



NHS Postcode Directory User Guide

Edition: **March 2021**
Editor: **ONS Geography**
Office for National Statistics

March 2021

A National Statistics Publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are produced free from political influence.

About Us

Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to Parliament. ONS is the UK government's single largest statistical producer. It compiles information about the UK's society and economy, and provides the evidence-base for policy and decision-making, the allocation of resources, and public accountability. The Directors General of ONS report directly to the National Statistician who is the Authority's Chief Executive and the Head of the Government Statistical Service.

Government Statistical Service

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) is a network of professional statisticians and their staff operating both within the ONS and across more than 30 other government departments and agencies.

Contacts

This publication

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

Tel: 01329 444971

Email: ons.geography@ons.gov.uk

Other customer enquiries

ONS Customer Contact Centre

Tel: 0845 601 3034

International: +44 (0)845 601 3034

Minicom: 01633 815044

Email: info@ons.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Post: Room D265, Government Buildings,
Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales NP10 8XG
www.ons.gov.uk

Media enquiries

Tel: 0845 604 1858

Email: media.relations@ons.gov.uk

Copyright and Reproduction

Please refer to the 'Postcode products' section on our [Licences](#) page for the terms applicable to these products.

TRADEMARKS

Gridlink® is a registered trademark of the Gridlink® Consortium and may not be used without the written consent of the Gridlink® Programme Board.

The Gridlink® logo is a registered trademark.

AddressBase® is a registered trademark of Ordnance Survey (OS), the national mapping agency of Great Britain.

Boundary-Line™ is a trademark of OS, the national mapping agency of Great Britain.

Pointer® is a registered trademark of Land and Property Services, an Executive Agency of the Department of Finance and Personnel (Northern Ireland).

Contents

1.	Introduction	5
2.	News	5
2.1	Introduction of ANANA Codes	5
2.2	OS Boundary-Line™ Changes	5
2.3	Changes to STP Pseudo Codes	5
2.4	Health Area Changes	6
2.5	Sustainability and Transformation Partnership Codes	6
2.6	London Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)	6
3.	Licensing Requirements	6
4.	Postcode Counts and Currency	6
5.	Currency of the Administrative and Health Geographies	7
6.	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	7
7.	Postcode Format	8
8.	Currency of Data	8
9.	Gridlink®	8
10.	Grid References	8
11.	Assignment of Postcodes to Geographies on the NHSPD	9
12.	PO Boxes and Non-geographic Postcodes	10
13.	Terminated Postcodes	10
14.	Postcode Reorganisations	10
15.	Former Strategic Health Authorities (SHA), Health Boards and Health & Social Care Board	10
16.	Pseudo Country Postcodes	11
17.	Former Primary Care Organisations (PCO), Local Health Boards (LHB), Community Health Partnerships (CHP) and Local Commissioning Groups (LCG)	11
18.	1991 Census Enumeration Districts (ED)	11
19.	2001 Census Output Areas (OA)	12
19.1	Postcodes Assigned to both English and Scottish 2001 Census OAs	12
20.	2001 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) and Scottish Data and Intermediate Zones (DZ & IZ)	12
21.	Former Pan SHAs	13
22.	Regions (Former Government Office Regions - GOR)	13
23.	1998 Electoral Wards	13
24.	2001 Census Urban/Rural Indicators	13
25.	Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies	15
26.	Former Cancer Networks	15
27.	Cancer Registries	16

28.	Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)	16
29.	NHS England (Regions) (NHSER)	16
30.	Former NHS England (Region, Local Offices) (NHSRLO)	16
31.	Strategic Clinical Networks (SCN)	16
32.	2011 Census Output Areas (OA)	16
33.	2011 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) and Scottish Data and Intermediate Zones (DZ & IZ)	17
34.	Cancer Alliances (CAL)	18
35.	Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP)	18
36.	Names and Codes	18
37.	Directory Specifications	18
38.	Use of the NHSPD	19
39.	Limitations/Data Quality	19
	Table 1 - Numbers of Postcodes by User Type	20
	Table 2 - Numbers of Postcodes, Postcode Sectors and Postcode Districts	21
	Table 3 - Numbers of Postcodes with a Grid Reference	24
	Table 4 - Numbers of Terminated Postcodes	26
	Annex A - NHSPD Record Specification	27
	Annex B - 2011 Census Very Small Population Wards and Their Assigned OA	41

1. Introduction

The NHS Postcode Directory (NHSPD) relates both current and terminated postcodes in the United Kingdom to a range of current statutory administrative, electoral, health and other area geographies. It also links postcodes to pre-2002 health areas, 1991 Census enumeration districts (for England and Wales) and both 2001 Census and 2011 Census Output Areas and Super Output Areas. It helps support the production of area based statistics from postcoded data. The NHSPD is produced by ONS Geography, who provide geographic support to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and geographic services used by other organisations. We issue the NHSPD quarterly.

This User Guide contains information about the NHSPD including:

- directory content;
- data currency;
- latest news, including area changes;
- the methodology for assigning areas to postcodes;
- data format;
- summary statistics; and
- data quality and limitations.

The NHSPD reflects current and terminated postcodes using information supplied on a monthly basis by Royal Mail. The NHSPD relates postcodes (as at the third Friday of the month prior to each release) to administrative and electoral areas as at the preceding May and also to the latest known health areas. The area assignments for postcodes in Scotland are to the latest electoral wards and Council Areas. The area assignments for postcodes in Northern Ireland are to the latest electoral wards and District Council Areas.

The NHSPD uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes for administrative and electoral areas and the ODS codes for health areas. Lookup files linking these codes to statutory area names are included with the NHSPD. You are encouraged to adopt the ONS standard names and codes where possible, as these are the recognised standard for National Statistics.

The Gridlink[®] methodology used to create the NHSPD, based on 1-metre grid references and digital administrative and electoral area boundaries, was introduced in November 2000. Further information on the Gridlink[®] initiative is provided in [Section 9](#).

The record specification at [Annex A](#) includes complete details of all available fields.

2. News

2.1 Introduction of ANANA Codes

From November 2020, many of the 3-character health area codes will gradually be replaced by alpha-numeric-alpha-numeric-alpha ('ANANA') codes. Consequently, some fields may contain instances of both code types. Please see Annex A for details of specific changes.

2.2 OS Boundary-Line[™] Changes

The OS Boundary-Line was originally published including pre-operative boundaries that were postponed to May 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Nine Districts were affected: Basingstoke & Deane, Cambridge, Chorley, Halton, Hartlepool, Oxford, Pendle, Rotherham and Salford. The issue, which affected the May NHSPD has now been corrected.

2.3 Changes to STP Pseudo Codes

From August 2020, the STP code field contains the following 3-character pseudo codes in place of the 'Q99' code:

- W92 (Wales)
- S92 (Scotland)

- N92 (Northern Ireland)
- L93 (Channel Islands)
- M83 (Isle of Man)

2.4 Health Area Changes

From the May 2020 release, the NHSPD includes the April 2020 changes to CCGs, STPs, Cancer Alliances and NHSRLOs:

- Closure of all NHSRLOs (although the information will remain on the NHSPD)
- Five STP boundary changes in Surrey and Sussex, North East and Yorkshire
- Number of Cancer Alliances increasing from 20 to 21
- CCGs merging to form 18 new CCGs

2.5 Sustainability and Transformation Partnership Codes

From May 2020, the STP code field contains the ODS 3-character 'Q' codes in place of the 9-character GSS codes.

2.6 London Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)

SCN boundaries, available on the [Open Geography portal](#), show London as a single area. North West and South London (N44) and North and East London (N61) merged shortly after the SCNs were created in 2013, however the NHSPD shows the two London areas.

3. Licensing Requirements

Unit postcodes remain the copyright of Royal Mail. All other information on the NHSPD is Crown copyright. 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 Open Government Licence, namely that the licensee:

- Must always use the following attribution statements to acknowledge the source of the information:
 - Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights [year]
 - Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and database rights [year]
 - Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database rights [year]
- Must ensure that the same attribution statements are contained in any sub-licences of the Information that are granted, together with a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

You should note that following agreement with Land and Property Services (LPS) Northern Ireland, Open Government Licensing terms do not apply to NI postcodes; separate licensing terms and conditions now apply in the form of an LPS End User licence or contact LPS directly for commercial use. Please see the [Licences](#) web page for further details.

Note: We do not have the capability to deal with detailed postcode queries relating to Scotland and Northern Ireland, but can pass them on to the appropriate government departments.

4. Postcode Counts and Currency

The NHSPD 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.

5. Currency of the Administrative and Health Geographies

This release of the NHSPD relates current postcodes in the United Kingdom to December 2019 administrative areas, April 2020 NHS England (Regions, Local Office), NHS England (Regions) and Clinical Commissioning Groups, May 2010 electoral areas, July 2006 former health areas, and to April 2015 Strategic Clinical Networks.

6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why are some postcodes not assigned to administrative and electoral areas?

- This mainly applies to new postcodes, which are assigned grid references by ONS Geography using imputation techniques - see Sections [9](#) and [10](#). In some cases, the imputation procedure cannot assign a grid reference and, because the Gridlink® processing system assigns postcodes to administrative and electoral areas using grid references with digital administrative and electoral area boundaries, codes for the administrative and electoral areas cannot be derived. In time, the addresses in the new postcodes are surveyed by Ordnance Survey (OS), who then assign accurate grid references.

Why are some postcodes assigned to the wrong administrative and electoral areas?

- There are two reasons:
 1. Imputation: Some postcodes are assigned to administrative and electoral areas using an imputed grid reference. Imputation is not an exact science and can cause postcodes to be wrongly assigned until more accurate information becomes available.
 2. Straddling: As the postal and administrative/electoral geographies do not map directly onto one another, postcodes often cross boundaries. Postcodes are always assigned to single administrative and electoral areas based upon a single grid reference (which is the mean of all the addresses in the postcode, snapped to the address closest to the mean). This will inevitably lead to apparent wrong assignments, where addresses in a postcode fall in two administrative/electoral areas (see [Section 7](#)).

Why don't postcode areas follow administrative and electoral area boundaries?

- Postcode areas are defined and used by Royal Mail for the purpose of efficient mail delivery and have no relationship with administrative and electoral areas. Royal Mail requires a relatively stable geography in order to deliver its services, which the administrative and electoral area geography cannot provide.

Why do some postcodes appear to move around?

- There are three main reasons:
 1. Update: As the grid reference allocation is updated from imputed to surveyed (see Section 6), so the allocation of one or more geographies may also change.
 2. Drift: With demolition and new-build, the addresses that constitute a postcode may change. If this happens the centroid grid reference will also change, and the geography allocations will be updated accordingly.
 3. Re-use: Royal Mail endeavour to never re-use a postcode, but under some circumstances a postcode may be terminated and then brought back into use in a different location. If this happens, the grid reference and geography allocations will change accordingly.

7. Postcode Format

The NHSPD contains fixed length 8-character postcode format and the variable length e-Gif (e-Government Interoperability Framework) standard postcode format. The latter allows for a single space between the two (outward and inward) parts of the postcode (see [Annex A](#)).

8. Currency of Data

Postcodes

We receive information about postcode changes from Royal Mail on a monthly basis and so the currency of the UK postcodes on any version of the NHSPD will usually be to the third Friday in the previous month.

Administrative/electoral and health areas

Information about the currency of administrative/electoral and health areas on the NHSPD is contained in [Section 5](#).

9. Gridlink®

The postcode is a key piece of data that can provide a geo-spatial reference for many uses beyond the delivery of mail. In order to make full use of its potential, and to deliver improved consistency, a consortium of organisations was formed in 1999 to allow the specialist resources of each member to be pooled. The Gridlink® Consortium consists of Royal Mail Group plc, OS (GB), National Records of Scotland (NRS), Northern Ireland Land and Property Services (LPS) and ONS.

It was recognised that a core set of data within each Consortium member's postcode products needed to be consistent and branded. The branding name is 'Gridlink®' and the core data are:

- All current (i.e. 'live') UK unit postcodes (but ONS maintains postcodes terminated and not subsequently re-used by Royal Mail).
- Grid references to 1 metre resolution.
- Positional quality indicators for grid references.
- UK country codes.
- Electoral ward codes.
- Administrative local authority district (LAD) codes.
- Administrative unitary authority (UA) codes.
- Administrative county codes.
- Health regional area codes.
- Health authority codes.

Each of the Gridlink® Consortium members produces their postcode products based upon the core data.

10. Grid References

Postcode grid references in the NHSPD consist of both a 4 digit Easting and 5 digit Northing 100 metre grid reference and a 5 digit Easting and 6 digit Northing 1 metre grid reference. In the case of the 100 metre grid references, they are plotted to the South West corner of the 100 metre squares.

The majority of postcode grid references are derived from OS MasterMap®. Newly introduced postcodes will initially have a grid reference that has been imputed by ONS Geography. In due course these will be replaced by improved OS MasterMap® grid references which use data supplied by OS field surveyors.

Each grid reference is given a Positional Quality Indicator (PQI) to denote the accuracy of the grid reference, as follows:

- 1 within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean,

- 2 as for 1 above, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only),
- 3 approximate to within 50 metres,
- 4 postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to an address),
- 5 imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references,
- 6 postcode sector mean (mainly PO Boxes),
- 8 terminated postcode, last known ONS grid reference used,
- 9 no co-ordinates available.

The grid references provided for Northern Ireland postcodes are derived from the LPS product 'Pointer®' and use the Irish National Grid system that covers all of Ireland and is independent of the British National Grid.

No grid references are provided for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

11. Assignment of Postcodes to Geographies on the NHSPD

Administrative and electoral areas

As part of the Gridlink® initiative, postcodes in Great Britain are assigned to administrative and electoral areas by OS (GB) using a 'point-in-polygon' methodology that matches grid references for postcodes (derived from OS MasterMap® – see previous section) against their Boundary-Line™ product. The draft version of Boundary-Line™ is produced in May and contains all administrative and electoral area boundary changes to that month, and is used for the May version of the NHSPD. Any errors, omissions or inconsistencies in this draft version are corrected by OS for the final release in October, which is then included in the November NHSPD. A similar process is used by LPS in Northern Ireland, which enables us to produce a UK postcode directory.

Health areas and administrative and electoral areas

Changes to administrative and electoral area boundaries are not automatically applied to health areas so the two boundary sets have ceased to be co-terminous, but the impact on postcode assignments has been minimised through use of digital health area boundaries either defined in terms of co-terminous administrative and electoral areas or built from 2011 Census Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA).

Similarly, in Scotland, administrative and electoral boundary changes do not routinely affect health boundaries although health area boundaries may later be altered to align with changed administrative and electoral area boundaries.

As changes to administrative and electoral boundaries in Northern Ireland usually change about every 10 years boundary co-terminosity is more stable than elsewhere in the UK.

Other geographies held on the NHSPD

Organisation Data Service (ODS) allocate identifiers for top-tier local authority organisations in England and Wales, in the field 'ODSLAUA'. The value held in this field will not necessarily correspond to the value held in the field 'OSLAUA'. Where ODSLAUA holds the value for a county council organisation, OSLAUA will hold the value for the geography of one of its constituent local authority districts.

Other area assignments are based on point-in-polygon techniques and the appropriate digital boundaries.

12. PO Boxes and Non-geographic Postcodes

Non-geographic postcodes can either be special postcodes assigned to some large users of the postal service or PO Boxes that lie within a (pseudo) postcode district that does not form a discrete part of a post town. These will all have been assigned a grid reference, usually the local Royal Mail sorting office, and the majority have a PQI of 1 but some were assigned a PQI of 6 (see [Section 10](#)).

13. Terminated Postcodes

Postcodes are terminated by Royal Mail for various reasons but most commonly it is due to the demolition/re-development of buildings or to postcode reorganisations (see [next section](#)).

Terminated postcodes are occasionally re-used by Royal Mail but not usually before an elapsed period of two or three years. In such circumstances, all terminated postcodes and their grid references are retained on the NHSPD and a 'termination' date is added which provides a clear indication of a postcode's status.

Areal data assigned to terminated postcodes are updated prior to each release of the NHSPD, so the directory contains *current* information linked to each record.

If, and when, a postcode is subsequently re-used by Royal Mail the old grid reference and termination date are removed, thus deleting all reference to the former existence of the postcode from the NHSPD. The new location of the postcode will initially have a grid reference imputed by ONS Geography, which will eventually be replaced by an improved one derived from OS AddressBase®.

As the Gridlink® system processes only 'live' postcodes it is not possible to assign Gridlink® quality grid references to postcodes terminated prior to November 2000. Grid references for these postcodes have been copied from the old 'Traditional' postcode directory and have been given a single PQI (value 8).

The numbers of terminated postcodes included in each issue of the NHSPD are shown in [Table 4](#).

14. Postcode Reorganisations

Royal Mail occasionally conducts postcode reorganisations in order to create more postcodes in areas where the number of postcodes that can be created under the current structure is exhausted. For example, SO3 was reorganised some years ago into SO31 and SO32 to cater for current demands, and the reorganisation additionally allows SO33-SO39 postcodes to be assigned at a later date.

Royal Mail issue lists of postcode reorganisations in their 'Update' series, details of which can be found at their website.

15. Former Strategic Health Authorities (SHA), Health Boards and Health & Social Care Board

The maintenance of health area codes is the responsibility of the ODS in England, and ONS on behalf of NHS Scotland and Health Solutions Wales. These areas were reorganised in England in 2002, in Wales in 2003 and in Scotland in 2006. The SHAs in England were further reorganised by the NHS on 1 July 2006 to reduce the number from 28 to 10 before being abolished on 31 March 2013. In Northern Ireland the health & social care board effective from 1 April 2009 replaced the four previous health & social services boards. Details of the various code ranges are given at Annex A, and information regarding the latest changes can be found in [Section 2](#). The following health authority codes apply to Channel Islands and the Isle of Man:

YAC – Isle of Man

YAD – Jersey

YAE – Guernsey (incl. Sark and Herm)

YAF – Alderney

16. Pseudo Country Postcodes

ONS maintains a set of pseudo country postcodes relating to the UK and overseas countries for use within the NHS. These are used for providing a postcode value where the UK postcode structure does not apply or where within the UK a postcode is unable to be provided. A full list of the pseudo country postcodes is provided in the documentation accompanying the NHSPD.

The NHSPD pseudo postcode file holds information at 'sub-country' level, with one pseudo postcode per country. It also contains regions, islands etc that form part of a country (and therefore share the same pseudo postcode - Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands sharing the same pseudo postcode as Scotland, for example).

The pseudo country postcodes are included on all versions of the NHSPD and are assigned pseudo SHA and CCG codes of 'Q99' and 'X98' respectively. No other areal data is held for these postcodes.

17. Former Primary Care Organisations (PCO), Local Health Boards (LHB), Community Health Partnerships (CHP) and Local Commissioning Groups (LCG)

Postcodes on the NHSPD have been assigned PCO codes (England), LHB codes (Wales), CHP codes (Scotland), LCG codes (NI) or Primary Healthcare Directorate code (Isle of Man). Postcodes in the Channel Islands (for which there are no equivalent areas) have been assigned a pseudo code.

The primary care geography in England was reorganised significantly on 1 October 2006. When PCOs were statutorily defined, they were done so in terms of whole local authority districts and/or electoral wards (in most instances) that existed at the time. There were 146 Primary Care Trusts (PCT) and five Care Trusts in place when they were abolished on 31 March 2013.

The 22 LHBs in Wales (from 1 April 2003) merged to form seven LHBs on 1 October 2009.

CHPs were established by the NHS Boards in Scotland as key building blocks in the modernisation of the NHS joint services. Managed jointly by local authorities and health boards, CHPs nested within Council Area boundaries but some crossed Health Board boundaries. In April 2012, the 36 CHPs became 34, covering the whole of Scotland. CHPs were terminated on 31 March 2015.

Five LCGs were introduced in Northern Ireland on 1 April 2009.

A single Primary Healthcare Directorate was introduced in the Isle of Man in 2008 to support the rollout of NHS systems.

18. 1991 Census Enumeration Districts (ED)

1991 Census EDs are assigned to postcodes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For postcodes in England and Wales, there were originally two types of assignment:

- Postcodes existing at the 1991 Census where an ED was assigned using information on the census forms. These were mostly residential postcodes.
- Postcodes existing at the 1991 Census where an ED could not be assigned using Census forms or postcodes introduced since the 1991 Census where an ED has been assigned by point-in-polygon techniques. These were a mix of residential and business postcodes.

Over time, the use of the original methodology to assign EDs to postcodes caused inaccuracies for some allocations. From February 2007, the common 'point-in-polygon' methodology was introduced to allocate all postcodes to EDs, bringing this geography in line with the majority on the NHSPD. EDs use the postcode 1m grid reference to obtain an accurate assignment.

EDs have not been assigned to postcodes in Scotland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The ED field holds a pseudo code for postcodes in these countries.

19. 2001 Census Output Areas (OA)

Postcodes were originally assigned to 2001 Census OAs by one of two methods.

Method 1:

A postcode to OA lookup was compiled incorporating those 1.52 million postcodes existing at the date of the 2001 Census (29 April) used to create OAs. The design of the OAs was constrained by those electoral ward boundaries promulgated in Statutory Instruments by the end of December 2002. Consequently some postcodes were split by the electoral ward boundaries. In these instances the split postcodes were assigned to a single OA on the basis of where the majority of the population was located. This differed from the methodology used to assign postcodes to electoral wards and administrative areas, which use the grid reference of the address closest to the postcode mean and digital boundaries.

Assigning postcodes to OAs using a population-weighted methodology and the best-fitting OAs to electoral wards can result in different postcode:electoral ward assignments when compared to a direct address-weighted point-in-polygon assignment (i.e. Gridlink®). This is because there may be more people in one part of a split postcode which results in the whole postcode being assigned to a particular OA yet, in some circumstances, there may be more addresses in the other part of the split which results in the postcode being assigned to a different OA.

Within the 1.52 million postcodes, some 267,354 large user postcodes, mainly large employer PO Box postcodes, were reviewed for the purpose of producing Census statistics because their grid references were linked to the local Royal Mail sorting office rather than their physical location. The large user postcodes included in the review were assigned to the appropriate OAs based on their geographical location but their Gridlink® grid references were not changed. Consequently, the use of point-in-polygon methodology to assign these postcodes to OAs produced different OA assignments to those included on the lookup.

Method 2:

The remaining 0.54 million postcodes in England and Wales, which comprise both new postcodes since April 2001 and postcodes terminated prior to that date, were assigned to an OA using a set of digital OA boundaries and their Gridlink® grid references.

Over time, the use of the original methodologies to assign OAs to postcodes caused inaccuracies for some allocations. From August 2006, the common point-in-polygon methodology used in 'Method 2', above, was introduced to allocate all postcodes to OAs, bringing this geography in line with the majority on the NHSPD.

19.1 Postcodes Assigned to both English and Scottish 2001 Census OAs

National Records of Scotland (NRS) maintains a separate Scottish postcode directory called the Postcode Index. Two postcodes assigned to Scottish OAs in the Postcode Index (because a part of each postcode falls in Scotland) are assigned to English OAs in the NHSPD (because the part of each postcode falling in England comprises a larger population). The postcodes are TD9 0TU and TD15 1UY. Consequently, the assignments for these postcodes will differ between the NHSPD and the Postcode Index.

20. 2001 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) and Scottish Data and Intermediate Zones (DZ & IZ)

SOAs exist in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; the Scottish equivalents are DZs and IZs (originally called Intermediate Geographies – IG).

England and Wales

The Lower Layer SOAs (LSOA) have been designed with a mean population figure of 1500 and each consists of a grouping of OAs, typically five. There are 34,378 LSOAs, with an absolute minimum population size of 1,000.

The Middle Layer SOAs (MSOA) have a mean population figure of 7,200 (minimum 5,000) and consist of a grouping of LSOAs. MSOAs are constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.

Scotland

DZs are the core Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics geography. There are 6,505 DZs, each containing between 500 and 1,000 household residents.

IZs are the geography that sits above DZs and they have a minimum population of 2,500 - 6,000, which are of a size between the LSOAs and MSOAs in England and Wales. There are 1,235 IZs.

21. Former Pan SHAs

Three pan SHAs replaced the 5 'IT Clusters' from 1 April 2007 and IT Clusters replaced directorates of health and social care from July 2003 to 31 March 2007. Each pan SHA consisted of a group of strategic health authorities and they are included in the 'HRO' field. They were abolished on 31 March 2013 and replaced by NHS commissioning regions (NHSCR). The NHSCRs became NHS England (Regions) (NHS ER) in May 2017 ([see below](#)).

22. Regions (Former Government Office Regions - GOR)

The nine GORs were abolished on 1 April 2011 and are now known as 'regions' for statistical purposes. They were the primary statistical subdivisions of England and also the areas in which the Government Offices for the Regions fulfilled their role. Each GOR covered a number of local authorities and will remain, as a 'frozen' geography, on the NHSPD.

23. 1998 Electoral Wards

Electoral wards existing as at the end of 1998 are included on the NHSPD. The significance of these codes is that the initial Neighbourhood Statistics data were released for 1998 electoral wards.

24. 2001 Census Urban/Rural Indicators

England & Wales

The urban and rural classification of postcodes for England and Wales allows datasets to be analysed according to different types of urban and rural area. This is based on the National Statistics urban and rural classification of Output Areas (OA) released on 21 July 2004: the product of joint work between the Countryside Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, National Assembly for Wales and Office for National Statistics.

Postcodes have been assigned to the urban or rural category of the OA into which each falls. OAs are treated as 'urban' if the majority of their population live within settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. The remaining 'rural' OAs are grouped into three other broad morphological types based on the predominant settlement component – i.e. whether the population density for the OA shows characteristics that are predominantly town and fringe, predominantly village or predominantly dispersed (the latter includes hamlets and isolated dwellings).

The classification also categorises OAs based on context – i.e. whether the wider surrounding area of a given OA is sparsely populated or less sparsely populated:

1 = Urban \geq 10k – sparse: OA falls within urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;

- 2 = Town and Fringe – sparse: OA falls within the Town and Fringe category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;
- 3 = Village – sparse: OA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;
- 4 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – sparse: OA falls within the Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;
- 5 = Urban \geq 10k – less sparse: OA falls within urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
- 6 = Town and Fringe – less sparse: OA falls within the Town and Fringe category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
- 7 = Village – less sparse: OA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
- 8 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – less sparse: OA falls within the Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated.

Scotland

The urban/rural classification in Scotland is consistent with the Scottish Executive's core definition of rurality which defines settlements of 3,000 or less people to be rural. It also classifies areas as remote based on drive times from settlements of 10,000 or more people.

Postcodes have been assigned to the urban or rural category on an individual basis, based upon data received from GROS:

- 1 = Large Urban Area: Settlement of over 125,000 people;
- 2 = Other Urban Area: Settlement of 10,000 to 125,000 people;
- 3 = Accessible Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more;
- 4 = Remote Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, with a drive time of 30 to 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;
- 5 = Very Remote Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;
- 6 = Accessible Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more;
- 7 = Remote Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, with a drive time of 30 to 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;
- 8 = Very Remote Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, an eight band categorisation of settlements was introduced in February 2005. These categories range from Band A (Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area) to Band H (Small Village, Hamlet or Open Countryside) with bands A – E being classed as 'urban' and bands F – H being classed as 'rural'. The DOE (Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland) Planning Service statutory settlement development limits have been used as the geographical delineation of settlements:

- A = Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area;
- B = Derry Urban Area;
- C = Large Town: 18,000 and under 75,000 people;

D = Medium Town: 10,000 and under 18,000 people;
E = Small Town: 4,500 and under 10,000 people;
F = Intermediate Settlement: 2,250 and under 4,500 people;
G = Village: 1,000 and under 2,250 people;
H = Small Village, Hamlet or Open Countryside: less than 1,000 people.

25. Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies

England and Wales

Parliamentary constituencies relate to those defined by the Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 2007, the Parliamentary Constituencies (England) (Amendment) Order 2008 and the Parliamentary Constituencies (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2008, and which came into effect at the May 2010 General Election. No further changes are envisaged until 2020.

Scotland

The Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, passed by the UK parliament in July 2004, came into effect upon the dissolution of the last UK parliament and breaks the linkage between UK parliamentary constituencies and Scottish parliamentary constituencies. This Act has enabled the Westminster Government to reduce the number of Scottish constituencies in the UK parliament in line with recommendations made by the Boundary Commission for Scotland following its Fifth Periodical Review of Constituencies (December 2004).

The Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 2005 details the reduction of the number of constituencies for the UK parliament from 72 to 59 Scottish seats. The changes bring the size of Scottish constituencies more into line with the size of English seats. English constituencies currently contain nearly 70,000 voters on average, compared to the Scottish average of 53,500.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland the commission's Fifth Periodical Report on Parliamentary Constituencies outlined changes to and the composition of constituencies in 2010. In practice the new parliamentary constituencies are not very different to their predecessors. As before there are 18 constituencies, all retaining the same name. In the main, the boundary amendment process has involved the re-assigning of existing electoral wards from one constituency into a neighbouring constituency. The only exception concerns Derryagh ward within Lisburn City local government district which previously resided entirely within Lagan Valley county constituency. It has now been split into two separate wards - Derryagh (North) and Derryagh (South), the former now included in Belfast West borough constituency, the latter remaining where it was.

Details of the code ranges are included in the Record Specification at [Annex A](#).

26. Former Cancer Networks

Cancer Networks were the organisational model for delivering improvements in cancer services. Initially 34 Cancer Networks were developed to bring together networks of cancer care that included health service providers and commissioners through all levels in the health service including Strategic Health Authorities, acute and primary care and the voluntary sector.

Following a number of local reorganisations there were 28 Cancer Networks in England before they were abolished on 31 March 2013, being replaced by Strategic Clinical Networks (SCN). Wales had two similar organisations, which were retained. The resident population of each Cancer Network ranged from 690,000 to 3 million people.

The 'CANNET' field identifies the postcodes included in each former Cancer Network and each is defined in terms of whole LSOAs as agreed by consultation with DH Cancer Action Team and

directors of the cancer networks. Details of the code ranges are included in the Record Specification at [Annex A](#).

27. Cancer Registries

There are currently nine regional cancer registries in England with resident populations of between 2.7 and 11.6 million people and 3 national registries - one for each of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Cancer registries collect and quality assure detailed population-based data on cancer incidence and survival to provide a time series database. Information is collated from various sources including hospitals, cancer centres, treatment centres, hospices, private hospitals, cancer screening programmes, other cancer registers, general practices, nursing homes and death certificates. Cancer registries in England are also required to collect the cancer registration items for the National Cancer Dataset.

The 'CANREG' field identifies the postcodes included in each cancer registry and each is assigned in terms of whole LSOAs. Details of the code ranges are included in the Record Specification at [Annex A](#).

28. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

CCGs are groups of GPs that are responsible for designing local health services in England by commissioning or buying health and care services, and all GP practices have to belong to a CCG. They came into effect on 1 April 2013 and are built from 2011 LSOAs.

29. NHS England (Regions) (NHSE)

NHSEs (formerly NHS Commissioning Regions - NHS CR) are sub-divisions of the NHS commissioning board. The NHS ERs in England were renamed from NHS CRs in May 2017. The NHS CRs were formed on 1 April 2013, replacing pan SHAs, and are responsible for providing clinical and professional leadership at sub-national level. They are also responsible for the co-ordination of planning, operational management and emergency preparedness at sub-national level and undertaking direct commissioning functions and processes.

30. Former NHS England (Region, Local Offices) (NHSRLO)

NHSRLOs (formerly NHS Regions (Geography) - NHS RG, formerly NHS Area Teams - NHS AT) were sub-divisions of the NHS commissioning board. There were 25 NHS ATs in England which were formed on 1 April 2013, becoming 13 NHS RGs on 1 April 2015 and increasing to 14 NHS RGs on 1 April 2016 before becoming RLOs in May 2017. In April 2018, they were reorganised with the NHSE split and were abolished in April 2020. They were responsible for commissioning primary care services and also managing local partnerships and stakeholder relationships.

31. Strategic Clinical Networks (SCN)

SCNs were formed on 1 April 2013. There are 13 SCNs on the NHSPD (which includes two London areas), covering England, with former Cancer Networks covering Wales and the Isle of Man.

32. 2011 Census Output Areas (OA)

2001 Census OAs were built from clusters of adjacent unit postcodes but as they reflected the characteristics of the actual census data they could not be generated until after data processing. They were designed to have similar population sizes and be as socially homogenous as possible (based on tenure of household and accommodation type) - note though that homogeneity was not used as a factor in Scotland. Urban/rural mixes were avoided where possible (i.e. OAs preferably consisted entirely of urban postcodes or entirely of rural postcodes). They had approximately regular shapes and tended to be constrained by obvious boundaries such as major roads. The OAs were required to have a specified minimum size to ensure the confidentiality of data.

England and Wales

In England and Wales OAs were maintained after the 2011 Census so that they could be adjusted where the populations had changed significantly. Where an OA had breached its upper threshold of 625 population or 250 households it was split down to create a number of smaller OAs. Where an OA had breached its lower threshold of 100 population or 40 households it was merged with an adjacent OA to create a geography that was within threshold.

OAs created as part of the 2011 Census maintenance are based on postcodes as at Census Day 2011 while the unmaintained OAs will still reflect the postcodes as at Census Day 2001. The minimum OA size is 40 resident households and 100 resident persons but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households. These size thresholds meant that unusually small wards and parishes were incorporated into larger OAs. In total there are 181,408 OAs in England (171,372) and Wales (10,036).

National Statistics policy is that estimates published for any geographical area are aggregations of whole OAs (the lowest geographical level for which census estimates are produced). This policy ensures that estimates can be released for any area that contains at least one OA, in that it will contain the minimum population to ensure confidentiality. Eighteen wards have a very small population and have been assigned to a 'parent' OA (see Annex B for details).

In 2003, OAs fitted within the boundaries of 2003 statistical wards (and parishes) but this relationship had not been maintained for 2011 due to the high levels of administrative geography boundary change. In 2003 postcodes that straddled an electoral ward/division (or parish) boundary were split between two or more OAs. This scenario is now more prevalent as the postcodes have changed during the intercensal period without this being reflected within the OA hierarchy.

Scotland

OAs for the 2011 Census were created as groups of postcodes nesting as well as possible into the following geographies, in descending order of preference (when not all postcodes in the OA belong to a single combination of these area types).

- Council Area
- The 2010 Locality dataset

The main aim governing this order of geographies was to give continuity with the 2001 OAs while ensuring, as far as possible, that 2011 OAs fitted into the appropriate locality (urban area) which are seen as an increasingly important statistical area. Where possible, postcodes which were excluded from the 2010 Locality dataset, but subsequently met the population density criteria for inclusion in a locality, were included in an OA in the locality or grouped to form a new urban OA.

The majority of 2011 OAs are of similar size to those used in 2001 to allow as much comparison as possible with the 2001 Census data. Where a 2001 OA dropped below the 2011 minimum thresholds for confidentiality (50 persons and 20 households) e.g. because of housing demolitions, it was merged with a neighbouring 2001 OA. In addition, 2001 OAs that increased in size, particularly those that exceeded the 2011 recommended maximum threshold (approximately 78 households), were split where possible into two or more OAs.

Northern Ireland

Updated 2011 Census OAs are called Small Areas and are re-coded to 9-character format. There are 4,537 small areas in Northern Ireland.

33. 2011 Census Super Output Areas (SOA) and Scottish Data and Intermediate Zones (DZ & IZ)

SOAs exist in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; the Scottish equivalents are DZs and IZs.

England and Wales

The Lower Layer SOAs (LSOA) were designed with a mean population figure of 1,500 and each consists of a grouping of OAs, typically five. There are 34,753 LSOAs, with an absolute minimum population size of 1,000.

The Middle Layer SOAs (MSOA) have a mean population figure of 7,200 (minimum 5,000) and consist of a grouping of LSOAs. MSOAs are constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.

The LSOAs and MSOAs have been maintained as part of the 2011 Census OA maintenance. As with OAs, they have been split or merged where they have breached predefined population and household thresholds.

Scotland

DZs are groups of OAs which have populations of between 500 and 1,000 household residents. Redrawn as a result of detailed population information from the 2011 Census, they have been available since November 2014.

IZs are the geography that sits above DZs and they have a minimum population of 2,500 - 6,000, which are of a size between the LSOAs and MSOAs in England and Wales. There are 1,279 IZs.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland SOAs were released in 2005. There is one layer of SOA, with a population size between 1,300 and 2,800, similar in size to the LSOAs in England and Wales.

34. Cancer Alliances (CAL)

CALs lead the local delivery of the Independent Cancer Taskforce's ambitions for improving services, care and outcomes for everyone with cancer. There are currently 21 Cancer Alliances covering England.

35. Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP)

There are 42 STPs covering all of England, where local NHS organisations and councils have drawn up proposals to improve health and care in the areas they serve. STP can also stand for 'sustainability and transformation plan' - plans drawn up in each of these areas setting out ways to improve NHS services and population health in England. They replaced NHSRLOs as the higher level health geography in April 2020.

36. Names and Codes

The names of all administrative and 'non-health' areas are the standard names adopted for use throughout National Statistics. The names are those used in Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments to publish changes to the administrative and health geographies.

The NHSPD uses the Government Statistical Service (GSS) standard 9-character codes for administrative and electoral areas. You are encouraged to adopt these standard names and codes, as they are the recognised standard for National Statistics. Full names and codes listings are supplied with the NHSPD.

37. Directory Specifications

[Annex A](#) lists the specification for the records on the NHSPD, giving the length and description of each field, the range of possible codes and any qualifying comments. It also provides further general information on each field, such as source, currency and extent of data.

38. Use of the NHSPD

The NHSPD (except Northern Ireland data) may be used freely within the NHS under the terms detailed in the 'Postcode products' section on our [Licences](#) web page. However, users should note that following agreement with Land and Property Services (LPS) Northern Ireland, Open Government Licensing terms do not apply to NI postcodes; separate licensing terms and conditions now apply in the form of an LPS End User licence or contact LPS direct for commercial use.

39. Limitations/Data Quality

No warranty is given by ONS as to the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data contained on the NHSPD. We will take reasonable steps to correct any identified errors and, if appropriate, will re-issue the NHSPD.

Two types of errors may occur in the NHSPD - omissions and inaccuracies. With such a large file it is inevitable that some information will be missing. With monthly postcode updating procedures the likelihood of missing postcodes is small. The very latest postcodes (i.e. those introduced between the latest monthly postcode update and the issue of the NHSPD) will not be included, but any other missing postcodes are likely to have been absent from the Royal Mail data file which forms the basis of the monthly input into the NHSPD. Missing postcodes should therefore be reported to ONS Geography Customer Services for forwarding to Royal Mail.

As previously stated, inaccuracies also originate from two sources – straddling and wrong assignments (imputation).

You should also note that the use of the NHSPD to allocate individual addresses to geographies might be imprecise because of the effects of straddling and wrong assignments.

If you identify any errors and/or omissions, you should notify [ONS Geography Customer Services](#) and, with the assistance of the appropriate Gridlink Consortium member organisation, we will endeavour to:

- investigate all reports of suspected errors and/or omissions to areal references; and
- inform you of the outcome within 5 working days if we can resolve the query ourselves.

Corrections and identified omissions to the data content of the NHSPD are included on the subsequent NHSPD release.

Incompatibility with certain spreadsheet packages

Due to the large number of records on the NHSPD, the full file is incompatible with certain standard spreadsheet packages. You should read and understand the help notes of your particular software package before attempting to load the NHSPD data.

Table 1

Numbers of Postcodes by User Type
(Including the changes since the previous release)

Country	Large users			Small users			Total		
	NOV 2020	FEB 2021	Change	NOV 2020	FEB 2021	Change	NOV 2020	FEB 2021	Change
England	639,861	641,391	+1,530	1,571,487	1,574,204	+1,530	2,211,348	2,215,595	+3,060
Wales	27,464	27,525	+61	112,128	112,226	+61	139,592	139,751	+122
Scotland	41,799	41,943	+144	183,688	183,881	+144	225,487	225,824	+288
Great Britain	709,124	710,859	+1,735	1,867,303	1,870,311	+1,735	2,576,427	2,581,170	+3,470
Northern Ireland	9,473	9,511	+38	52,472	52,541	+38	61,945	62,052	+76
United Kingdom	718,597	720,370	+1,773	1,919,775	1,922,852	+1,773	2,638,372	2,643,222	+3,546
Guernsey	881	881	0	2,495	2,497	0	3,376	3,378	0
Jersey	1,162	1,165	+3	2,429	2,432	+3	3,591	3,597	+6
Channel Islands	2,043	2,046	+3	4,924	4,929	+3	6,967	6,975	+6
Isle of Man	1,639	1,640	+1	4,411	4,414	+1	6,050	6,054	+2
All	722,279	724,056	+1,777	1,929,110	1,932,195	+1,777	2,651,389	2,656,251	+3,554

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	180	17,135	21,733	38,868
St Albans	AL	10	39	7,784	3,573	11,357
Birmingham	B	79	268	41,578	19,907	61,485
Bath	BA	19	81	15,197	4,847	20,044
Blackburn	BB	15	79	13,268	5,648	18,916
Bradford	BD	27	112	17,044	6,408	23,452
Bournemouth	BH	26	103	15,187	7,120	22,307
Bolton	BL	12	53	10,298	3,660	13,958
Brighton	BN	38	146	22,029	13,020	35,049
Bromley	BR	9	39	6,815	3,777	10,592
Bristol	BS	47	206	26,879	18,671	45,550
Belfast	BT	82	278	49,423	12,629	62,052
Carlisle	CA	30	85	12,695	3,594	16,289
Cambridge	CB	16	87	10,604	8,574	19,178
Cardiff	CF	46	204	23,223	19,218	42,441
Chester	CH	37	213	18,858	5,435	24,293
Chelmsford	CM	28	104	17,984	9,419	27,403
Colchester	CO	16	75	13,323	4,772	18,095
Croydon	CR	11	66	7,952	6,767	14,719
Canterbury	CT	22	83	14,900	4,915	19,815
Coventry	CV	24	107	20,492	7,781	28,273
Crewe	CW	13	52	9,568	4,498	14,066
Dartford	DA	18	59	9,051	3,863	12,914
Dundee	DD	11	52	8,992	2,353	11,345
Derby	DE	25	129	17,365	12,770	30,135
Dumfries	DG	15	43	6,849	890	7,739
Durham	DH	12	47	9,010	2,495	11,505
Darlington	DL	18	68	13,311	3,434	16,745
Doncaster	DN	33	117	21,764	6,119	27,883
Dorchester	DT	11	39	7,803	2,035	9,838
Dudley	DY	14	59	10,981	3,492	14,473
London E	E	22	108	16,447	12,084	28,531
London EC	EC	30	140	3,689	8,876	12,565
Edinburgh	EH	58	169	24,569	7,980	32,549
Enfield	EN	12	48	8,525	4,557	13,082
Exeter	EX	33	131	22,316	6,394	28,710
Falkirk	FK	21	49	7,748	1,899	9,647
Blackpool	FY	9	42	7,299	2,793	10,092
Glasgow	G	57	241	31,901	14,998	46,899
Gloucester	GL	27	118	21,095	7,660	28,755
Guildford	GU	40	146	22,224	13,529	35,753

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Harrow	HA	10	58	10,203	7,353	17,556
Huddersfield	HD	9	43	7,121	3,603	10,724
Harrogate	HG	5	25	4,438	1,904	6,342
Hemel Hempstead	HP	24	81	13,944	7,903	21,847
Hereford	HR	9	33	6,433	1,514	7,947
Hebrides	HS	9	11	964	131	1,095
Hull	HU	21	70	11,007	4,316	15,323
Halifax	HX	7	32	5,657	1,757	7,414
Ilford	IG	11	35	6,023	4,059	10,082
Ipswich	IP	34	117	21,154	5,829	26,983
Inverness	IV	53	85	7,378	3,398	10,776
Kilmarnock	KA	30	87	11,648	2,531	14,179
Kingston upon Thames	KT	24	92	14,199	8,205	22,404
Kirkwall	KW	16	22	1,843	267	2,110
Kirkcaldy	KY	17	75	10,123	3,043	13,166
Liverpool	L	66	582	20,524	22,833	43,357
Lancaster	LA	23	66	11,841	2,889	14,730
Llandrindod Wells	LD	8	16	2,210	449	2,659
Leicester	LE	28	152	22,584	12,100	34,684
Llandudno	LL	67	150	20,158	4,202	24,360
Lincoln	LN	13	51	9,293	2,719	12,012
Leeds	LS	32	150	21,674	10,303	31,977
Luton	LU	8	36	6,271	4,152	10,423
Manchester	M	48	302	31,854	27,035	58,889
Medway	ME	21	83	16,511	5,810	22,321
Milton Keynes	MK	28	115	15,579	7,316	22,895
Motherwell	ML	12	55	9,687	2,074	11,761
London N	N	25	113	17,519	11,985	29,504
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	67	231	33,282	11,980	45,262
Nottingham	NG	32	170	28,930	8,462	37,392
Northampton	NN	20	102	16,395	8,682	25,077
Newport	NP	25	142	13,740	16,741	30,481
Norwich	NR	36	114	23,550	4,776	28,326
London NW	NW	13	84	13,982	11,730	25,712
Oldham	OL	17	70	13,073	4,622	17,695
Oxford	OX	28	146	19,963	15,126	35,089
Paisley	PA	78	117	9,378	3,579	12,957
Peterborough	PE	39	164	26,730	12,390	39,120
Perth	PH	43	62	6,101	1,313	7,414
Plymouth	PL	36	99	17,576	4,987	22,563
Portsmouth	PO	35	132	24,111	8,826	32,937
Preston	PR	13	83	13,169	6,904	20,073
Reading	RG	35	184	23,261	22,509	45,770
Redhill	RH	21	90	16,058	8,201	24,259
Romford	RM	21	71	9,914	5,354	15,268
Sheffield	S	56	250	33,627	15,700	49,327

Postcode Area	Post code Area Code	Postcode Districts	Post code Sectors	Postcodes		
				Live	Terminated	Total
Swansea	SA	53	153	23,213	6,111	29,324
London SE	SE	30	130	20,595	13,839	34,434
Stevenage	SG	19	65	11,881	5,050	16,931
Stockport	SK	19	113	16,461	8,619	25,080
Slough	SL	12	58	10,618	6,067	16,685
Sutton	SM	7	29	4,363	2,308	6,671
Swindon	SN	23	113	14,444	7,050	21,494
Southampton	SO	31	181	18,370	21,791	40,161
Salisbury	SP	11	47	8,616	2,783	11,399
Sunderland	SR	11	44	6,591	2,130	8,721
Southend-on-Sea	SS	19	81	11,917	5,424	17,341
Stoke-on-Trent	ST	22	90	17,646	5,016	22,662
London SW	SW	29	141	19,946	16,635	36,581
Shrewsbury	SY	26	86	14,437	2,808	17,245
Taunton	TA	24	67	11,793	3,002	14,795
Galashiels	TD	15	36	4,487	759	5,246
Telford	TF	13	43	7,021	2,264	9,285
Tonbridge	TN	40	129	22,761	9,970	32,731
Torquay	TQ	14	50	9,994	3,195	13,189
Truro	TR	28	68	12,147	3,238	15,385
Cleveland	TS	30	103	17,541	5,424	22,965
Twickenham	TW	20	80	11,037	9,124	20,161
Southall	UB	12	41	7,122	4,442	11,564
London W	W	35	217	18,565	21,513	40,078
Warrington	WA	18	97	18,138	7,527	25,665
London WC	WC	15	46	2,620	4,824	7,444
Watford	WD	14	70	7,354	8,590	15,944
Wakefield	WF	18	75	14,488	3,858	18,346
Wigan	WN	8	35	7,181	2,019	9,200
Worcester	WR	17	50	8,797	3,753	12,550
Walsall	WS	15	67	10,142	4,769	14,911
Wolverhampton	WV	18	62	10,505	3,771	14,276
York	YO	37	161	18,715	15,688	34,403
Shetland	ZE	3	4	651	99	750
United Kingdom	121	3,092	12,345	1,764,012	879,209	2,643,221
Guernsey	GY	10	16	3,348	30	3,378
Isle of Man	IM	11	53	4,649	1,405	6,054
Jersey	JE	5	29	3,309	288	3,597
Channel Islands/ Isle of Man	3	26	98	11,306	1,723	13,029
Total	124	3,118	12,443	1,775,318	880,932	2,656,250

NB. The postcode directory also contains the Santander UK plc postcode GIR 0AA, giving a total of **2,656,251** 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	400,522	62.4%	1,517,259	96.4%	15,180	55.1%	93,711	83.5%	23,640	56.4%	166,070	90.3%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	323	0.2%
3	807	0.1%	2,337	0.1%	23	0.1%	112	0.1%	68	0.2%	477	0.3%
4	39	0.0%	102	0.0%	2	0.0%	15	0.0%	6	0.0%	5	0.0%
5	39,801	6.2%	5,609	0.4%	1,620	5.9%	221	0.2%	2,473	5.9%	672	0.4%
6	65,214	10.2%	144	0.0%	2,212	8.0%	6	0.0%	4,177	10.0%	20	0.0%
8	128,577	20.0%	48,588	3.1%	7,834	28.5%	18,159	16.2%	11,162	26.6%	16,306	8.9%
9	6,431	1.0%	165	0.0%	654	2.4%	2	0.0%	417	1.0%	8	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	641,391	100%	1,574,204	100%	27,525	100%	112,226	100%	41,943	100%	183,881	100%

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	439,342	61.8%	1,777,040	95.0%	1,384	14.6%	47,583	90.6%	440,726	61.2%	1,824,623	94.9%
2	0	0.0%	323	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	323	0.0%
3	898	0.1%	2,926	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	898	0.1%	2,926	0.2%
4	47	0.0%	122	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	47	0.0%	122	0.0%
5	43,894	6.2%	6,502	0.3%	3,318	34.9%	1,628	3.1%	47,212	6.6%	8,130	0.4%
6	71,603	10.1%	170	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	71,603	9.9%	170	0.0%
8	147,573	20.8%	83,053	4.4%	2,736	28.8%	2,852	5.4%	150,309	20.9%	85,905	4.5%
9	7,502	1.1%	175	0.0%	2,073	21.8%	478	0.9%	9,575	1.3%	653	0.0%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	710,859	100%	1,870,311	100%	9,511	100%	52,541	100%	720,370	100%	1,922,852	100%

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		440,726	60.9%	1,824,623	94.4%
2	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		0	0.0%	323	0.0%
3	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		898	0.1%	2,926	0.2%
4	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		47	0.0%	122	0.0%
5	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		47,212	6.5%	8,130	0.4%
6	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		71,603	9.9%	170	0.0%
8	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		150,309	20.8%	85,905	4.4%
9	2,046	100.0%	4,929	100.0%	1,640	100.0%	4,414	100.0%	13,261	1.8%	9,996	0.5%
Blank	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	2,046	100%	4,929	100%	1,640	100%	4,414	100%	724,056	100%	1,932,195	100%

Table 4**Numbers of Terminated Postcodes**

Country	Number
England	751,333
Wales	48,242
Scotland	67,005
Great Britain	866,580
Northern Ireland	12,629
United Kingdom	879,209
Channel Islands	318
Isle of Man	1,405
All	880,932

Annex A

NHSPD Record Specification

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
1	8	Unit postcode – 8 character version	AB1ΔΔ0AA-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range) ZZ99Δ1AA-ZZ99Δ9ZZ	2, 3 or 4-character outward code - left aligned; 3-character inward code - right aligned; 5th character always blank and 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ); Pseudo country postcode as used by the NHS.	PCD2
2	8	Unit postcode - variable length (e-Gif) version	AB1Δ0AAΔ-ZE99Δ9ZZ (maximum range) ZZ99Δ1AA-ZZ99Δ9ZZ	2, 3 or 4-character outward code; Single space (Δ); 3-character inward code; Pseudo country postcode as used by the NHS.	PCDS
3	6	Date of introduction	YYYYMM (year and month)	The most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of introduction.	DOINTR
4	6	Date of termination	YYYYMM (year and month) or null	If present, the most recent occurrence of the postcode's date of termination, otherwise: null = 'live' postcode	DOTERM
5	4	National grid reference - Easting	numeric or null	The OS postcode grid reference Easting to 100 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish Grid system.	OSEAST100M
6	5	National grid reference - Northing	numeric or null	The OS postcode grid reference Northing to 100 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish Grid system.	OSNRTH100M

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
7	9	County	E10, 95, pseudo or null	<p>The county to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for English UAs, Wales, Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference.</p> <p>E10000003 - E10000034 = England; E99999999 (pseudo) = England (UA); W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OSCTY
8	5	Local Authority Organisation	000-999, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null	<p>ODS-allocated identifiers for top-tier Local Authority organisations in England and Wales to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference.</p> <p>000-999, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = England/Wales (County, UA, MD, LB); S92 (pseudo) = Scotland; N92 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L93 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M83 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	ODSLAUA

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
9	9	Local authority district (LAD)/unitary authority (UA)/metropolitan district (MD)/London borough (LB)/ council area (CA)/district council area (DCA)	E06, E07, E08, E09, W06, S12, 95A-95Z, pseudo or null	<p>The LAD/UA to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E06000001 - E06000062 = England (UA); E07000008 - E07000246 = England (LAD); E08000001 - E08000037 = England (MD); E09000001 - E09000033 = England (LB); W06000001 - W06000024 = Wales (UA); S12000005 - S12000050 = Scotland (CA); N09000001 – N09000011 = Northern Ireland (DCA); L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OSLAUA
10	9	(Electoral) ward/division	E05, W05, S13, N08, pseudo or null	<p>The administrative/electoral area to which the postcode has been assigned. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E05000026 - E05012992 = England; W05000041 - W05001038 = Wales; S13002516 - S13003134 = Scotland; N08000101 – N08001140 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OSWARD
11	1	Postcode user type	0 or 1	<p>Shows whether the postcode is a small or large user.</p> <p>0 = small user; 1 = large user</p>	USERTYPE

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
12	1	Grid reference positional quality indicator	1-6, 8-9	Shows the status of the assigned grid reference. 1 = within the building of the matched address closest to the postcode mean; 2 = as for status value 1, except by visual inspection of Landline maps (Scotland only); 3 = approximate to within 50 metres; 4 = postcode unit mean (mean of matched addresses with the same postcode, but not snapped to a building); 5 = imputed by ONS, by reference to surrounding postcode grid references; 6 = postcode sector mean, (mainly PO Boxes); 8 = postcode terminated prior to Gridlink® initiative, last known ONS postcode grid reference ¹ ; 9 = no grid reference available	OSGRDIND
13	9	Country	E92, W92, S92, N92, L93 or M83	The code for the appropriate country (i.e. one of the four constituent countries of the UK or Crown dependencies - the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) to which each postcode is assigned. E92000001 = England; W92000004 = Wales; S92000003 = Scotland; N92000002 = Northern Ireland; L93000001 = Channel Islands; M83000003 = Isle of Man	CTRY

¹ Postcodes with an '8' code are those that were terminated prior to the Gridlink® initiative which became operational in November 2000. The grid references are those assigned by ONS for postcodes in England and Wales and those assigned by the General Register Office for Scotland and the Department for Economic Development in Northern Ireland for their respective postcodes. Postcodes terminated since November 2000 retain the same positional quality indicators as they had prior to their termination.

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
14	5	Former Strategic Health Authority (SHA)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Health Board (HB)/ Health Authority (HA)/ Health & Social Care Board (HSCB)	Q30-Q39, 7A1-7A7, SA9-SZ9, YAC-YAF, ZB1, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , or null	The health area code for the postcode. SHAs were abolished in England in 2013 but the codes remain as a 'frozen' geography. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. Q30-Q39 = England (former SHA); 7A1-7A7, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = Wales (LHB); SA9-SZ9 = Scotland (HB); ZB1 = Northern Ireland (HSCB); YAD-YAF = Channel Islands (HA); YAC = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	OSHLTHAU
15	9	Region (former GOR)	E12, pseudo or null	The region code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Island and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. E12000001 - E12000009 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	RGN
16	3	Pre-2002 Health Authority	QA2-QEY* (maximum range), QW1-QW5, SA9-SZ9, YAC-YAF, ZE0-ZW0, or null * the last character may be numeric	The Health Authority existing prior to the reorganisation of health areas (England in 2002, Wales in 2003). The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference. QA2 - QEY = England (HA); QW1 - QW5 = Wales (HA); SA9 - SZ9 = Scotland (HB); ZE0 - ZW0 = Northern Ireland (HSSB); YAD - YAF = Channel Islands (HA); YAC = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	OLDHA

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
17	5	NHS England (Region) (NHSER)	Y56-Y63, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null	The NHSER code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. Y56-Y63, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = England; W92 (pseudo) = Wales; S92 (pseudo) = Scotland; N92 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L93 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M83 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	NHSER
18	5	Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Community Health Partnership (CHP)/ Local Commissioning Group (LCG)/ Primary Healthcare Directorate (PHD)	00A-99Z, 7A1-7A7, 001-043, ZC1– ZC5, YK1, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null	The code for the CCG areas in England, LHBs in Wales, CHPs in Scotland, LCG in Northern Ireland and PHD in the Isle of Man; there are no equivalent areas in the Channel Islands (for which a pseudo code is included). The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference. (The former PCTs are now included in field 36 'PCT'). 00A-99Z, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = England (CCG); 7A1-7A7, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = Wales (LHB); 001-043 = Scotland (CHP); ZC1-ZC5 = Northern Ireland (LCG); YK1 = Isle of Man (PHD); X98 (pseudo) = Channel Islands (and also in conjunction with pseudo country postcode); null = no information available	CCG

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
19	8	1991 Census Enumeration District (ED)	(OGSS ² code range) 01AAFA01- 63UEFZ14, 95AΔ0101- 95ZΔ1506, pseudo or null	The code for the 1991 Census ED. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 2-digit county code, 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = England and Wales; 2-digit county code, 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ0099 (pseudo) = Scotland/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available	PSED
20	6	1991 Census Enumeration District (ED)	(1991 Census code range) AAFA01- UEFZ14, AΔ0101 - ZΔ1506, pseudo or null	Same as above except a Census code is provided. 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = England & Wales; 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward code, 2-digit ED code = Northern Ireland; ZZ0099 (pseudo) = Scotland/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available	CENED
21	1	ED positional quality indicator	1, 6, 9 or Δ	Shows the status of the assigned ED. 1 = assigned by point-in-polygon technique; 6 = Northern Ireland; 9 = Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man; Δ = no information available	EDIND

² Office Geographical Support Service (1991).

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
22	6	1998 ward	00AAFA-47UGFT, 00NAMA-00PTNE, 00QA01-00RJ30, 95AA01-95ZΔ51, pseudo or null	The 1998 administrative and electoral areas for each postcode. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 2-digit county code, 2-digit district code, 2-digit ward code = England, Wales and Scotland; 2-digit county code, 1-digit district code, 2-digit ward code = Northern Ireland; 99ZZ00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	WARD98
23	10	2001 Census Output Area (OA)	E00, W00, S00, 95AA010001- 95ZZ519999, pseudo or null	The 2001 Census OAs were built from unit postcodes and constrained to 2003 'statistical' wards, and they formed the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E00000001 - E00165665 = England; W00000001 - W00009769 = Wales; S00000001 - S00042604 = Scotland; 95AA010001 - 95ZZ519999 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	OA01
24	3	NHS England (Region, Local Office) (NHSRLO)	Q71-Q88, pseudo or null	The former NHSRLO (formerly NHS Region Geography, formerly Area Team) code for the postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference. Q71-Q88 = England; W92 (pseudo) = Wales; S92 (pseudo) = Scotland; N92 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L93 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M83 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	NHSRLO

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
25	3	Former Pan SHA	Y51-Y53, pseudo or null	<p>The former Pan SHA responsible for the associated strategic health authority for each postcode in England. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will be blank for postcodes in England with no grid reference.</p> <p>Y51-Y53 = England; W00 (pseudo) = Wales; S00 (pseudo) = Scotland; Z00 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; X00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	HRO
26	9	2001 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Super Output Area (SOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1–95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	<p>The 2001 Census LSOA code for England and Wales, SOA code for Northern Ireland and DZ code for Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E01000001- E01032482 = England; W01000001- W01001896 = Wales; S01000001- S01006505 = Scotland; 95AA01S1 - 95ZZ16S2 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	LSOA01
27	1	2001 Census urban/rural indicator	1-8, 1-8, A-H, pseudo or Δ	<p>The 2001 Census urban and rural classification of OAs for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A pseudo code is included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. N.B. the code ranges 1-8 differ between England/Wales and Scotland – see paragraph 31 for details.</p> <p>1-8 = England and Wales; 1-8 = Scotland; A-E (Urban) and F-H (Rural) = Northern Ireland; 9 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; Δ = no information available</p>	UR01IND

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
28	9	2001 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	<p>The 2001 Census MSA code for England and Wales and IZ code for Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E02000001- E02006781 = England; W02000001- W02000413 = Wales; S02000001 - S02001235 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	MSOA01
29	3	Former Cancer Network	N01-N98, pseudo or null	<p>The former Cancer Network that each postcode falls within. They were closed in March 2013 and replaced by Strategic Clinical Networks. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Channel Islands. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>N01-N98 = England/Wales/Isle of Man; Z99 (pseudo) = Scotland/Northern Ireland/Channel Islands; null = no information available</p>	CANNET
30	5	Strategic Clinical Network (NHS SCN)	N01-N98, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null	<p>The NHS SCN that each postcode falls within. Introduced in April 2013 by NHS England, former Cancer Network codes are included for Wales and Isle of Man. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Channel Islands. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>N44-N61, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = England (SCN); N95-N96 = Wales (former Cancer Network); N50 = Isle of Man (SCN); Z99 (pseudo) = Scotland/Northern Ireland/Channel Islands; null = no information available</p>	SCN

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
31	3	'First wave' Strategic Health Authority (SHA)/ Health Board (HB)/ Health Authority (HA)/ Health & Social Services Board (HSSB)	Q01-Q28 (maximum range), Q99 (pseudo), SA9-SZ9, ZE0-ZW0, YAC-YAF or null	The health area code for the postcode prior to the NHS reorganisation on 1 July 2006. A pseudo code is included for Wales. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. Q01-Q28 = England (SHA); Q99 (pseudo) = Wales; SA9 - SZ9 = Scotland (HB); ZE0 - ZW0 = Northern Ireland (HSSB); YAD - YAF = Channel Islands (HA); YAC = Isle of Man (HA); null = no information available	OSHAPREV
32	3	'First wave' Primary Care Trust (PCT)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Care Trust (CT)	5AA-5ZZ*, 6A1-6C4*, TAC, TAG, TAK, TAL, X98 (pseudo), or null *maximum range	The pre-October 2006 code for the primary care areas in England and Wales; primary care areas do not exist in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, to which a pseudo code has been assigned. The field will be blank for postcodes in England or Wales with no grid reference. 5AA - 5ZZ = England (PCT); TAC - TAL = England (CT); 6A1 - 6C4 = Wales (LHB); X98 (pseudo) = Scotland/NI/Channel Is/IoM; null = no information available	OLDPCT
33	3	'Old' IT Cluster (ITC)	Y41-Y45, W00, pseudo or null	The pre-Pan SHA ITC responsible for the associated SHA for each postcode in England. ITCs were used from 1 July 2003 to 31 March 2007. Pseudo codes are included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. Y41-Y45 = England (ITC); W00 = Health Solutions Wales; S00 (pseudo) = Scotland; Z00 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; X00 (pseudo) = Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	OLDHRO

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
34	9	Westminster parliamentary constituency	E14, W07, S14, N06, pseudo or null	The Westminster parliamentary constituency code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. E14000530 - E14001062 = England; W07000041 - W07000080 = Wales; S14000001 - S14000059 = Scotland; N06000001 - N06000018 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available	PCON
35	5	Cancer registry	Y0201-Y1701, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null	The cancer registry that each postcode falls within. A pseudo code is included for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. Y0201-Y1701, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = England/Wales; Z9999 (pseudo) = Scotland/Northern Ireland/Channel Islands/Isle of Man; null = no information available	CANREG
36	5	'Second wave' Primary Care Trust (PCT)/ Care Trust/ Care Trust Plus (CT)/ Local Health Board (LHB)/ Community Health Partnership (CHP)/ Local Commissioning Group (LCG)/ Primary Healthcare Directorate (PHD)	5AA-5ZZ*, 7A1-7A7*, TAC-TAN*, 001-043*, ZC1- ZC5, YK1, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null (*max. range)	The code for the PCT/CT areas (England), LHBs (Wales), CHPs (Scotland), LCG (Northern Ireland) or PHD (Isle of Man) prior to the abolition of PCTs in 2013 and CHPs in 2015; there are no equivalent areas in the Channel Islands (for which a pseudo code is included). The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference. 5AA-5ZZ = England (PCT); TAC-TAN = England (CT); 7A1-7A7, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = Wales (LHB); 001-043 = Scotland (CHP); ZC1-ZC5 = Northern Ireland (LCG); YK1 = Isle of Man (PHD); X98 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; null = no information available	PCT

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
37	6	National grid reference - Easting	numeric or null	The OS grid reference Easting to 1 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish National Grid.	OSEAST1M
38	7	National grid reference - Northing	numeric or null	The OS grid reference Northing to 1 metre resolution; blank for postcodes in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Grid references for postcodes in Northern Ireland relate to the Irish National Grid.	OSNRTH1M
39	9	2011 Census Output Area (OA)/ Small Area (SA)	E00, W00, S00, N00, pseudo or null	<p>The 2011 Census OAs in GB and SAs in Northern Ireland were based on 2001 Census OAs, and they form the building bricks for defining higher level geographies. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E00000001 - E00176774 = England; W00000001 - W00010265 = Wales; S00088956 - S00135306 = Scotland; N00000001 - N00004537 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	OA11
40	9	2011 Census Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)/ Super Output Area (SOA)/ Data Zone (DZ)	E01, W01, S01, 95AA01S1 – 95ZZ16S2, pseudo or null	<p>The 2011 Census LSOA (England and Wales), SOA (Northern Ireland) and DZ (Scotland) code. Pseudo codes are included for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E01000001- E01033768 = England; W01000001- W01001958 = Wales; S01006506 - S01013481 = Scotland; 95AA01S1 – 95ZZ16S2 = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	LSOA11

Field no.	Len	Data description	Range of codes/ Entity code	Comments	Field name
41	9	2011 Census Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)/ Intermediate Zone (IZ)	E02, W02, S02, pseudo or null	<p>The 2011 Census MSA code for England and Wales and IZ code for Scotland. Pseudo codes are included for Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E02000001- E02006934 = England; W02000001- W02000423 = Wales; S02001236 - S02002514 = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	MSOA11
42	9	Cancer Alliance/ (CAL)	E56, pseudo or null	<p>The Cancer Alliance code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>E56000005 – E56000030 = England; W99999999 (pseudo) = Wales; S99999999 (pseudo) = Scotland; N99999999 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L99999999 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M99999999 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	CALNCV
43	5	Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)	QAA-QZZ*, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z , pseudo or null (*max. range)	<p>The STP code for each postcode. Pseudo codes are included for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The field will otherwise be blank for postcodes with no grid reference.</p> <p>QAA – QZZ, A0A0A-Z9Z9Z = England; W92 (pseudo) = Wales; S92 (pseudo) = Scotland; N92 (pseudo) = Northern Ireland; L93 (pseudo) = Channel Islands; M83 (pseudo) = Isle of Man; null = no information available</p>	STP

Annex B

2011 Census Very Small Population Wards and Their Assigned OA

Very Small Population Ward code	Very Small Population Ward name	Assigned OA
City of London		
E05009298	Cheap	E00000007
E05009299	Coleman Street	E00000019
E05009290	Bassishaw	E00000021
E05009293	Bread Street	E00000024
E05009297	Castle Baynard	E00000024
E05009289	Aldgate	E00000035
E05009291	Billingsgate	E00000035
E05009294	Bridge	E00000035
E05009306	Langbourn	E00000035
E05009295	Broad Street	E00166755
E05009296	Candlewick	E00166755
E05009301	Cornhill	E00166755
E05009307	Lime Street	E00166755
E05009300	Cordwainer	E00166757
E05009303	Dowgate	E00166757
E05009311	Vintry	E00166757
E05009312	Walbrook	E00166757
Isles of Scilly		
E05011090	Bryher	E00096400