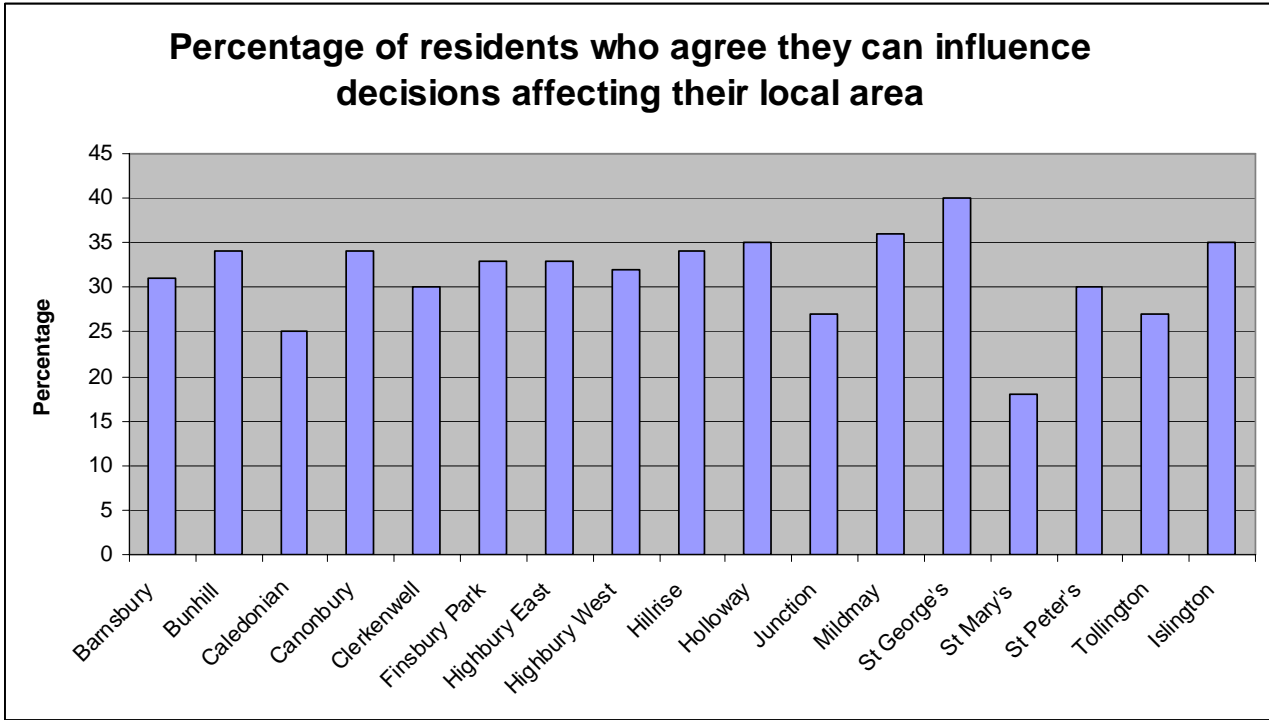


**Figure 31: Average household income by tenure**



Source: Housing Needs Assessment, 2007

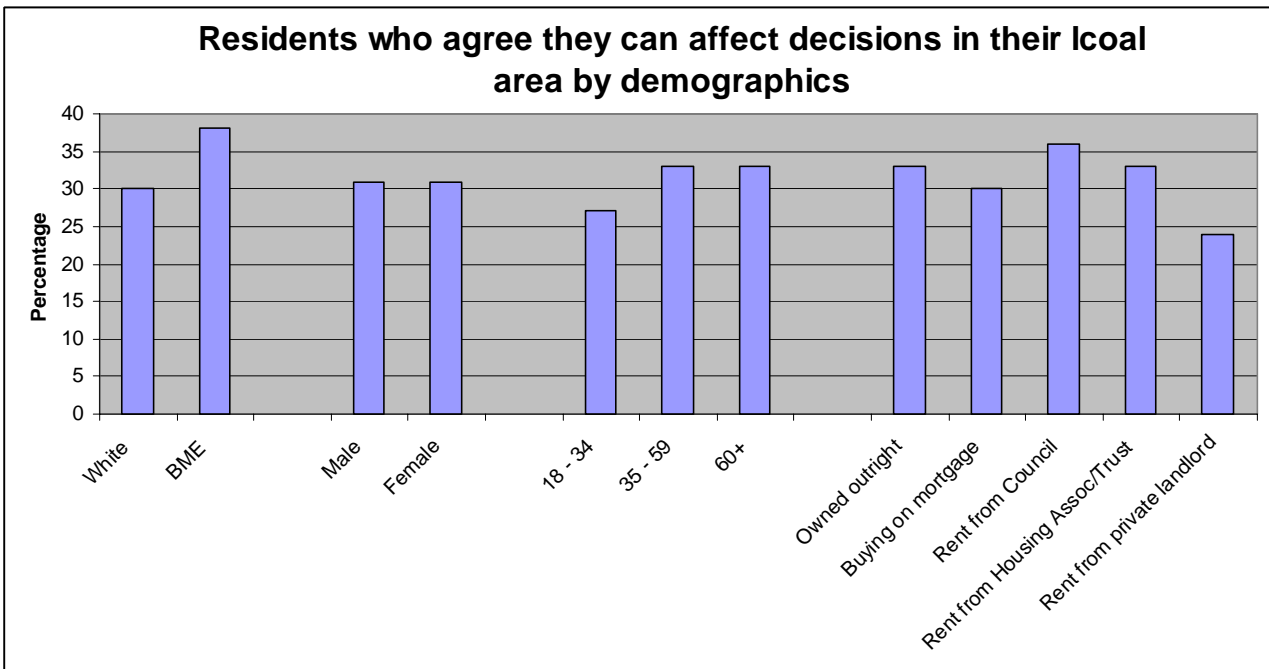
**Figure 32:**



Source: Place Survey 2008 and 2009.

Note: small variations between wards are likely to be in part due to small sample size at ward level (an average sample per ward is around 180 respondents).

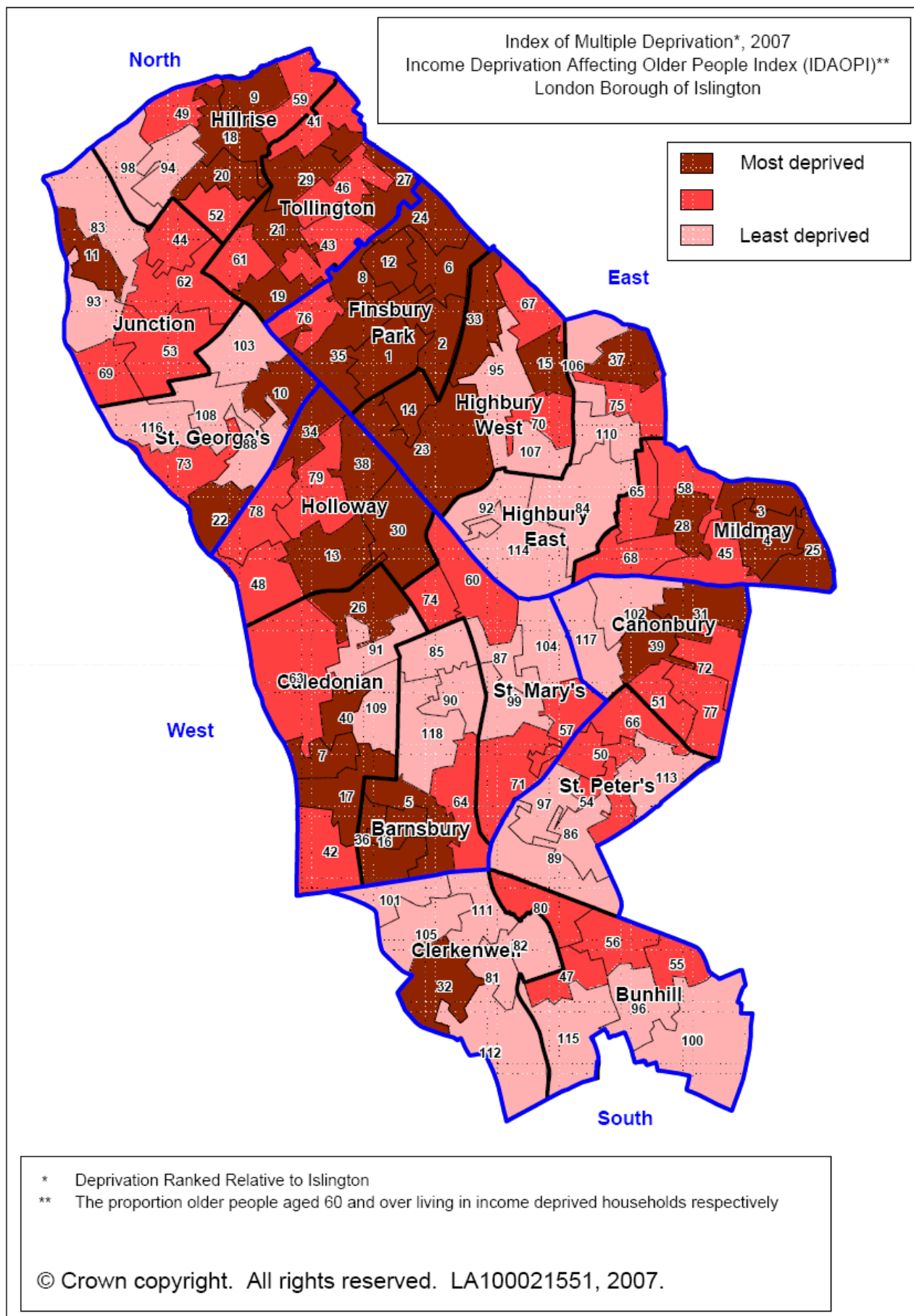
**Figure 33:**



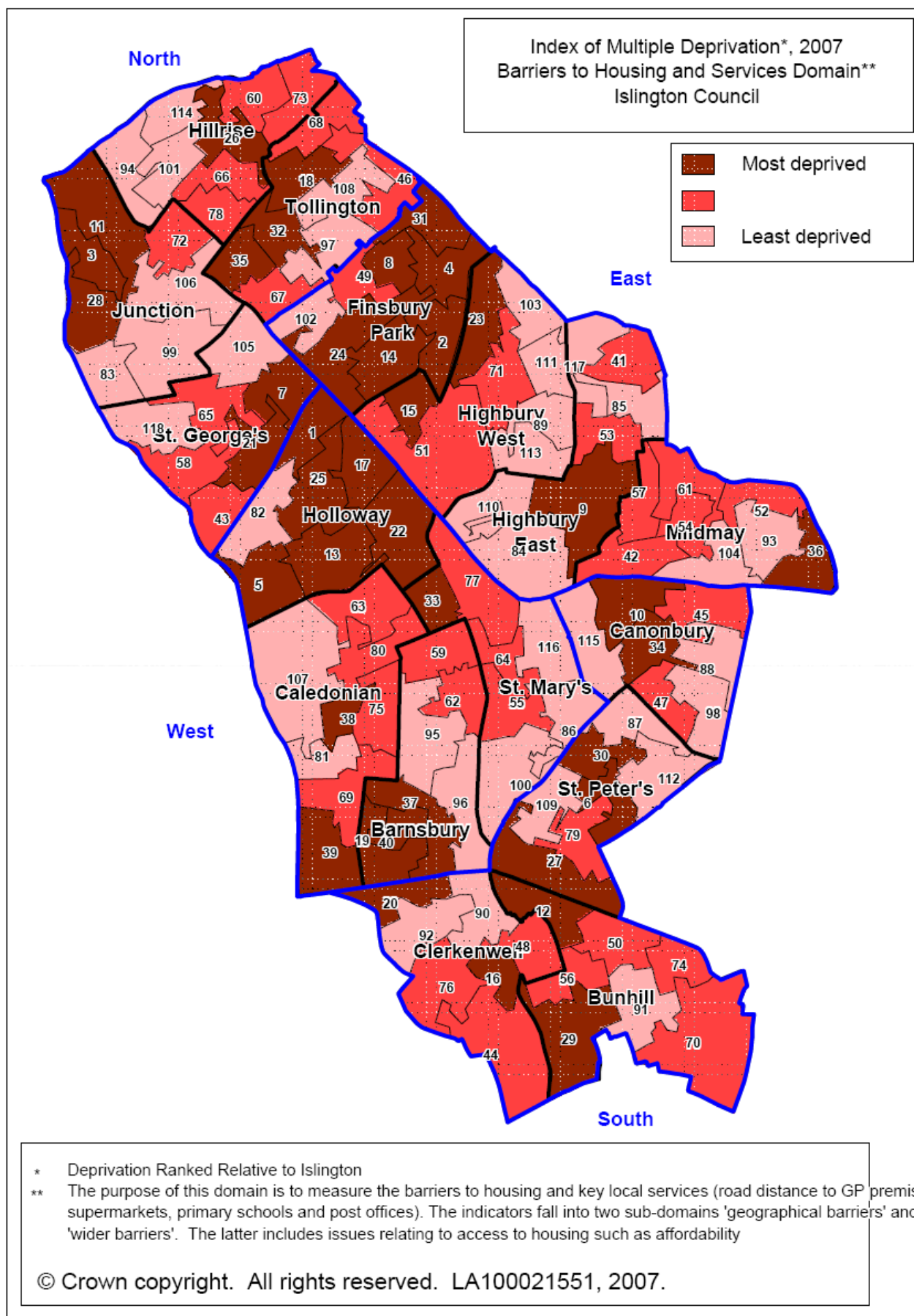
Source: Place Survey 2008 and 2009.



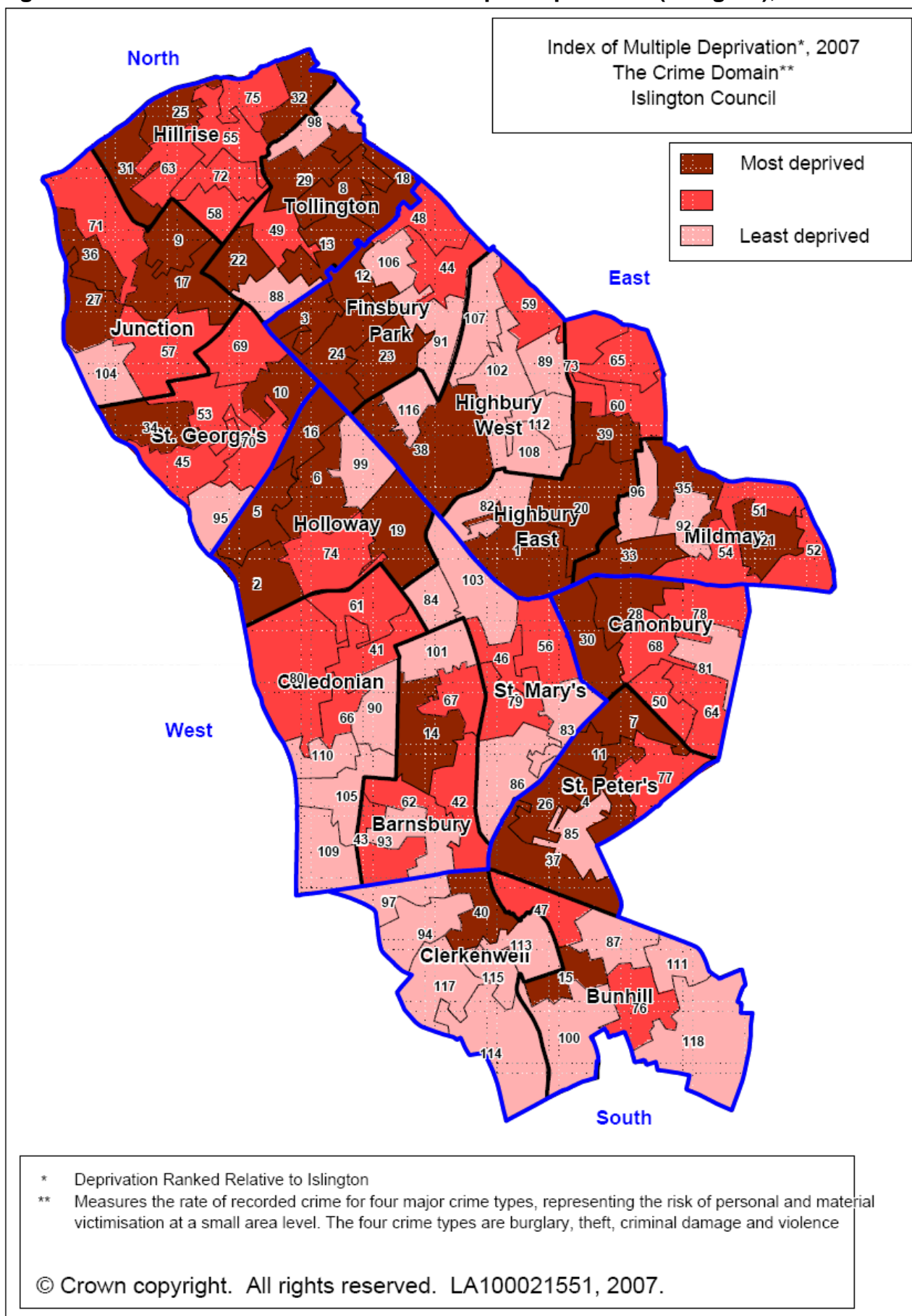
**Figure 34: Income deprivation affecting older people in Islington, IMD 2007**



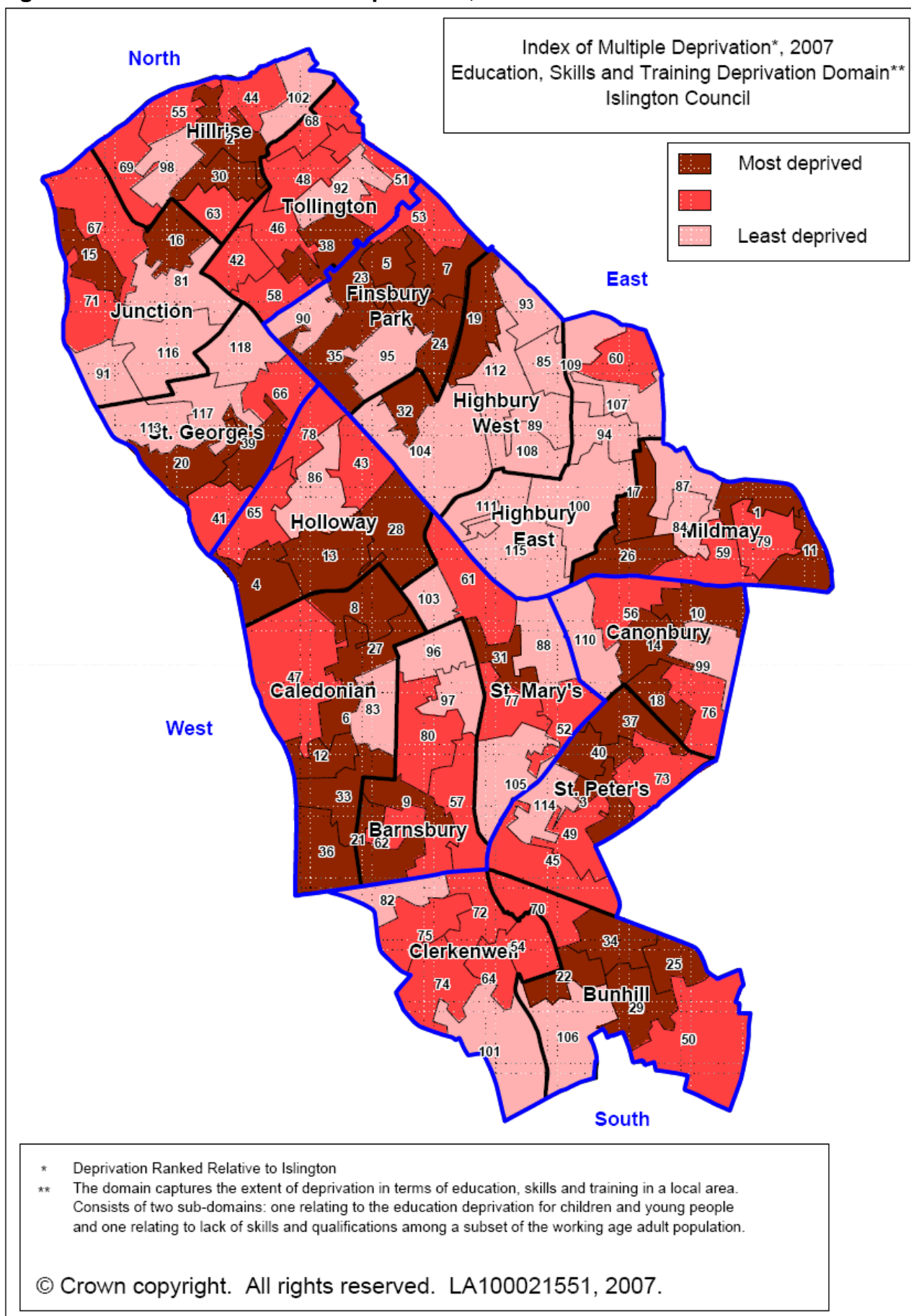
**Figure 35: Housing deprivation in Islington, IMD 2007**



**Figure 36: Crime domain from index of Multiple Deprivation (Islington), IMD 2007**

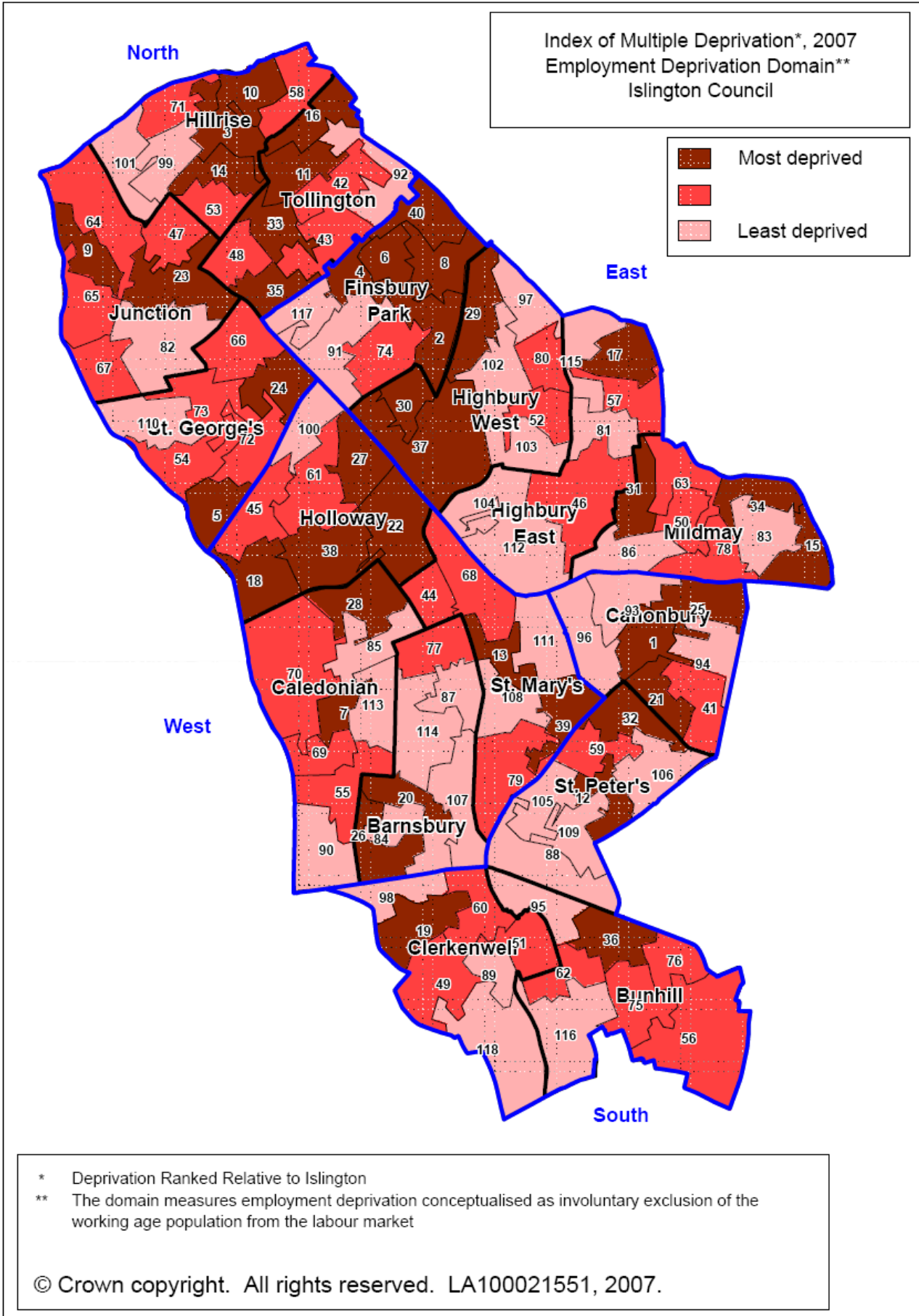


**Figure 37: Education and skills deprivation, IMD 2007**

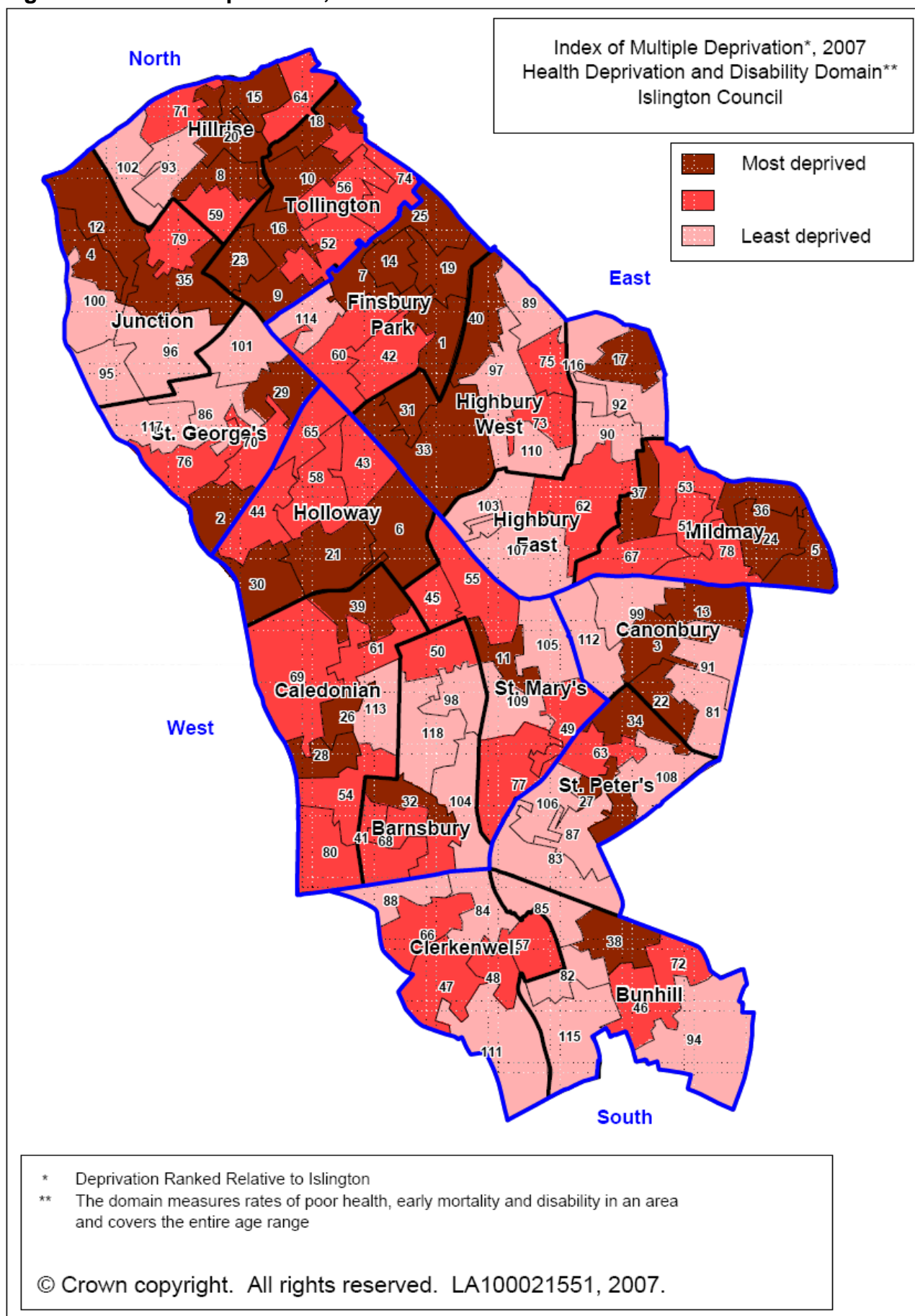




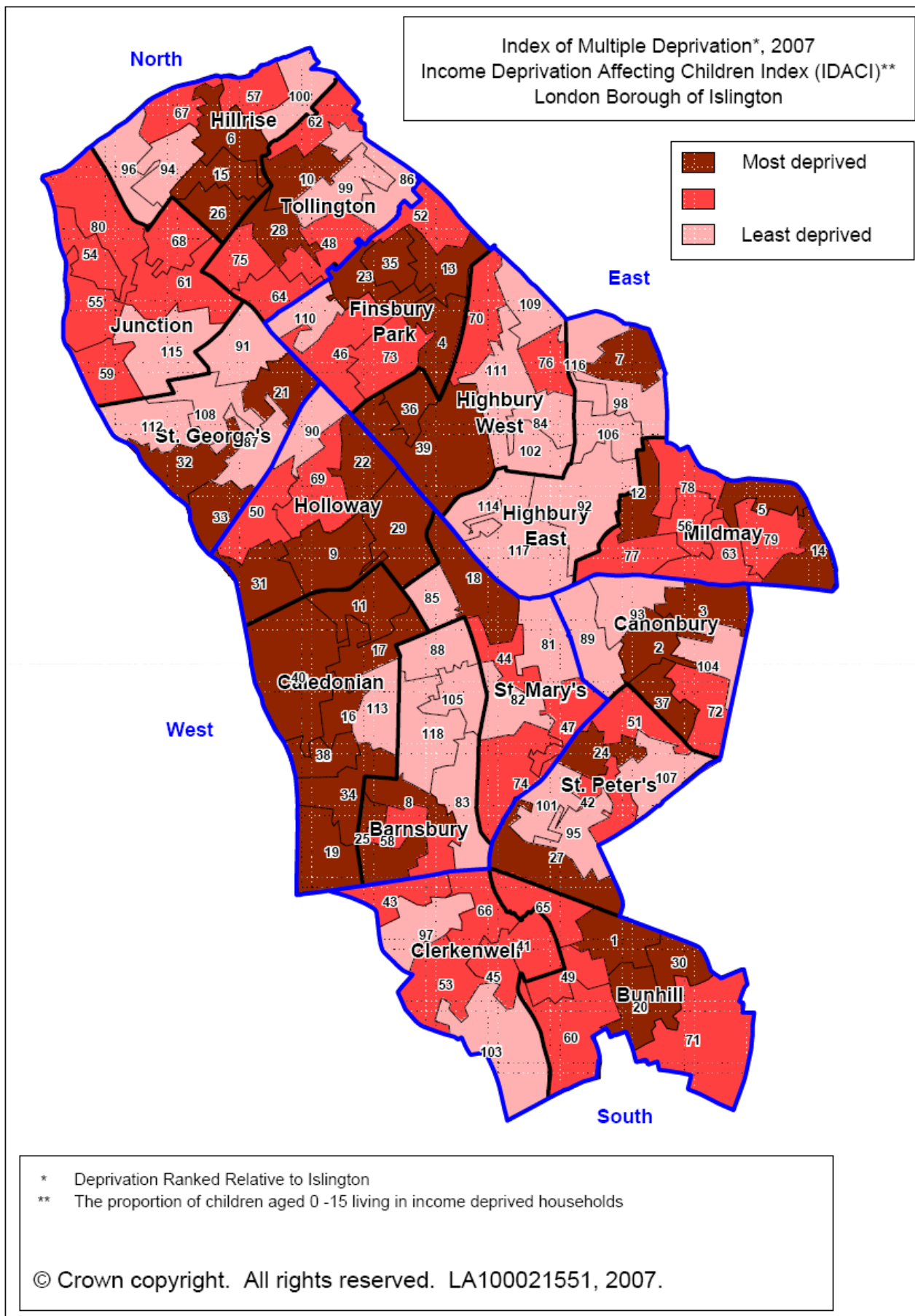
**Figure 38: Employment Deprivation, IMD 2007**



**Figure 39: Health Deprivation, IMD 2007**



**Figure 40: Income Deprivation affecting children, IMD 2007**





## Annex 2: Glossary of terms and acronyms

Acronym or term	Explanation
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation. Every ward and local authority district is allocated a deprivation score based on how deprived it is against the seven domains: health, income, employment, crime, housing, education and amenities/environment
GLA	Greater London Authority
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic Group
ONS	Office of National Statistics
SOA	Super Output Area. The borough is divided in to 118 SOAs. Census data is reported at an SOA level
Mosaic	A socio-demographic profiling tool developed by Experian
Acorn	A socio-demographic profiling tool developed by CACI
Paycheck	Modelled household income data, developed by CACI
LLI	Long-term limiting illness
NEET	Not in education, employment or training. The term is usually used in the context of 16-18 year olds
FSM	Free school meals
SMR	Standardised mortality ratio. This is the actual mortality rate in an area compared to the expected rate (based on the population profile). A figure of 100 is the expected rate, a higher figure is a higher than expected mortality rate
RSL	Registered social landlord (such as a housing association)
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification is used to classify different types of business or enterprise into standard groups or types