



CENSUS OUTPUTS FOR SETTLEMENTS 2015

July 2015

Guidance Note

Key Statistics for Settlements in Northern Ireland, published on 30 July 2015, provides a range of statistics for settlements in Northern Ireland using boundaries as defined by the DOE Planning Service in November 2014. For reasons of disclosure, the settlements included are those exceeding the threshold of 500 or more usual residents.

In March 2015, population and household estimates for those settlements exceeding the thresholds of 20 or more households and 50 or more usual residents were published. The exact settlement boundaries, used to produce these population and household estimates, cannot be used in the production of a full range of 2011 Census statistics due to the potential disclosure risk of the data being differenced from other available 2011 Census data.

The statistics provided in the 'Key Statistics for Settlements in Northern Ireland' release are thus produced using a best-fit approximation using 100 metre grid squares as building blocks. As these fit the exact boundaries more closely than the Census Small Areas that are normally used, the statistics are more robust and accurate. The best-fit approach used is the same for all settlements, namely a 100 metre grid-square is included in a settlement if either (i) the entire population of the grid-square is within the settlement boundary; or (ii) the majority of the people within the grid-square are in the settlement. The level of accuracy attained through the best-fit approximation approach can be gauged through the figures for persons and occupied households provided in the table 'Headcount and Household Estimates for Settlements':

http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Census%202011_Excel/2011/Headcount%20and%20Household%20Estimates%20for%20Settlements.XLS.