

Agenda item 8: Geography update

Geography update

NISRA has a responsibility for geographical support through the development of tools and provision of guidance for geographical analysis, and the creation of statistical geographies.

The purpose of this paper is to update members of the Demographic Statistics Advisory Group on the work.

Issue

Members are invited to note the developments outlined in the paper.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The geography team within NISRA is tasked with providing geographical support. This includes creating tools and providing guidance for geographical statistical analysis. In addition, it has also been responsible for the creation of statistical (small area) geographies.
- 1.2. Over the past few years the geography team function has been frustrated to a degree by staff moves. This has impacted on the work and essentially limited the range of products produced to periodic updates of the Central Postcode Directory. However, to coincide with the work to undertake the update of the NIMDM 2010, a small team has once again been put in place and will act as a point of contact for geographical support.

2. Overview of the work

- 2.1. The first output of the new geography team was the production of the Central Postcode Directory (CPD) in December 2015. The CPD provides a direct look-up between postcodes as of November 2015 and a range of geographies including Local Government Districts, Wards, Small Areas, Census Super Output Areas and Parliamentary Constituencies among others. The main new development was the inclusion of Settlements according to the [Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements](#), as published by a subgroup of the Cross-Departmental Statistics Coordinating Group in March 2015. A further addition was a look-up to the [Travel to Work Areas \(2011\)](#), as published by the Office for National Statistics in August 2015.
- 2.2. As part of the new CPD, the supporting documentation was also updated. This included for the first time estimates of accuracy for individual administrative and statistical geographies, based on the 2011 Census population and household estimates.
- 2.3. The geography team also published [Technical Guidance on production of official statistics for new administrative geographies](#) in February 2016. This provides guidance for users and producers to produce statistics for the sub-geographies of the new 11 Local Government Districts: 80 District Electoral Areas and 462 Wards. A look-up table was created from Censuses Small Areas to District Electoral Areas, together with an indicator of quality based on the 2011 Census population and household estimates.
- 2.4. Similar guidance and a look-up table have also been developed to create statistics for the new Settlements (2015), which are due to be published in April 2016.
- 2.5. The geography team has also been providing support to the Boundary Commission for the review of Parliamentary Constituencies, to ONS in the review of NUTS Areas, and to the Rating Policy Division for legislation on the rates exemption for rural ATMs.

3. Further information

- 3.1. Further information on progress of this project can be found on the [NISRA Geography website](#).

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