Northern Ireland’s 85 and over population grows to 37,700

The number of people aged 85 and over in Northern Ireland was estimated to be 37,700 in mid-2018, an increase of 600 people (1.5 per cent) since mid-2017.

Over the decade the population aged 85 and over has grown by 8,800 people (30.4 per cent).

Females made up most of the 85 and over population in mid-2018

There were 24,800 females aged 85 and over in mid-2018, with males aged 85 and over totalling 13,000.

Females represented 65.6 per cent of the 85 and over population, with males making up the remaining 34.4 per cent.

Males aged 85 and over have grown at a faster rate than females from mid-2008

The population of males aged 85 and over has grown by 50.9 per cent (4,400) since mid-2008.

In contrast, the population of females aged 85 and over has grown by 21.7 per cent (4,400) since mid-2008.
Belfast Local Government District had the largest estimated population aged 85 and over in mid-2018

The largest number of people aged 85 and over were in Belfast LGD (7,300), or 19.3 per cent of the total 85 and over population. The LGD with the smallest 85 and over population was Derry City and Strabane (2,200), or 5.9 per cent of the total 85 and over population in mid-2018.

Northern Ireland’s Centenarians

There were an estimated 300 centenarians (i.e. those aged 100 and over) in mid-2018.

The majority of centenarians were female (261 or 87.0 per cent). The number of male centenarians in mid-2018 was 39 (13.0 per cent).

The number of female centenarians has consistently outnumbered males over the decade.
Northern Ireland had the smallest population aged 85 and over across the UK

The population aged 85 and over in the UK reached 1.6 million in mid-2018. Northern Ireland made up the smallest proportion of those aged 85 and over in the UK (37,700, 2.3 per cent). England made up the largest proportion of those aged 85 and over (1.4 million, 84.9 per cent) in mid-2018.