

Technical Guidance on production of official statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts (LGD2014)



(September 2013)

Update – February 2016

This guidance document has been updated to reflect Local Government Districts name changes, which took effect on 24th February 2016.

Introduction

1. In 2008, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the reform of Local Government. The change moved Local Government from the 26 current Districts (LGD1992) to 11 new Districts (LGD2014), as well as making changes to the powers of Local Government. The geographical changes were initiated through the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008¹.
2. Following the subsequent Boundary Commission, the Assembly approved the exact geographical structures. The Legislative Order² to enact the boundaries, which came into force in November 2012, used the Boundary Commissioner's Final Recommendations, with two minor modifications³. The reform of local government is the largest since Sir Patrick Macrory's report of June 1970⁴. The timeline of the recent reform is available on the Assembly website⁵.
3. Five of the 11 new Districts (LGD2014) are exact aggregates of the current 26 Districts (LGD1992). Maps of the 11 Local Government Districts along with coding and naming scheme are shown in Annex 1. Further detailed information is available on the DOE website⁶.

Official Statistics

4. Official statistics on Local Government Districts are important for a variety of reasons. They inform the delivery of local services, help plan future services, and are used to monitor equality. Crucially, the statistics are also used to allocate public finances.
5. The change in Local Government District boundaries presents a significant challenge to official statisticians and social researchers. The geographical change will have a major impact on the production of official statistics. This technical paper provides guidance for producers of official statistics and outlines some of the secondary statistical impacts. This paper is structured as follows:

¹http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ni/2008/7/pdfs/ni_20080007_en.pdf

²http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2012/421/pdfs/nisr_20120421_en.pdf

³http://www.doeni.gov.uk/statement_of_reasons_for_modification_of_the_recommendations_of_the_local_government_boundaries_commissioner.pdf

⁴http://eprints.ulster.ac.uk/12892/1/Towards_a_new_era_article.pdf

⁵<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Documents/RaISe/Publications/2012/environment/11312.pdf>

⁶http://www.doeni.gov.uk/local_government_reform

- *How official spatial statistics for Local Government Districts are produced.* This section gives an overview of some of the ways official statistics are produced and how these methods can be applied to LGD2014.
- *How to take aggregate official spatial statistics and create statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts.* This section gives guidance on ways to estimate statistics for the 11 new Districts based on existing aggregate official statistics.
- *Issues in producing statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts.* This section outlines some statistical issues users should be aware of in the change to LGD2014.

Section 1: How official spatial statistics for Local Government Districts are produced

6. Local Government District statistics are produced by a large number of bodies ranging from Government Departments, Health & Education Bodies to Criminal Justice Agencies. NISRA host the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Statistics Agency (NINIS)⁷, where a large number of these official Local Government District statistics are made available.
7. Currently producers create statistics for the 26 Local Government District from existing microdata (or unit record data) in a number of ways. These include
 - recording the grid reference of the household or business and using this to classify records spatially; or
 - using the postcode of the household or business and relating this to the Local Government District without access to address information; or
 - obtaining the Local Government District of the household or business directly without access to the address or postcode.
8. Official statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts can be created easily using the first two methods (grid reference or postcode). The latest version of Pointer⁸ contains the grid references for domestic and commercial properties, which can be mapped onto the 11 new Districts⁹. In addition the Central Postcode Directory¹⁰ contains the relevant postcode lookup files for the 11 new Districts.
9. This leaves users who have access either to aggregate data or to microdata that does not include the postcode or grid reference. Detailed guidance for such users is available in the next section.

⁷ See <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis>

⁸ http://maps.osni.gov.uk/ContentResources/Pointer_guide.pdf

⁹ Boundary files can be obtained from Land and Property Services – see <https://maps.osni.gov.uk/>

¹⁰ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/postcode.htm>

Section 2: How to take aggregate official spatial statistics and create statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts.

10. Clearly it is less accurate to create official statistics for the 11 new Districts from summary or aggregate data. Users in this situation should in first instance approach the original producer to ask if microdata are available to produce statistics for the 11 new Districts.
11. However, if this is impossible, aggregation methods are available based on three independent lookup tables available from NISRA¹¹. The tables are:
 - a one-to-one relationship between the 4,537 Small Areas and the 11 new Districts;
 - a one-to-one relationship between the 5,022 Output Areas and the 11 new Districts; and
 - a one-to-one relationship between the 890 Super Output Areas and the 11 new Districts.
12. Official guidance is to produce statistics for the 11 new Districts from aggregate statistics at the lowest level of geography (e.g. if Small Area and Super Output Area statistics are available it is best to aggregate from Small Areas). NISRA have assessed the accuracy of these methods and they all provide a robust approach¹². The final section in this paper deals with general issues in creating statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts.

Section 3: General issues in producing statistics for the 11 new Local Government Districts

13. The advice and guidance in Section 2 **relates to count data only**. The guidance does **not** apply to percentages, rates or other derived statistics. Users wishing to create such statistics will need to apply this guidance to the baseline count data before creating the derived statistics.
14. It is recommended that any statistics produced for the 11 new Districts should be accompanied by **metadata** outlining the method of spatial classification.
15. Data producers should always assess the risk of disclosing information on individuals, households, or businesses. If official statistics are produced from original microdata for multiple geographies (e.g. the 11 new Districts and the 26 current Districts), this can lead to **disclosure risks**. Producers should be aware of this in any consideration of requests for statistics across multiple geographies.
16. The 11 new Districts become **operational in April 2015**; the new Districts will however operate in shadow mode from April 2014. Producers of statistics should consider this in their plans for changing over to the new geographies.

¹¹ The existing Small Areas, Output Areas and Super Output Areas do **not** fit neatly within the 11 new district boundaries. One to one relationships are based on a best-fit approach.

¹² The aggregation methods become less accurate moving up the geography scale. However, NISRA's assessment is that aggregation methods remain robust at the Super Output Area level.

17. To assist those wishing to create rate statistics, NISRA have published **provisional population statistics** for the 11 new Districts¹³. NISRA plan to publish full official population estimates for the 11 new Districts by the end of 2013/14. NISRA have also produced 2001 and 2011 Census Day population and household estimates for the 11 new Districts¹⁴ and guidance on the method to create other socio-economic statistics from the **2001 and 2011 Censuses**.
18. The **official names and codes** for the 11 new Districts (LGD2014) are as given in Annex 1. These should be used in official publications to avoid confusion with the current 26 Districts.
19. **Further technical guidance** on the production of official statistics for the new 462 **electoral wards** will be issued in 2014.
20. As with the 26 current Districts, there is no official definition of **urban - rural** relating to the 11 new Districts.
21. The NI **Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010** was based on the Super Output Areas and the 26 current Districts. However, NISRA have produced a guidance paper on the 11 new Districts relating to spatial deprivation and the NIMDM 2010¹⁵.
22. The five European Union Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics III or **NUTS3 areas** in Northern Ireland¹⁶ are aggregates of the 26 current districts (LGD1992). The NUTS3 areas remain unchanged; producers and users should be aware that the NUTS3 areas do not fit neatly within the 11 new Districts (LGD2014).
23. **Further guidance** is available from the NISRA Geography website¹⁷ or by e-mail from ninis.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
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¹³ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>

¹⁴ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011Census.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/documents/NIMDM%202010%20Area%20Profiles%20for%20New%20LGDs.pdf>

¹⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NUTS_of_the_United_Kingdom

¹⁷ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/home.htm>

Annex 1: Figure A.1 Map of 11 Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland (LGD2014)

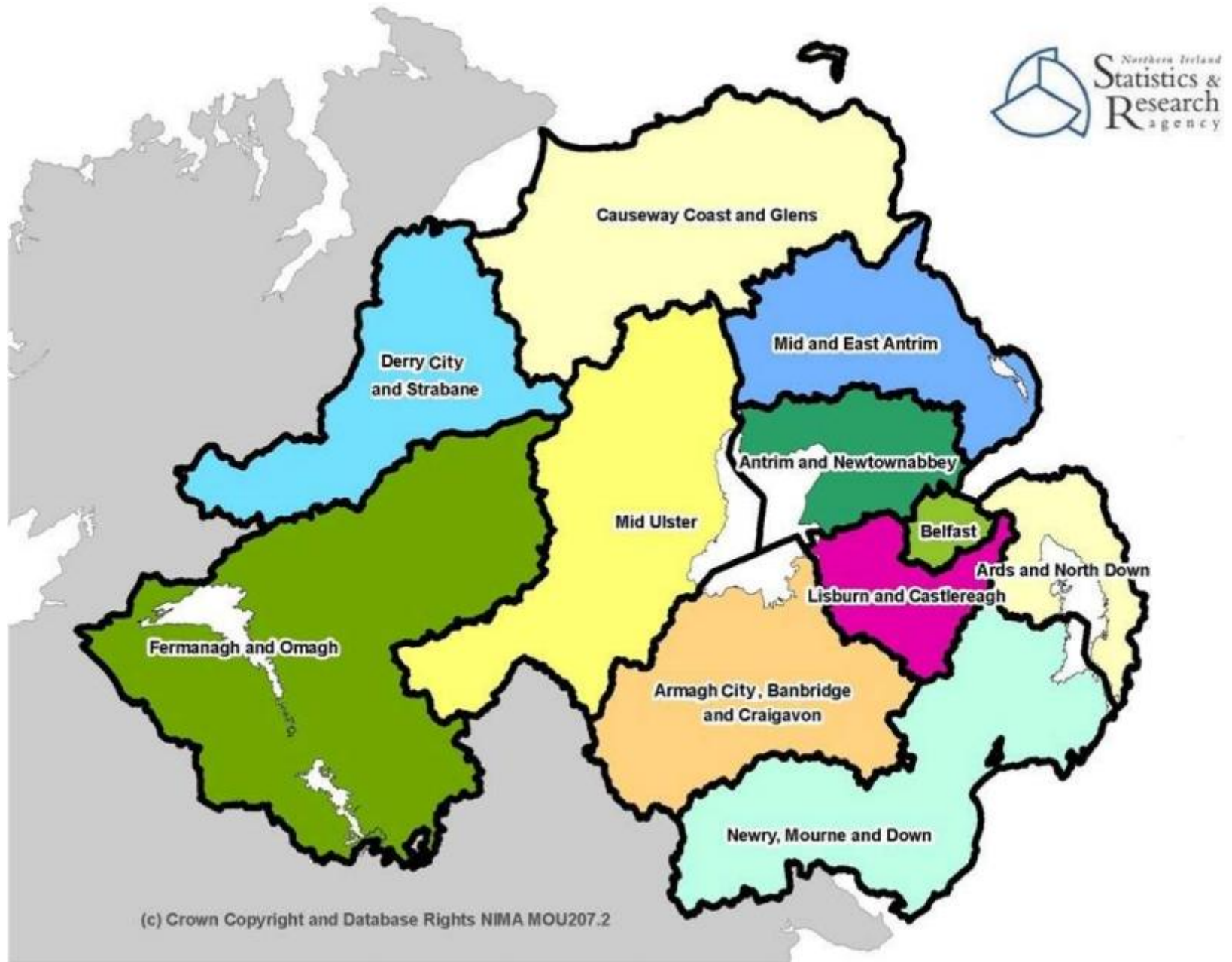
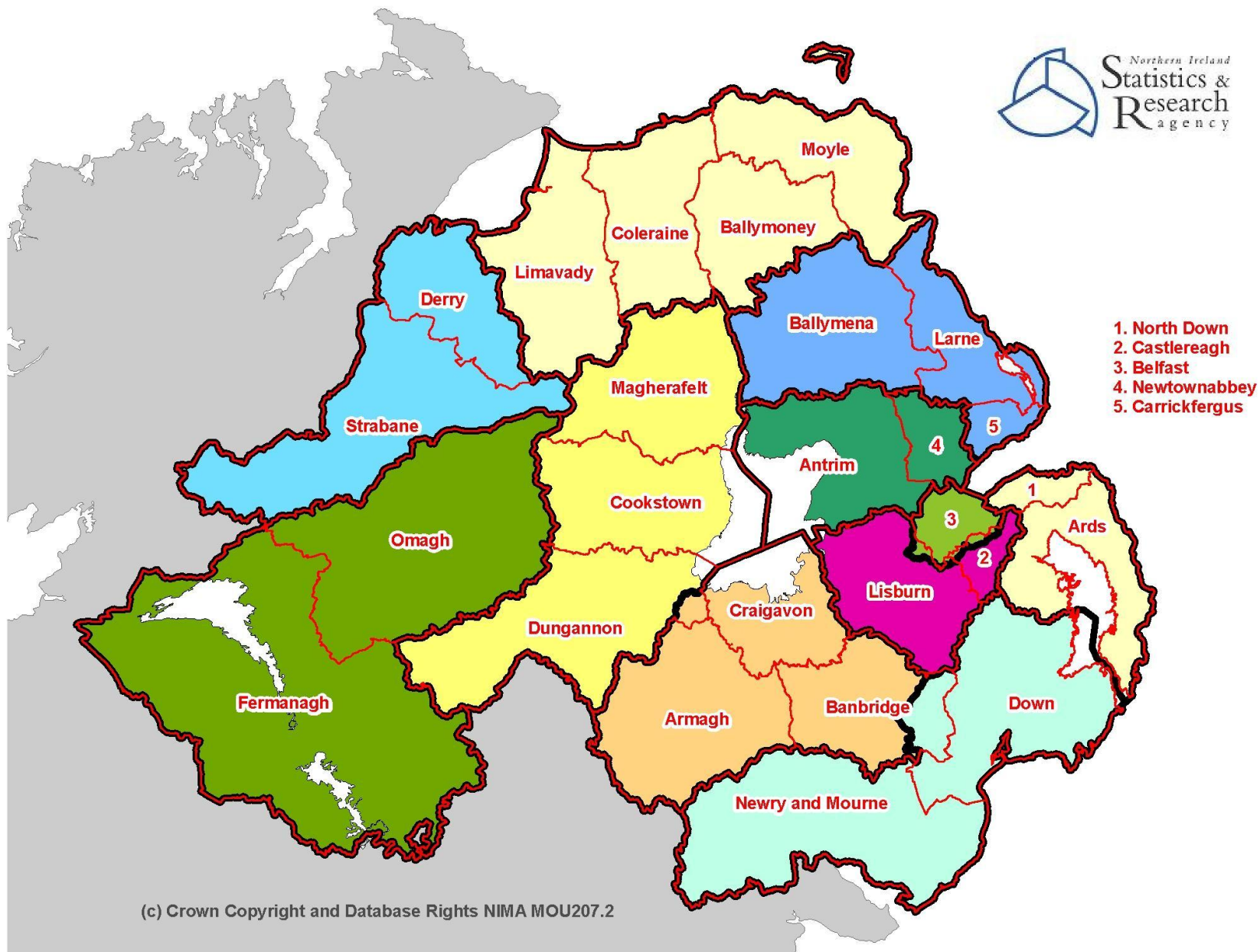


Figure A.2 Map of 11 Local Government Districts (LGD2014) indicating relationship to current 26 Local Government Districts (LGD1992)



List of 11 Local Government Districts Codes and Names along with relationship to 26 current councils

LGD 2014 Code	LGD 2014 Name	Relationship to 26 Current Councils
N09000001	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils
N09000002	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Armagh City and Craigavon Councils major part of Banbridge Council minor part of Dungannon Council
N09000003	Belfast	Belfast City minor parts of Castlereagh, Lisburn City and North Down Councils
N09000004	Causeway Coast and Glens	Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Councils
N09000005	Derry City and Strabane	Derry City and Strabane Councils
N09000006	Fermanagh and Omagh	Fermanagh and Omagh Councils
N09000007	Lisburn and Castlereagh	Major parts of Lisburn City and Castlereagh Councils
N09000008	Mid and East Antrim	Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne Councils
N09000009	Mid Ulster	Cookstown and Magherafelt Councils major part of Dungannon Council
N09000010	Newry, Mourne and Down	Down, Newry and Mourne Councils minor part of Banbridge Council
N09000011	Ards and North Down	Ards Council major part of North Down Council