

Patterns of civil supply: Maps for civil legal aid

July 2009

Background

As part of its remit to improve civil legal assistance and access to justice, the Board monitors the level of supply of [civil legal assistance](#). This includes legal aid, advice and assistance and ABWOR (Assistance By Way Of Representation) related to civil matters. This work on civil supply builds upon a [review of the Board's civil legal aid application data](#), carried out in 2006, by including more spatial analysis of the initial application data at a local level.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project was to identify areas that may pose access to justice concerns through analysis of the Board's application data.

There were a number of objectives:

- Provide a current picture of civil legal assistance provision
- Describe recent trends in the supply of civil legal assistance
- Develop potential explanations for patterns of supply
- Identify areas (geography, area of law, applicant group) for potential action research.

This research briefing addresses the first two objectives for civil legal aid at the local authority level. The second set of objectives will be addressed through ongoing work and reporting to the Board.

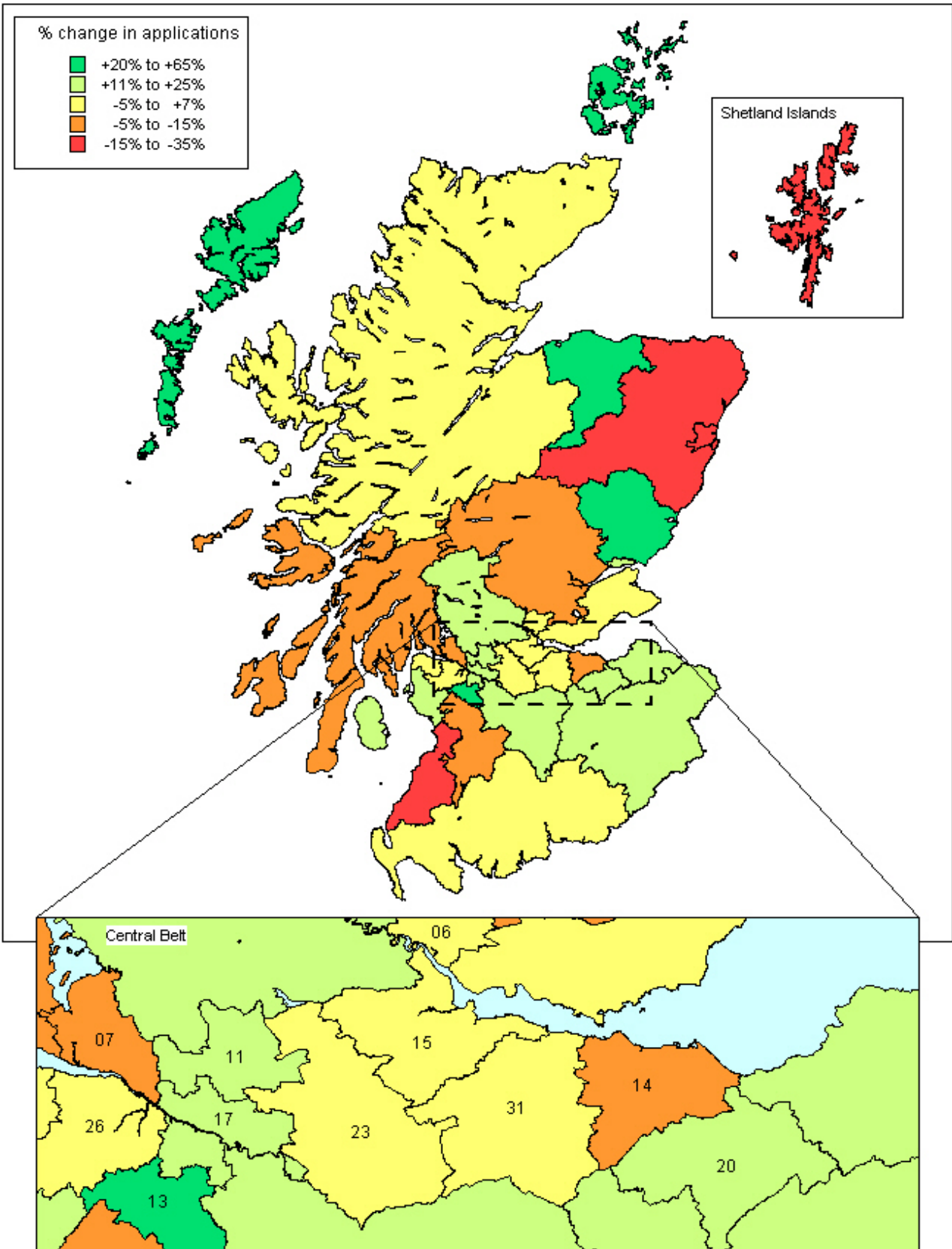
Methodology

The Board's data from 2001/02 to 2008/09 was collated, and extensive work on assigning geographic information to outlets and applicants was undertaken. Mappable location data was available for more than 99% of outlets (firms or firm branches submitting at least one application or grant in any given year). For applicants, location data was produced for 94% of advice and assistance cases and 97% of civil legal aid cases. Areas of law matching those used in the [advice sector survey](#) were built up from discrete case categories used by the Board. The project was carried out in-house and overseen by a Steering Group drawn from across the organisation.

Analysis was conducted by comparing applicant addresses with outlet location and breaking down the data to 15 areas of law for advice and assistance, or 10 areas for legal aid, at a local authority level. Comparing the change in the volume of applications based on where applicants are located (applicant based change) to the volume based on where the outlet is located (outlet based change), helps to identify whether a reduction in outlet activity in any given area reflects a reduction in access for people living in that area or those from further afield.

The following maps only relate to applicant based change for civil legal aid. Not all areas of law could be mapped as a result of low numbers of applications. Only the first map looks at change over five years from 2004/05 - 2008/09; the other maps look at change over the more recent period from 2007/08 - 2008/09.

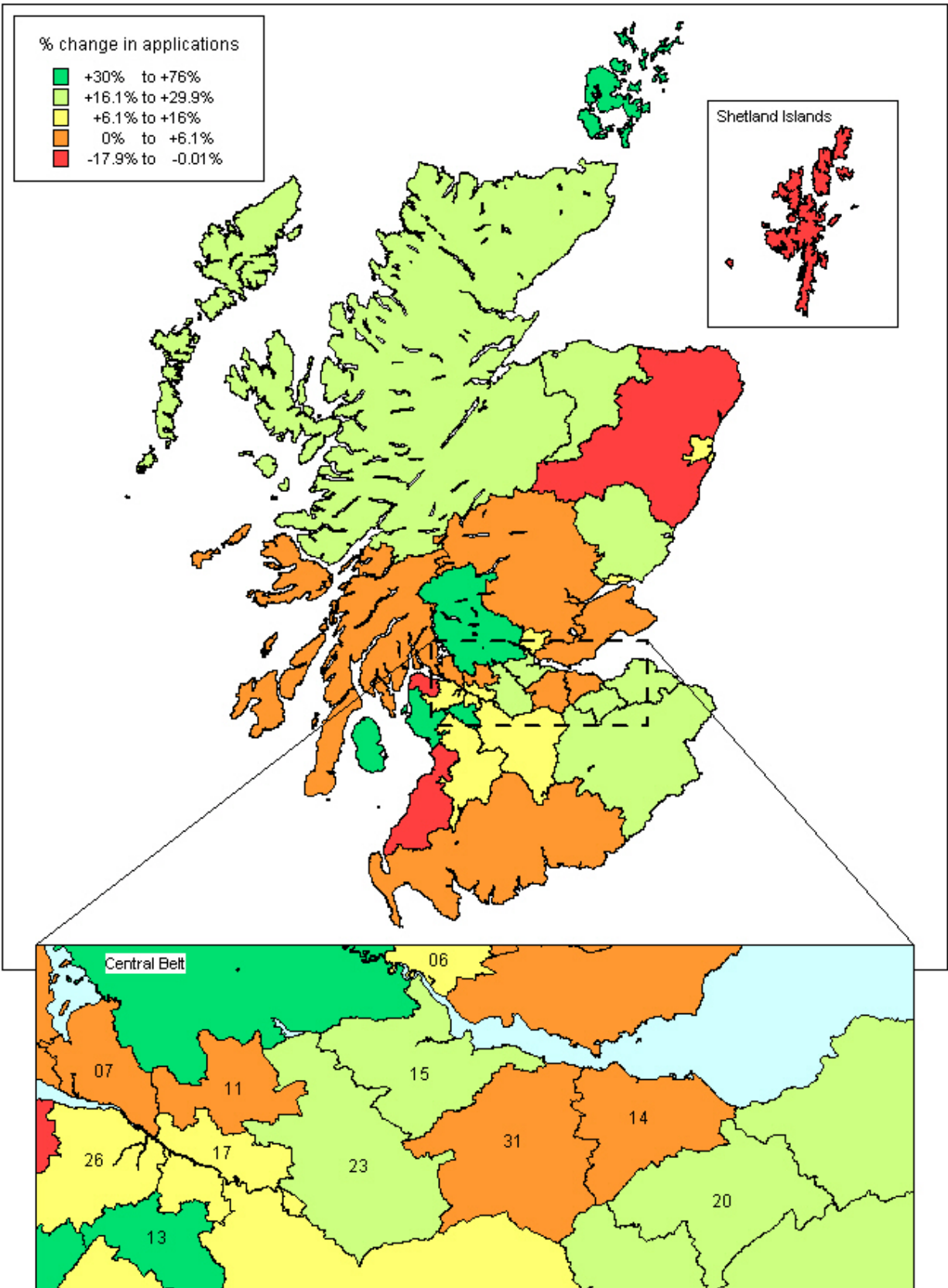
Change in overall number of applications by applicant location (2004/05 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

06 Clackmannanshire; 07 West Dunbartonshire; 11 East Dunbartonshire; 12 East Lothian; 13 East Renfrewshire; 14 City of Edinburgh; 15 Falkirk; 17 Glasgow City; 20 Midlothian; 26 Renfrewshire; 31 West Lothian

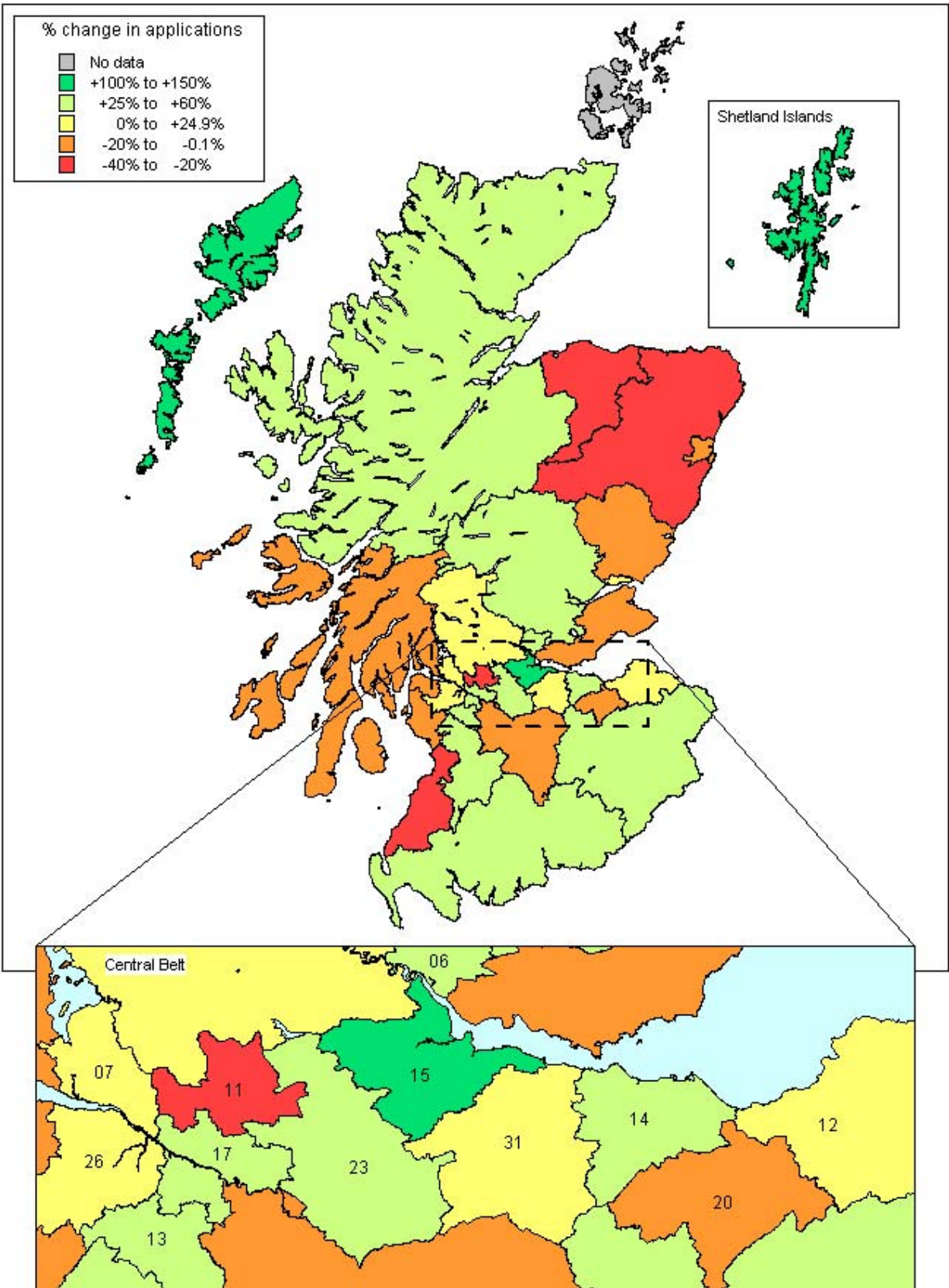
Change in overall number of applications by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

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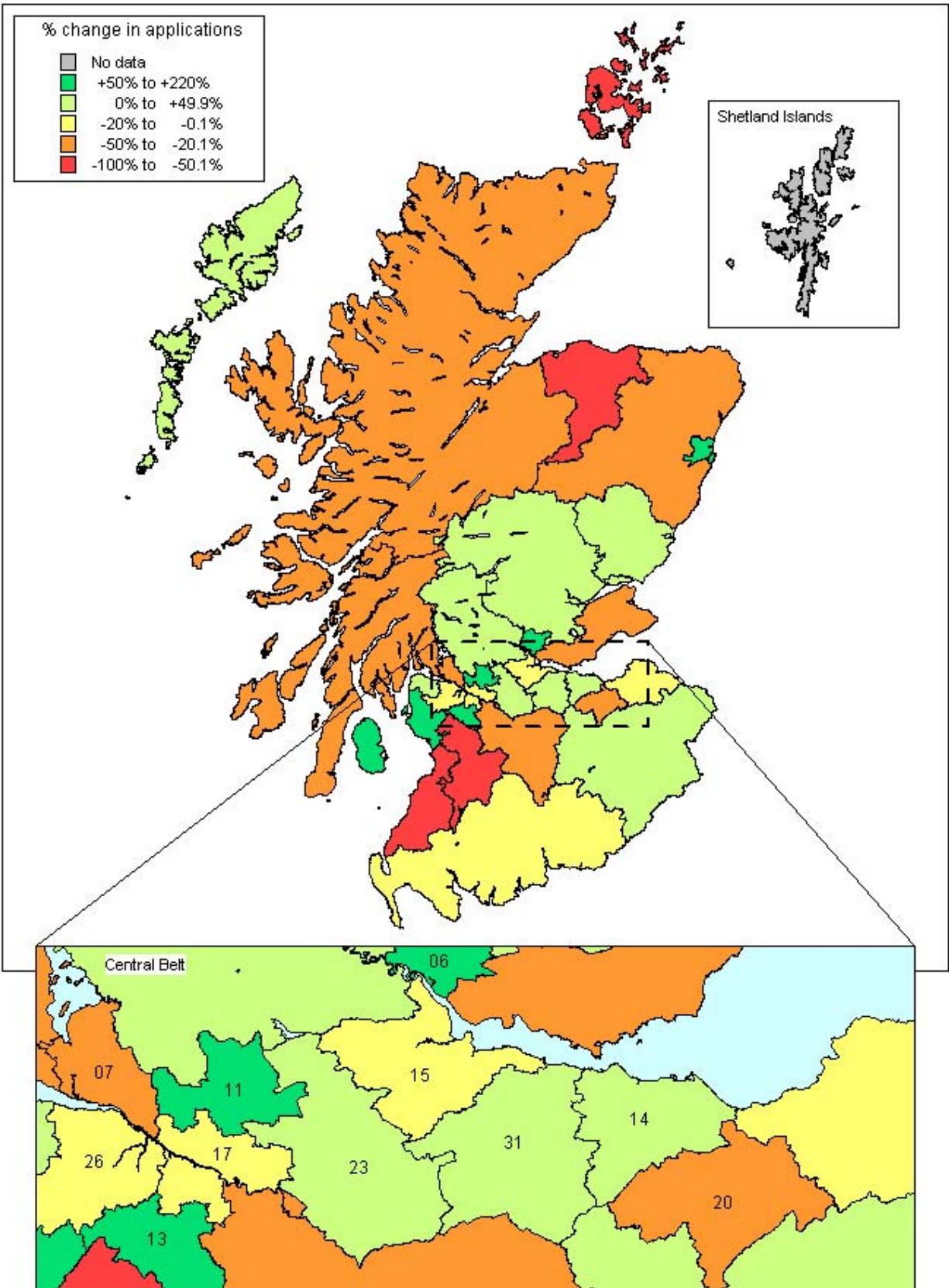
Change in compensation and damages applications by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

06 Clackmannanshire; 07 West Dunbartonshire; 11 East Dunbartonshire; 12 East Lothian; 13 East Renfrewshire; 14 City of Edinburgh; 15 Falkirk; 17 Glasgow City; 20 Midlothian; 26 Renfrewshire; 31 West Lothian

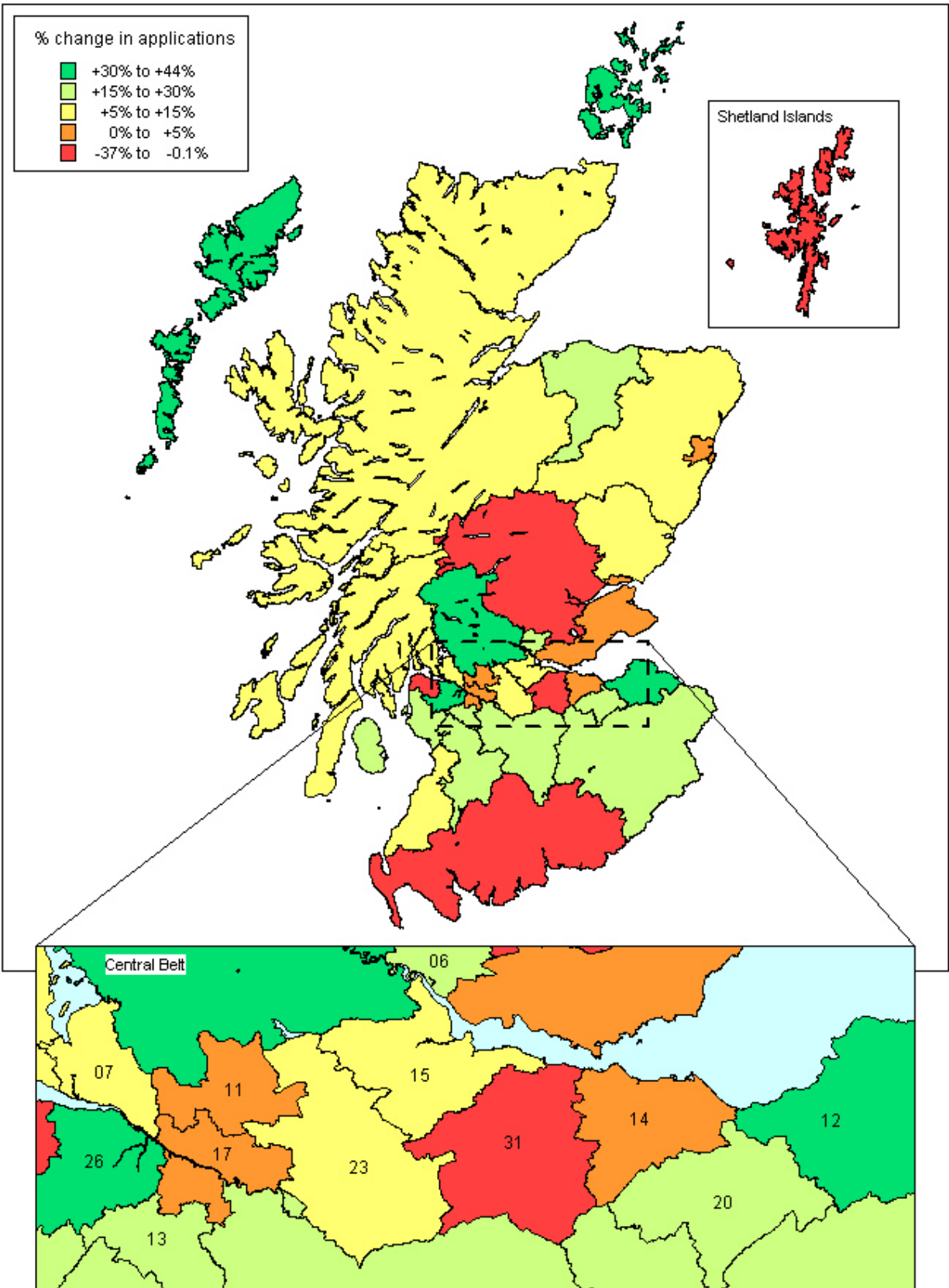
Change in number of applications relating to debt, money and tax issues by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

06 Clackmannanshire; 07 West Dunbartonshire; 11 East Dunbartonshire; 12 East Lothian; 13 East Renfrewshire; 14 City of Edinburgh; 15 Falkirk; 17 Glasgow City; 20 Midlothian; 26 Renfrewshire; 31 West Lothian

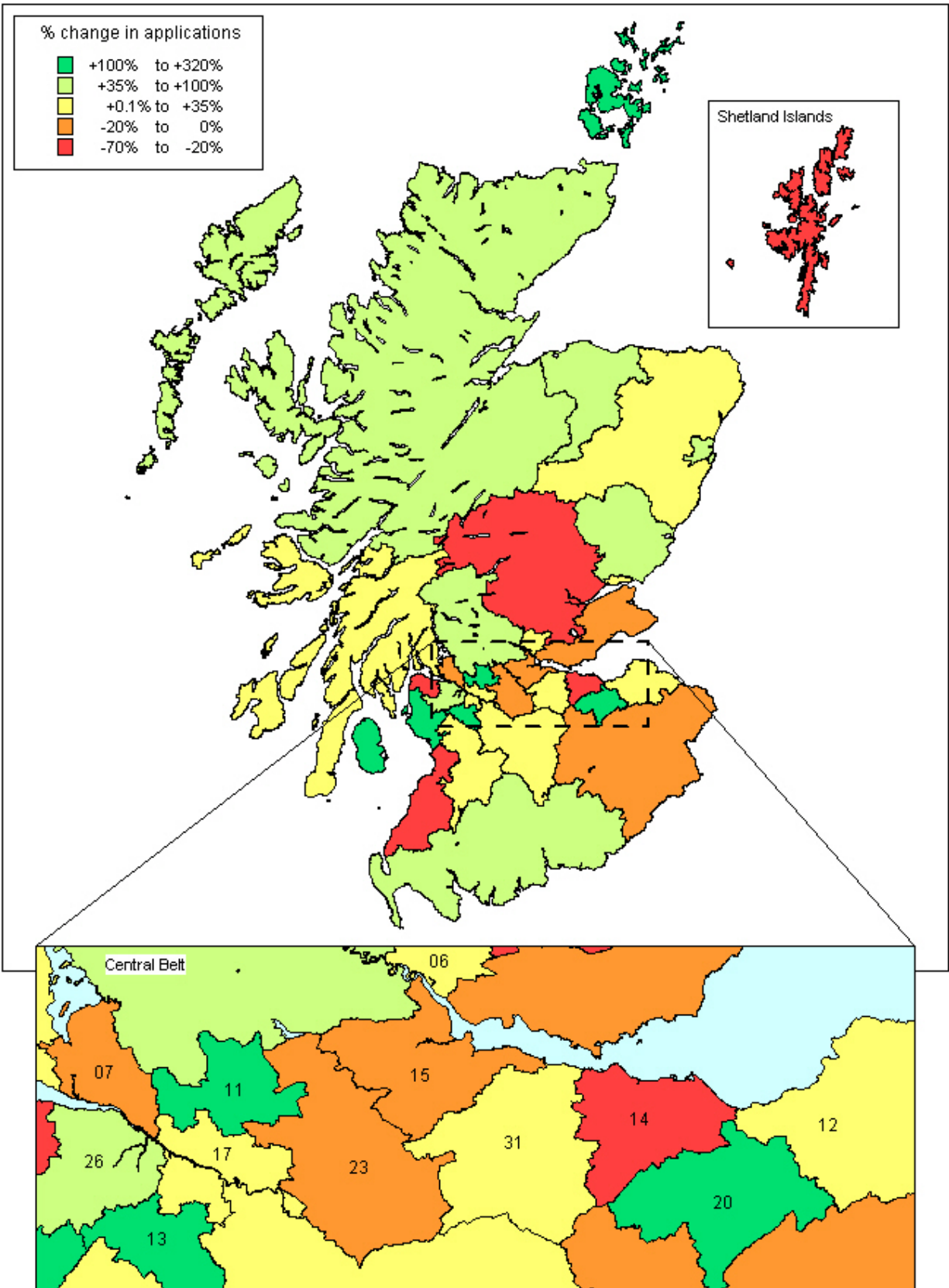
Change in number of applications for family and relationship matters by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

06 Clackmannanshire; 07 West Dunbartonshire; 11 East Dunbartonshire; 12 East Lothian; 13 East Renfrewshire; 14 City of Edinburgh; 15 Falkirk; 17 Glasgow City; 20 Midlothian; 26 Renfrewshire; 31 West Lothian

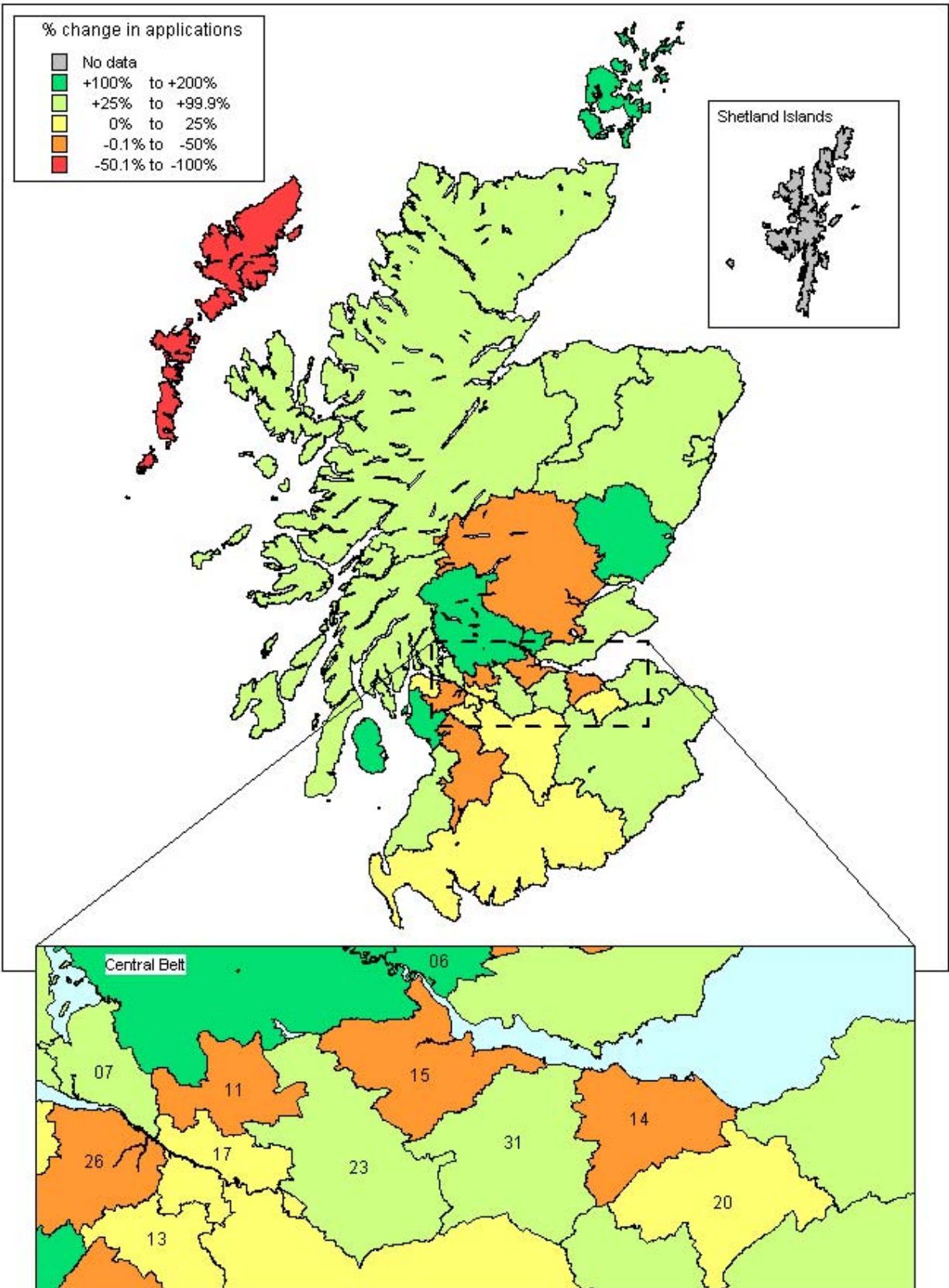
Change in applications for protective orders by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

06 Clackmannanshire; 07 West Dunbartonshire; 11 East Dunbartonshire; 12 East Lothian; 13 East Renfrewshire; 14 City of Edinburgh; 15 Falkirk; 17 Glasgow City; 20 Midlothian; 26 Renfrewshire; 31 West Lothian

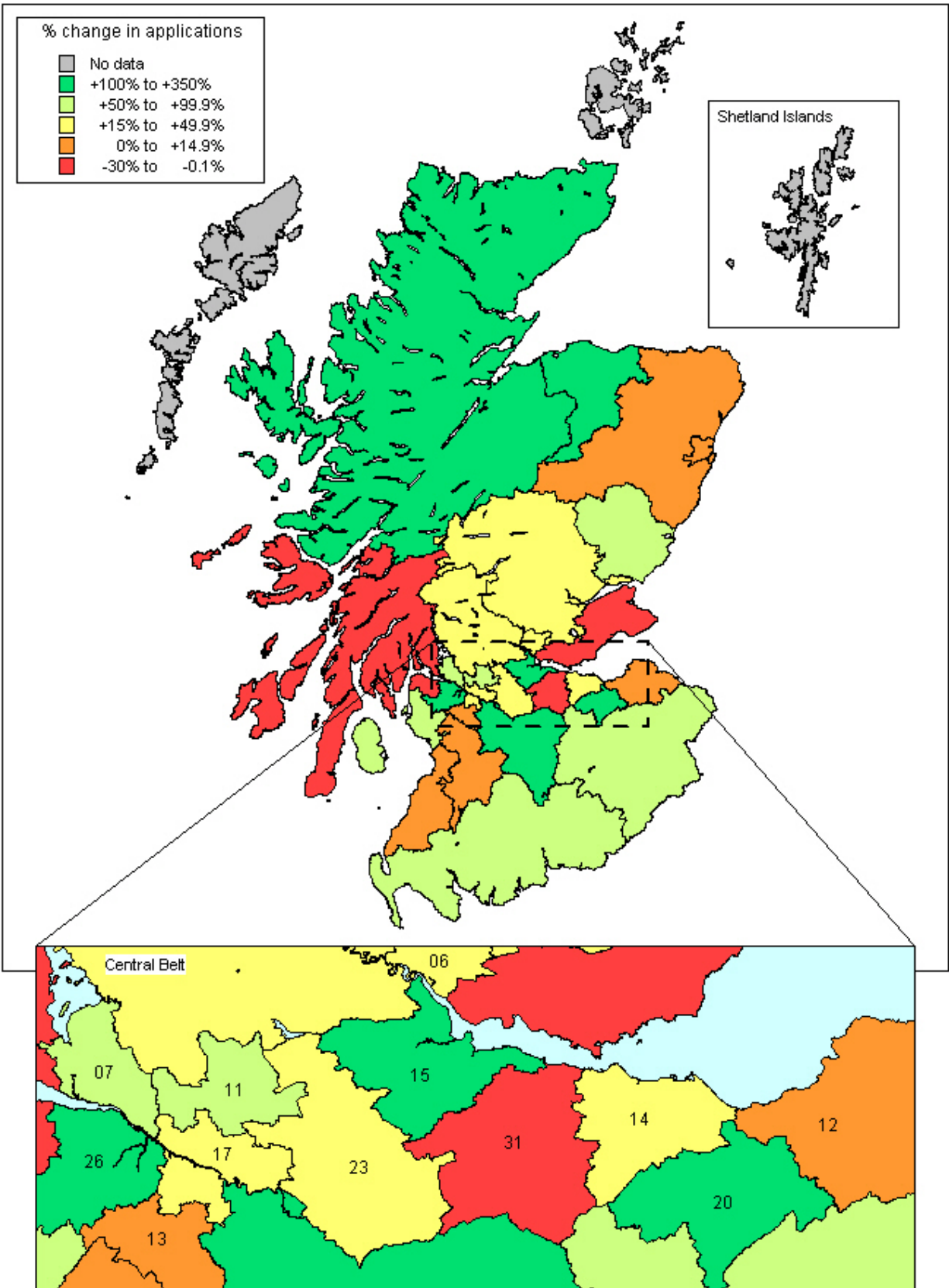
Change in number of applications relating to housing and homelessness by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

06 Clackmannanshire; 07 West Dunbartonshire; 11 East Dunbartonshire; 12 East Lothian; 13 East Renfrewshire; 14 City of Edinburgh; 15 Falkirk; 17 Glasgow City; 20 Midlothian; 26 Renfrewshire; 31 West Lothian

Change in applications for mental health welfare and adults with incapacity by applicant location (2007/08 - 2008/09)



Source: Scottish Legal Aid Board

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