



# ONS

# Postcode Directory

# Version Notes

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## A National Statistics Publication

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## Contacts

### This publication

For information about the content of this publication, contact ONS Geography Customer Services

Tel: 01329 444971

Email: [ons.geography@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ons.geography@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

### Other customer enquiries

ONS Customer Contact Centre

Tel: 0845 601 3034

International: +44 (0)845 601 3034

Minicom: 01633 815044

Email: [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk)

Fax: 01633 652747

Post: Room 1.101, Government Buildings,  
Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales NP10 8XG

[www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

### Media enquiries

Tel: 0845 604 1858

Email: [press.office@ons.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@ons.gov.uk)

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## 1. Introduction

The ONS Postcode Directory (ONSPD) Version Notes contain specific information about each quarterly release of the postcode directory, including details of recent changes that have impacted on the data. Various annexes and tables provide more detailed supporting information. ONS Geography also supplies a User Guide that contains descriptions of the ONSPD, its derived postcode directories and their contents along with information about the methodologies used, data quality and limitations. Both documents are included with the postcode directories as .pdf files.

## 2. News

### 2.1 2011 Travel to Work Areas (TTWA) Updated

The latest TTWAs, based on 2011 Census LSOAs in England and Wales, SOAs in Northern Ireland and data zones in Scotland, replaced the previous (2007) TTWAs on the ONSPD from August 2015, with finalised codes included from November 2015.

### 2.2 Coastal West Sussex and Guildford and Waverley CCG Changes

Four LSOAs were moved from Guildford and Waverley CCG (was E38000067, now E38000214) to Coastal West Sussex CCG (was E38000036, now E38000213) in order to align the county and CCG boundaries. They are:

E01031502	Chichester 001A
E01031503	Chichester 001B
E01031504	Chichester 001C
E01031519	Chichester 001D

These changes were first included on the August 2015 release of the ONSPD.

### 2.3 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP)

From August 2015, English LEPs are included on the ONSPD. You can find further details in the **User Guide**.

### 2.4 Scottish Community Health Partnerships (CHP) Abolished

From 31 March 2015, CHPs in Scotland were abolished; however they will remain as a 'frozen' geography on the ONSPD.

### 2.5 Degrees Latitude and Longitude

From May 2015, the ONSPD includes decimal degrees latitude and longitude for each postcode. The two additional numeric fields are included towards the end of the file. You can find details in the **User Guide**, but you should note that records with no co-ordinates will show '99.999999' (lat) and '0.000000' (long) rather than blanks or nulls.

### 2.6 New Northern Ireland District Council Areas and Electoral Wards

From May 2015, the ONSPD includes 9-character codes for the new district council areas and electoral wards in Northern Ireland. The entity code for each district council area is 'N09' and the entity code for each electoral ward is 'N08' with a unique instance code for both. Listings of the names and codes can be found in the **Documents** folder.

### 2.7 Newcastle and Gateshead CCG Changes

From 1 April 2015, Newcastle West, Gateshead and Newcastle North and East CCGs merged to become NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG (E38000212). This change is included on the May 2015 release of the ONSPD.

## **2.8 Education and Library Boards (ELB) (NI) Abolished**

From 1 April 2015, the five ELBs in Northern Ireland were replaced by a single Education Authority (EA) with five regional offices. Each regional office covers the same area as each of the former ELBs, which will remain as a 'frozen' geography on the ONSPD.

## **2.9 2011 Census Output Area classification (OAC) Changes**

An error was found in the labelling of two census variables used in helping to define two subgroups used in the classification. As a result two subgroups have now been renamed:

4A1 is now Social Renting Young Families (previously Private Renting Young Families)

4A2 is now Private Renting New Arrivals (previously Social Renting New Arrivals)

Whilst the ONSPD remains correct, the names and codes files that accompany each release of the postcode products have been amended, and ONS would like to apologise for the error.

## **2.10 Unparished Areas in England**

From November 2014, the ONSPD includes codes for unparished areas in England, by local authority. The entity code is 'E43' with a unique instance code for each local authority containing one or more unparished areas. Details can be found in the **User Guide**.

## **2.11 2011 Census Data Zones (DZ) and Intermediate Zones (IZ)**

From November 2014, redrawn Scottish 2011 Census DZs and IZs (which equate to Lower and Middle Layer Super Output Areas respectively) are included on the ONSPD. Details can be found in the **User Guide**.

## **2.12 Welsh Local Health Boards (LHB)**

LHBs are included in the 'OSHLTHAU' field on the ONSPD from November 2014, in place of the 'W99999999' pseudo code.

## **3. Postcode Counts and Currency**

The ONSPD contains postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. They are current to the previous month and include both live and terminated postcodes.

Table 1 shows the split between large and small users by country, and the change in the numbers of postcodes since the previous quarter.

Table 2 shows the numbers of postcodes, postcode sectors and postcode districts by postcode area.

Table 3 shows the numbers of postcodes assigned grid references by positional quality indicator, country and user type.

Table 4 shows the numbers of terminated postcodes.

## **4. Currency of the Administrative and Health Geographies**

This release of the ONSPD relates current postcodes in the United Kingdom to May 2010 electoral areas, May 2015 administrative areas and to July 2015 Clinical Commissioning Groups.

## **5. Licensing Requirements**

You should be aware of the attribution and sub-licensing requirements associated with the use of the Code-Point® Open data (from which our postcode products are derived) contained in the OS OpenData Licence, namely that you, the licensee:

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**Table 1**

**Numbers of Postcodes by User Type  
(and the Changes Since the Previous Release)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Large users</b>			<b>Small users</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	AUG 2015	NOV 2015	Change	AUG 2015	NOV 2015	Change	AUG 2015	NOV 2015	Change
England	619,511	620,190	+679	1,523,346	1,525,203	+1,857	2,142,857	2,145,393	+2,536
Wales	26,759	26,775	+16	110,427	110,503	+76	137,186	137,278	+92
Scotland	40,619	40,658	+39	179,563	179,743	+180	220,182	220,401	+219
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>686,889</b>	<b>687,623</b>	<b>+734</b>	<b>1,813,336</b>	<b>1,815,449</b>	<b>+2,113</b>	<b>2,500,225</b>	<b>2,503,072</b>	<b>+2,847</b>
Northern Ireland	9,162	9,170	+8	51,202	51,274	+72	60,364	60,444	+80
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>696,051</b>	<b>696,793</b>	<b>+742</b>	<b>1,864,538</b>	<b>1,866,723</b>	<b>+2,185</b>	<b>2,560,589</b>	<b>2,563,516</b>	<b>+2,927</b>
Guernsey	880	880	0	2,485	2,485	0	3,365	3,365	0
Jersey	1,131	1,133	+2	2,364	2,364	0	3,495	3,497	+2
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>4,849</b>	<b>4,849</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,860</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>+2</b>
Isle of Man	1,614	1,614	0	4,356	4,362	+6	5,970	5,976	6
<b>All</b>	<b>699,676</b>	<b>700,420</b>	<b>+744</b>	<b>1,873,743</b>	<b>1,875,934</b>	<b>+2,191</b>	<b>2,573,419</b>	<b>2,576,354</b>	<b>+2,935</b>

NB. The above figures include 'live' and terminated postcodes.

**Table 2**

**Numbers of Postcodes, Postcode Sectors and Postcode Districts**

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Aberdeen	AB	40	178	16,768	21,466	38,234
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,699	3,426	11,125
Birmingham	B	79	268	41,243	18,668	59,911
Bath	BA	19	81	14,859	4,465	19,324
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13,052	5,366	18,418
Bradford	BD	27	112	16,885	5,982	22,867
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,104	6,595	21,699
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,258	3,393	13,651
Brighton	BN	37	143	21,940	12,102	34,042
Bromley	BR	9	39	6,884	3,460	10,344
Bristol	BS	47	205	26,445	17,812	44,257
Belfast	BT	82	278	48,556	11,888	60,444
Carlisle	CA	30	85	12,432	3,414	15,846
Cambridge	CB	16	83	10,255	8,309	18,564
Cardiff	CF	46	203	23,107	18,500	41,607
Chester	CH	37	213	18,593	5,097	23,690
Chelmsford	CM	28	103	17,543	8,709	26,252
Colchester	CO	16	75	12,883	4,505	17,388
Croydon	CR	11	66	7,996	6,219	14,215
Canterbury	CT	22	83	14,655	4,518	19,173
Coventry	CV	24	104	19,654	7,489	27,143
Crewe	CW	13	52	9,105	4,228	13,333
Dartford	DA	18	59	8,876	3,484	12,360
Dundee	DD	11	52	8,874	2,206	11,080
Derby	DE	25	129	16,634	12,566	29,200
Dumfries	DG	15	42	6,806	835	7,641
Durham	DH	12	47	8,895	2,314	11,209
Darlington	DL	18	68	13,100	3,166	16,266
Doncaster	DN	33	117	21,473	5,727	27,200
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,699	1,802	9,501
Dudley	DY	14	59	10,949	3,237	14,186
London E	E	22	108	15,976	10,951	26,927
London EC	EC	30	140	4,009	8,369	12,378
Edinburgh	EH	57	168	23,952	7,332	31,284
Enfield	EN	12	48	8,529	4,136	12,665
Exeter	EX	33	129	21,795	5,849	27,644
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,633	1,791	9,424
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7,196	2,587	9,783
Glasgow	G	57	241	31,489	14,363	45,852
Gloucester	GL	27	118	20,528	7,157	27,685
Guildford	GU	40	144	21,872	12,622	34,494
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,308	6,725	17,033
Huddersfield	HD	9	42	7,082	3,486	10,568
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4,356	1,786	6,142
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	77	13,752	7,329	21,081
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,287	1,433	7,720

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Hebrides	HS	9	11	958	114	1,072
Hull	HU	21	70	10,782	4,066	14,848
Halifax	HX	7	32	5,635	1,607	7,242
Ilford	IG	11	35	5,897	3,773	9,670
Ipswich	IP	34	115	20,685	5,550	26,235
Inverness	IV	53	84	7,177	3,269	10,446
Kilmarnock	KA	30	87	11,517	2,367	13,884
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,275	7,523	21,798
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1,819	258	2,077
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	75	9,963	2,910	12,873
Liverpool	L	66	582	20,306	22,200	42,506
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11,748	2,674	14,422
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,191	415	2,606
Leicester	LE	28	152	21,803	11,602	33,405
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,071	3,924	23,995
Lincoln	LN	13	49	9,005	2,649	11,654
Leeds	LS	32	150	21,316	9,609	30,925
Luton	LU	8	36	6,214	3,833	10,047
Manchester	M	48	302	31,506	25,903	57,409
Medway	ME	21	83	15,979	5,261	21,240
Milton Keynes	MK	28	111	14,842	6,936	21,778
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9,535	1,880	11,415
London N	N	25	112	17,449	10,942	28,391
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	230	32,795	11,158	43,953
Nottingham	NG	32	167	28,427	7,850	36,277
Northampton	NN	20	101	15,794	8,164	23,958
Newport	NP	25	142	13,518	16,429	29,947
Norwich	NR	36	114	22,926	4,533	27,459
London NW	NW	13	82	13,969	10,619	24,588
Oldham	OL	17	70	13,059	4,321	17,380
Oxford	OX	28	146	19,185	14,450	33,635
Paisley	PA	78	116	9,236	3,432	12,668
Peterborough	PE	39	162	25,814	12,036	37,850
Perth	PH	43	61	6,017	1,205	7,222
Plymouth	PL	36	99	17,147	4,496	21,643
Portsmouth	PO	34	131	23,764	8,149	31,913
Preston	PR	13	83	12,753	6,508	19,261
Reading	RG	35	184	22,755	21,835	44,590
Redhill	RH	21	90	15,742	7,482	23,224
Romford	RM	21	71	9,811	4,893	14,704
Sheffield	S	55	249	33,032	14,879	47,911
Swansea	SA	53	152	23,093	5,771	28,864
London SE	SE	30	129	20,328	12,550	32,878
Stevenage	SG	19	65	11,654	4,642	16,296
Stockport	SK	19	113	16,237	8,113	24,350
Slough	SL	12	58	10,725	5,575	16,300
Sutton	SM	7	29	4,368	2,083	6,451
Swindon	SN	23	113	14,064	6,545	20,609
Southampton	SO	31	181	18,046	21,130	39,176
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8,377	2,561	10,938
Sunderland	SR	11	41	6,547	1,934	8,481
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11,761	5,049	16,810

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,396	4,718	22,114
London SW	SW	29	140	20,447	14,943	35,390
Shrewsbury	SY	26	86	14,200	2,611	16,811
Taunton	TA	24	67	11,476	2,798	14,274
Galashiels	TD	15	36	4,454	696	5,150
Telford	TF	13	43	6,770	2,126	8,896
Tonbridge	TN	40	128	22,362	9,229	31,591
Torquay	TQ	14	50	9,856	2,963	12,819
Truro	TR	28	68	11,812	2,920	14,732
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17,208	5,199	22,407
Twickenham	TW	20	80	11,160	8,377	19,537
Southall	UB	12	41	7,067	4,134	11,201
London W	W	35	217	19,371	19,964	39,335
Warrington	WA	18	97	17,938	6,999	24,937
London WC	WC	15	46	2,800	4,544	7,344
Watford	WD	14	70	7,337	8,272	15,609
Wakefield	WF	18	75	14,064	3,596	17,660
Wigan	WN	8	35	7,031	1,885	8,916
Worcester	WR	17	50	8,399	3,647	12,046
Walsall	WS	15	67	9,906	4,563	14,469
Wolverhampton	WV	18	62	10,352	3,654	14,006
York	YO	37	161	18,135	15,275	33,410
Shetland	ZE	3	4	645	92	737
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3,088</b>	<b>12,289</b>	<b>1,735,789</b>	<b>827,726</b>	<b>2,563,515</b>
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3,335	30	3,365
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,730	1,246	5,976
Jersey	JE	5	29	3,224	273	3,497
<b>Channel Islands/ Isle of Man</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>11,289</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>12,838</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>12,387</b>	<b>1,747,078</b>	<b>829,275</b>	<b>2,576,353</b>

NB. The postcode directory also contains the Santander UK plc postcode GIR OAA, giving a total of **2,576,354** unit postcodes.

**Table 3**

**Numbers of Postcodes With A Grid Reference**

PQI	England				Wales				Scotland			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	376,570	60.7%	1,466,330	96.1%	14,353	53.6%	91,811	83.1%	22,280	54.8%	161,753	90.0%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	340	0.2%
3	828	0.1%	3,035	0.2%	23	0.1%	149	0.1%	68	0.2%	513	0.3%
4	39	0.0%	110	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	7	0.0%	5	0.0%
5	38,178	6.2%	5,842	0.4%	1,589	5.9%	298	0.3%	2,364	5.8%	612	0.3%
6	66,034	10.6%	130	0.0%	2,222	8.3%	3	0.0%	4,193	10.3%	12	0.0%
8	132,568	21.4%	49,585	3.3%	7,926	29.6%	18,225	16.5%	11,362	27.9%	16,500	9.2%
9	5,973	1.0%	171	0.0%	660	2.5%	2	0.0%	384	0.9%	8	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>620,190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,525,203</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26,775</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>110,503</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40,658</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>179,743</b>	<b>100%</b>

PQI	Great Britain				Northern Ireland				United Kingdom			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	413,203	60.1%	1,719,894	94.7%	1,385	15.1%	46,389	90.5%	414,588	59.5%	1,766,283	94.6%
2	0	0.0%	340	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	340	0.0%
3	919	0.1%	3,697	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	919	0.1%	3,697	0.2%
4	48	0.0%	130	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	48	0.0%	130	0.0%
5	42,131	6.1%	6,752	0.4%	3,254	35.5%	1,574	3.1%	45,385	6.5%	8,326	0.4%
6	72,449	10.5%	145	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	72,449	10.4%	145	0.0%
8	151,856	22.1%	84,310	4.6%	2,810	30.6%	2,872	5.6%	154,666	22.2%	87,182	4.7%
9	7,017	1.0%	181	0.0%	1,721	18.8%	439	0.9%	8,738	1.3%	620	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>687,623</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,815,449</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,170</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51,274</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>696,793</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,866,723</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3 (cont'd)**

**Numbers of Postcodes With A Grid Reference (cont'd)**

PQI	Channel Islands				Isle of Man				All			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		414,588	59.2%	1,766,283	94.2%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	340	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		919	0.1%	3,697	0.2%
4	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		48	0.0%	130	0.0%
5	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		45,385	6.5%	8,326	0.4%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		72,449	10.3%	145	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		154,666	22.1%	87,182	4.6%
9	2,013	100.0%	4,849	100.0%	1,614	100.0%	4,362	100.0%	12,365	1.8%	9,831	0.5%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,849</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,362</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>700,420</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,875,934</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 4**

**Numbers of Terminated Postcodes**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>
England	705,193
Wales	46,452
Scotland	64,193
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>815,838</b>
Northern Ireland	11,888
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>827,726</b>
Channel Islands	303
Isle of Man	1,246
<b>All</b>	<b>829,275</b>