



# **National Statistics Postcode Directory**

## **November 2006 Version Notes**

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## 1. Introduction

The National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD) 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 an annual User Guide that contains descriptions of the NSPD, 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 Postcode Directory name change

For some time ONS has been considering changing the name of the All Fields Postcode Directory (AFPD). The name originated many years ago when we moved to producing an all-encompassing postcode directory rather than the separate directories (Central Postcode Directory, 1991 Frozen Postcode Directory, NHS Postcode Directory and 1991 Enumeration Postcode Directory) produced hitherto. AFPD, as a title, is now less meaningful, has attracted criticism for not meeting customers' expectations and has outlived its usefulness.

Therefore, with effect from May 2006 the postcode directory was re-named as the National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD).

The name has been chosen because it is felt that it more fully reflects the production of national statistics which is the prime purpose for which the directory is produced.

### 2.2 Merged SHAs

As part of a re-organisation of the NHS, from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006, SHAs in England have merged to reduce in numbers from 28 to 10. The current SHA codes (Q01 - Q28) have closed and the new SHA codes range from Q30 - Q39, which were included on the August 2006 NSPD for the first time. However, to ease the transition, the previous codes will continue to be included on the NSPD, in the field 'OSHA PREV' with the pre-2002 codes held in the 'OLDHA' field. Further details can be found in the **User Guide**.

### 2.3 Changes to Output Area (COA) allocation methodology

Over time, the use of the original methodologies to assign Output Areas to postcodes (see **User Guide**) is starting to cause inaccuracies for some allocations. From August 2006, it has therefore been decided to introduce a common 'point-in-polygon' methodology to allocate postcodes to COAs on the NSPD, bringing this geography in line with the majority on the directory. This will have the following benefits:

- Up-to-date allocation for each postcode to the COA boundaries.
- A consistent approach to postcode allocations to COAs in England and Wales.
- A consistent approach to geography allocations across the whole NSPD.
- A direct link between the Gridlink<sup>®</sup> grid reference for each postcode and the COA to which it is allocated.

It is however recognised that some customers have a strong interest in conducting time-series analyses and so the initial frozen 'Census' postcode:COA look-up table will be routinely issued as part of the NSPD metadata to allow such work to continue without any adverse impact.

## 2.4 Change of COMPAS<sup>®</sup> to Pointer<sup>®</sup> (Northern Ireland)

Pointer<sup>®</sup> is new address database that has been developed for Northern Ireland with the joint support of Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI<sup>®</sup>), the Valuation & Lands Agency (VLA) and Royal Mail. It has been created through a process of complex data matching and intensive ground validation across Northern Ireland in order to maximise the accuracy of the dataset.

There is now a common standard address for every property in Northern Ireland. Each property has a unique reference number and geo-spatial coordinates, and the mean of these coordinates have now been incorporated, for each postcode, into the Gridlink<sup>®</sup> dataset and the NSPD from May 2006.

Included in the 'Documents' folder is an Excel spreadsheet which details the changes to each postcode and includes both the old and new grid references.

Further details can be obtained from the [OSNI<sup>®</sup> website](#)

## 2.5 Changes to SHA and PCT pseudo codes

From February 2006, the SHA pseudo code has been changed to 'Q99' from 'X98' and the PCT pseudo code has been changed to 'X98' from '49998' in line with NHS codes. However, the length of the PCT field currently remains unchanged at 5 characters. Further details can be found in the **User Guide**.

## 2.6 Allocation of intermediate geography codes (Scotland)

An error was discovered by GROS in the program that realigns their postcode grid references with Gridlink<sup>®</sup> centroids supplied by Ordnance Survey, and determines their higher area values. As a result about 13,000 postcodes in the version of the Scottish Postcode Index that was supplied for use in the August 2005 to February 2006 AFPDs had an incorrect value assigned for Intermediate Geography. No other field was affected by the error. Customers requiring amended data should contact [geographycustomerservices@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:geographycustomerservices@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

## 2.7 Output Area (COA) classification

The 2001 area classification of COAs is included on the NSPD from May 2006. This classification is used to group together geographic areas according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These groupings are called clusters, and are derived using 2001 population census data. This is a new classification produced using the same principles but a different statistical methodology from that used to produce the other area classifications. The classification was originally produced with lower case characters which have been converted to upper case for consistency purposes on the NSPD. Further details can be found in the **User Guide**.

## 2.8 PCT changes

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006, the reorganisation of Primary Care areas has reduced the number from 303 (including four Care Trusts) to 152 (including four Care Trusts). Also with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006, Solihull PCT (5D1) became Solihull Care Trust (TAM) and Witham, Braintree and Halstead ceased to exist as a Care Trust (TAG). The previous PCT codes are also included on the NSPD for convenience, in the field 'OLDPCT'.

### 3. Changes to postcode content

#### 3.1 Postcode counts and currency

The November 2006 NSPD contains 2,412,882 postcodes within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. They are current to October 2006 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 August 2006 NSPD.

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.

#### 3.2 Postcode reorganisations

Royal Mail issue bi-annual lists of postcode reorganisations in their 'Update' series. The latest issue is 'Update 43' which contained some postcode reorganisations, mostly in the Cambridge area. Details can be found at Royal Mail's website: [Royal Mail Postcode Updates](#)

### 4. Currency of the administrative and health geographies

The November 2006 NSPD relates current postcodes in the United Kingdom to May 2006 electoral and administrative area boundaries, and to July 2006 health areas and October 2006 Primary Care areas.

### 5. Contacts

Further information about the availability and contents of this issue of NSPD (and other directories) can be obtained from:

ONS Geography Customer Services  
Office for National Statistics  
Segensworth Road  
Titchfield  
FAREHAM  
Hampshire  
PO15 5RR

Tel: 01329 813243

GTN: 3042 3243

Fax: 01329 813383

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

Table 1

**Numbers of postcodes within the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man  
by large and small users (and the changes since the previous NSPD)**

Country	Large users			Small users			Total		
	AUG 2006	NOV 2006	Change	AUG 2006	NOV 2006	Change	AUG 2006	NOV 2006	Change
England	537,076	541,507	+4,431	1,457,706	1,462,357	+4,651	1,994,782	2,003,864	+9,082
Wales	23,877	24,078	+201	107,483	107,584	+101	131,360	131,662	+302
Scotland	36,427	36,667	+240	172,731	172,958	+227	209,158	209,625	+467
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>597,380</b>	<b>602,252</b>	<b>+4,872</b>	<b>1,737,920</b>	<b>1,742,899</b>	<b>+4,979</b>	<b>2,335,300</b>	<b>2,345,151</b>	<b>+9,851</b>
Northern Ireland	8,128	8,183	+55	47,419	47,539	+120	55,547	55,722	+175
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>605,508</b>	<b>610,435</b>	<b>+4,927</b>	<b>1,785,339</b>	<b>1,790,438</b>	<b>+5,099</b>	<b>2,390,847</b>	<b>2,400,873</b>	<b>+10,026</b>
Guernsey	871	872	+1	2,401	2,403	+2	3,272	3,275	+3
Jersey	1,104	1,110	+6	2,101	2,103	+2	3,205	3,213	+8
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>4,502</b>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>6,477</b>	<b>6,488</b>	<b>+11</b>
Isle of Man	1,272	1,284	+12	4,232	4,237	+5	5,504	5,521	+17
<b>All</b>	<b>608,755</b>	<b>613,701</b>	<b>+4,946</b>	<b>1,794,073</b>	<b>1,799,181</b>	<b>+5,108</b>	<b>2,402,828</b>	<b>2,412,882</b>	<b>+10,054</b>

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

Table 2

**Numbers of postcodes, postcode sectors and postcode districts by postcode areas (in postcode area code order)**  
**(NB. The figures relate to Royal Mail's monthly update as at October 2006)**

Postcode areas	Postcode area code	Postcode districts	Postcode sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Aberdeen	AB	39	161	16,351	20,680	37,031
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,951	2,388	10,339
Bath	BA	19	74	14,732	3,246	17,978
Blackburn	BB	15	77	13,210	4,289	17,499
Bradford	BD	27	102	16,982	4,643	21,625
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,443	4,814	20,257
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,447	2,442	12,889
Brighton	BN	36	141	22,471	8,908	31,379
Bromley	BR	9	37	7,233	2,273	9,506
Bristol	BS	46	191	26,712	14,941	41,653
Belfast	BT	82	278	46,822	8,900	55,722
Birmingham	B	78	267	42,173	13,677	55,850
Carlisle	CA	29	78	12,242	2,898	15,140
Cambridge	CB	16	82	10,355	6,944	17,299
Cardiff	CF	46	202	23,195	16,478	39,673
Chester	CH	36	212	18,857	3,412	22,269
Chelmsford	CM	26	95	17,689	6,539	24,228
Colchester	CO	16	66	12,847	3,569	16,416
Croydon	CR	10	58	8,232	4,887	13,119
Canterbury	CT	22	76	14,784	3,078	17,862
Coventry	CV	24	104	19,748	5,617	25,365
Crewe	CW	13	48	9,019	3,225	12,244
Dartford	DA	18	58	9,026	2,385	11,411
Dundee	DD	11	45	8,878	1,790	10,668
Derby	DE	25	128	16,634	11,028	27,662
Dumfries	DG	15	35	6,727	614	7,341
Durham	DH	12	46	8,821	1,748	10,569
Darlington	DL	17	65	13,031	2,417	15,448
Doncaster	DN	33	112	21,425	4,391	25,816
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,616	1,275	8,891
Dudley	DY	14	53	11,139	2,354	13,493
London EC	EC	30	140	4,908	6,882	11,790
Edinburgh	EH	56	141	23,873	5,376	29,249
Enfield	EN	11	47	8,948	2,718	11,666
Exeter	EX	33	114	21,580	4,339	25,919
London E	E	21	91	16,076	7,752	23,828
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,550	1,355	8,905
Blackpool	FY	9	39	7,322	1,925	9,247
Gloucester	GL	27	109	19,971	5,579	25,550
Guildford	GU	40	144	22,684	9,569	32,253
Glasgow	G	56	238	31,986	11,555	43,541
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,795	4,915	15,710
Huddersfield	HD	9	40	7,167	2,904	10,071
Harrogate	HG	5	23	4,556	1,200	5,756
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	69	14,109	5,293	19,402
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,361	920	7,281
Hebrides	HS	9	10	938	82	1,020
Hull	HU	21	63	10,909	3,106	14,015

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Postcode areas	Postcode area code	Postcode districts	Postcode sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Halifax	HX	7	31	5,628	1,169	6,797
Ilford	IG	11	34	6,287	2,512	8,799
Ipswich	IP	34	106	20,426	4,237	24,663
Inverness	IV	52	74	6,924	2,915	9,839
Kilmarnock	KA	30	73	11,436	1,825	13,261
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,855	5,389	20,244
Kirkwall	KW	16	19	1,806	166	1,972
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	66	9,872	2,356	12,228
Lancaster	LA	23	60	11,836	1,925	13,761
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,214	284	2,498
Leicester	LE	28	152	21,505	9,423	30,928
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,106	2,951	23,057
Lincoln	LN	13	49	8,874	2,096	10,970
Leeds	LS	32	148	21,455	7,423	28,878
Luton	LU	8	34	6,262	2,956	9,218
Liverpool	L	65	581	20,647	20,200	40,847
Medway	ME	21	77	16,051	3,573	19,624
Milton Keynes	MK	28	98	14,675	5,013	19,688
Motherwell	ML	12	45	9,343	1,392	10,735
Manchester	M	47	277	32,334	22,207	54,541
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	66	210	32,980	8,501	41,481
Nottingham	NG	32	166	28,390	5,553	33,943
Northampton	NN	20	94	15,462	6,648	22,110
Newport	NP	25	132	13,461	15,544	29,005
Norwich	NR	35	105	22,605	3,188	25,793
London NW	NW	12	79	14,677	7,434	22,111
London N	N	23	89	17,827	7,629	25,456
Oldham	OL	17	68	13,311	3,280	16,591
Oxford	OX	28	145	19,577	12,119	31,696
Paisley	PA	77	105	9,271	2,797	12,068
Peterborough	PE	38	161	25,664	9,829	35,493
Perth	PH	43	56	5,900	850	6,750
Plymouth	PL	36	89	16,966	3,275	20,241
Portsmouth	PO	34	130	23,946	5,808	29,754
Preston	PR	13	79	12,773	5,093	17,866
Reading	RG	35	184	23,404	18,633	42,037
Redhill	RH	20	80	16,086	5,245	21,331
Romford	RM	21	66	9,943	3,570	13,513
Swansea	SA	52	135	23,017	4,597	27,614
London SE	SE	29	103	20,922	8,306	29,228
Stevenage	SG	19	59	11,646	3,328	14,974
Stockport	SK	19	99	16,505	6,327	22,832
Slough	SL	11	52	11,082	4,033	15,115
Sutton	SM	7	26	4,569	1,462	6,031
Swindon	SN	23	101	13,741	5,214	18,955
Southampton	SO	29	171	18,261	19,142	37,403
Salisbury	SP	11	41	8,282	1,857	10,139
Sunderland	SR	11	40	6,647	1,480	8,127
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	74	12,128	3,583	15,711
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,550	3,471	21,021
London SW	SW	28	121	22,318	10,324	32,642
Shrewsbury	SY	25	77	14,332	1,633	15,965
Sheffield	S	53	244	32,905	12,058	44,963
Taunton	TA	24	66	11,293	2,035	13,328
Galashiels	TD	15	27	4,430	507	4,937
Telford	TF	13	43	6,629	1,675	8,304

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Postcode areas	Postcode area code	Postcode districts	Postcode sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Tonbridge	TN	40	128	22,825	6,567	29,392
Torquay	TQ	14	45	9,938	2,065	12,003
Truro	TR	28	62	11,602	2,055	13,657
Cleveland	TS	30	99	17,336	3,948	21,284
Twickenham	TW	20	71	11,951	6,214	18,165
Southall	UB	12	41	7,390	2,897	10,287
Warrington	WA	18	91	18,210	5,231	23,441
London WC	WC	15	45	3,512	3,521	7,033
Watford	WD	13	69	7,704	6,848	14,552
Wakefield	WF	17	68	13,853	2,719	16,572
Wigan	WN	8	33	7,014	1,428	8,442
Worcester	WR	17	47	8,447	2,724	11,171
Walsall	WS	15	67	10,052	3,606	13,658
Wolverhampton	WV	16	54	9,603	2,780	12,383
London W	W	35	208	21,700	15,685	37,385
York	YO	37	153	17,924	13,905	31,829
Shetland	ZE	3	4	616	81	697
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>11,607</b>	<b>1,751,238</b>	<b>649,634</b>	<b>2,400,872</b>
Guernsey	GY	9	15	3,268	7	3,275
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,826	695	5,521
Jersey	JE	4	27	3,132	81	3,213
<b>Channel Islands/ Isle of Man</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>11,226</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>12,009</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>11,702</b>	<b>1,762,464</b>	<b>650,417</b>	<b>2,412,881</b>

NB. This postcode directory also contains the Alliance & Leicester Girobank plc postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,412,882** unit postcodes.

Table 3

## Numbers of postcodes assigned grid references by positional quality indicator, country and user type

Status Indicator	England				Wales				Scotland			
	Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user		Large user		Small user	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	295,292	54.5%	1,398,885	95.7%	11,558	48.0%	88,512	82.3%	18,188	49.6%	154,441	89.3%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	506	0.3%
3	1,036	0.2%	4,689	0.3%	35	0.1%	242	0.2%	85	0.2%	537	0.3%
4	22	0.0%	148	0.0%	2	0.0%	16	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.0%
5	39,871	7.4%	11,659	0.8%	1,684	7.0%	659	0.6%	2,313	6.3%	782	0.5%
6	67,368	12.4%	136	0.0%	2,246	9.3%	3	0.0%	4,222	11.5%	12	0.0%
8	136,669	25.2%	46,624	3.2%	7,951	33.0%	18,149	16.9%	11,694	31.9%	16,664	9.6%
9	1,249	0.2%	216	0.0%	602	2.5%	3	0.0%	165	0.4%	9	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>541,507</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,462,357</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24,078</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>107,584</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36,667</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>172,958</b>	<b>100%</b>

Status Indicator	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	325,038	49.0%	1,641,838	94.2%	1,120	13.7%	40,717	85.6%	326,158	53.4%	1,682,555	94.0%
2	0	0.0%	506	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	506	0.0%
3	1,156	0.2%	5,468	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1,156	0.2%	5,468	0.3%
4	24	0.0%	171	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	24	0.0%	171	0.0%
5	43,868	7.3%	13,100	0.8%	4,987	60.9%	3,837	8.1%	48,855	8.0%	16,937	0.9%
6	73,836	12.3%	151	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	73,836	12.1%	151	0.0%
8	156,314	26.0%	81,437	4.7%	1,306	16.0%	2,464	5.2%	157,620	25.8%	83,901	4.7%
9	2,016	0.3%	228	0.0%	770	9.4%	521	1.1%	2,786	0.5%	749	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>602,252</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>1,742,899</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,183</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47,539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>610,435</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,790,438</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3 (cont'd)

## Numbers of Postcodes Assigned Grid References by Positional Quality Indicator, Country and User Type (continued)

Status Indicator	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		326,158	53.1%	1,682,555	93.5%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	506	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		1,156	0.2%	5,468	0.3%
4	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		24	0.0%	171	0.0%
5	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		48,855	8.0%	16,937	0.9%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		73,836	12.0%	151	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		157,620	25.7%	83,901	4.7%
9	1,982	100.0%	4,506	100.0%	1,284	100.0%	4,237	100.0%	6,052	1.0%	9,492	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>1,982</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,237</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>613,701</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,799,181</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4

## Numbers of terminated postcodes by country

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>
England	545,541
Wales	40,822
Scotland	54,371
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>640,734</b>
Northern Ireland	8,900
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>649,634</b>
Channel Islands	88
Isle of Man	695
<b>All</b>	<b>650,417</b>