
NISRA

Geography

Fact Sheet

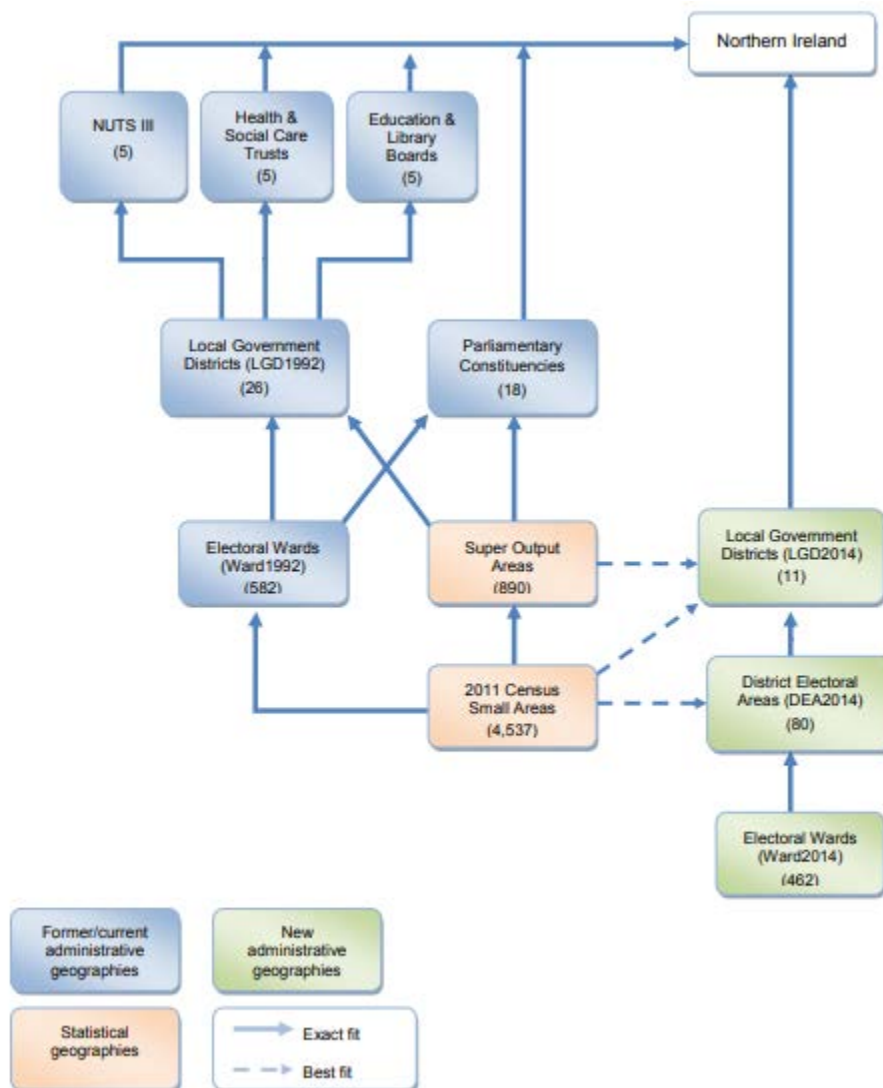
Administrative Geography

Administrative geographies are hierarchies of areas relating to national and local government in the UK. This hierarchy is complicated because there are several layers and the structure is different in each constituent country of the UK. In addition the boundaries of many of the layers in the hierarchy are subject to periodic or occasional change.

Statistical Geography

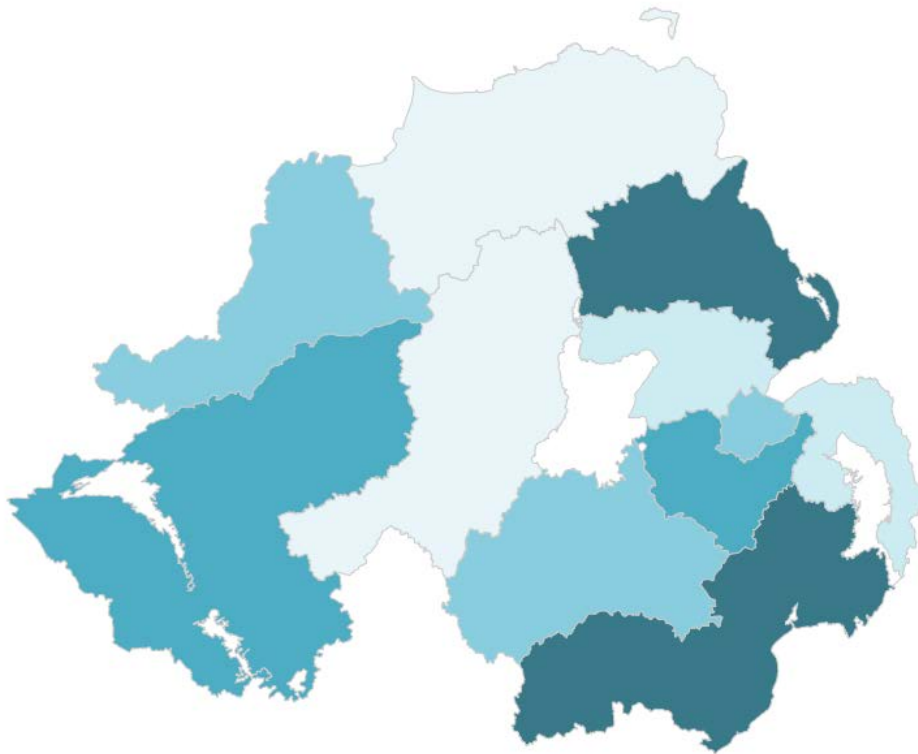
Smaller units have been created below the administrative areas for statistical purposes.

The following diagram shows how all of the statistical geographies fit with the administrative geographies in Northern Ireland. Figures in brackets indicate the number of areas. Arrows indicate if an exact (straight) or best fit (dashed) relationship is available and valid for all of the larger geographies.



Local Government Districts 2014 (LGD2014)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS (LGD2014) also known as District Councils



Description:

In 2008, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the reform of Local Government. The change moved Local Government from the old 26 Districts (LGD1992) to 11 new Districts (LGD2014), as well as making changes to the powers of Local Government. The geographical changes were initiated through the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The 11 new Districts became operational in April 2015. For further information a paper is available – <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/small-area-look-tables-and-guidance-documents>

Number:

11

Codes:

N09000001 (Antrim and Newtownabbey) ... N09000003 (Belfast) ... N09000011 (North Down and Ards)

Population size:

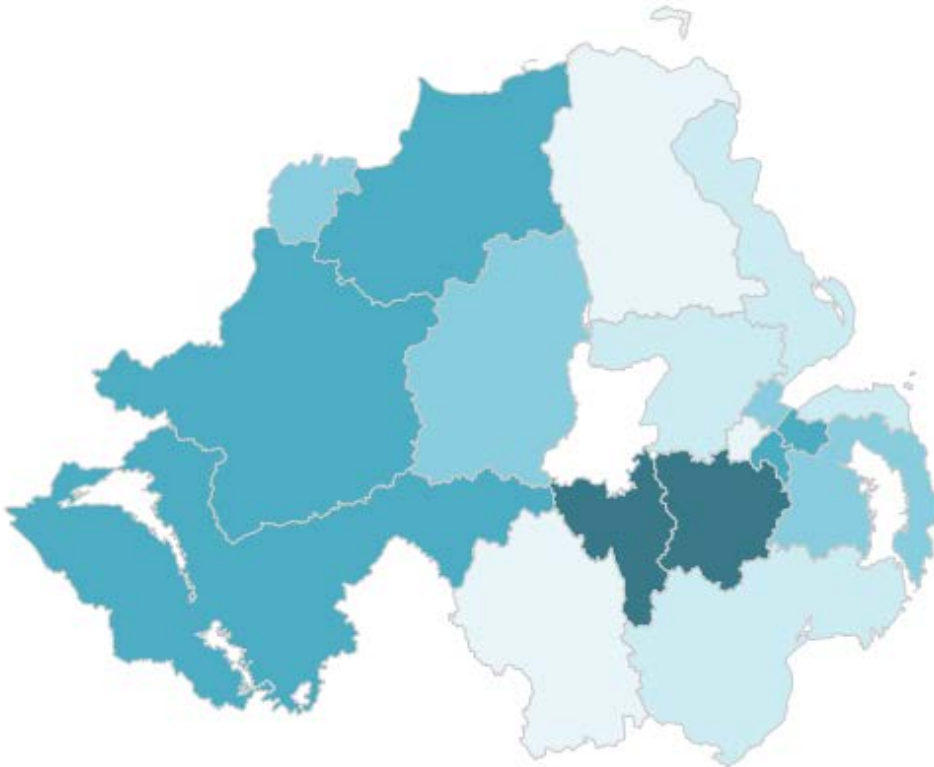
Average of 170,000 (range 116,000 to 341,000) 2017 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 66,000

Assembly Areas (AA)

ASSEMBLY AREAS (AA)



Description:

Northern Ireland is divided into 18 Assembly Areas – the latest set were created in 2008 but came into effect following the NI Assembly Elections on 5th May 2011. They were re-aligned to the current Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries which were in effect from the 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Elections.

NI Assembly Areas are the areas used to elect MLAs to the NI Assembly. Westminster parliamentary constituencies are the areas used to elect Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons in Westminster.

Number:

18

Codes:

N06000001 ... N06000009 ... N06000018

Population size:

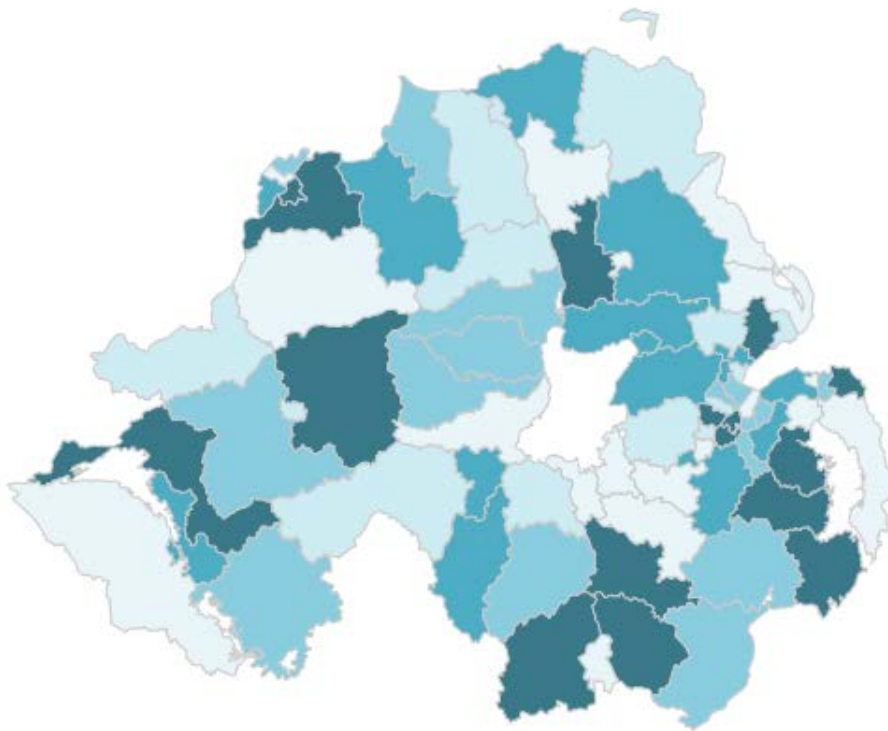
Average of 103,000 (range 90,000 to 127,000) 2017 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 40,000

District Electoral Areas 2014 (DEA2014)

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS (DEA2014)



Description:

DEAs are amalgams of 5, 6, or 7 wards, and are used for the election of councillors in Proportional Representation elections. Their boundaries are determined by the District Electoral Areas Commissioner, and reviewed every 8-10 years. Northern Ireland is divided into 80 DEAs

Number:

80

Codes:

N10000101 ... N10001107

Population size:

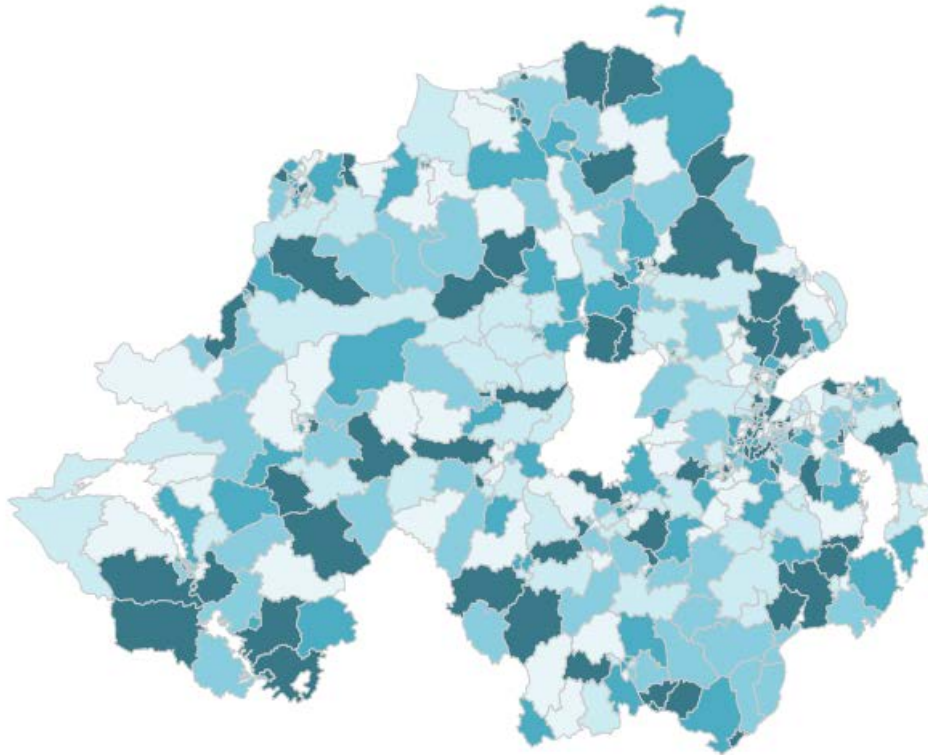
Average of 23,000 (range 14,000 to 45,000) 2017 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 9100

Electoral Wards 2014 (Ward2014)

Wards (Ward2014)



Description:

The smallest unit of administrative geography in NI. Electoral Ward boundaries are determined by the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, and reviewed every 8-10 years. Northern Ireland is divided into 462 Wards since 2015

Number:

462

Codes:

N08000101 (Abbey (Antrim and Newtownabbey)... N08001140 (West Winds (Ards and North Down))

Population size:

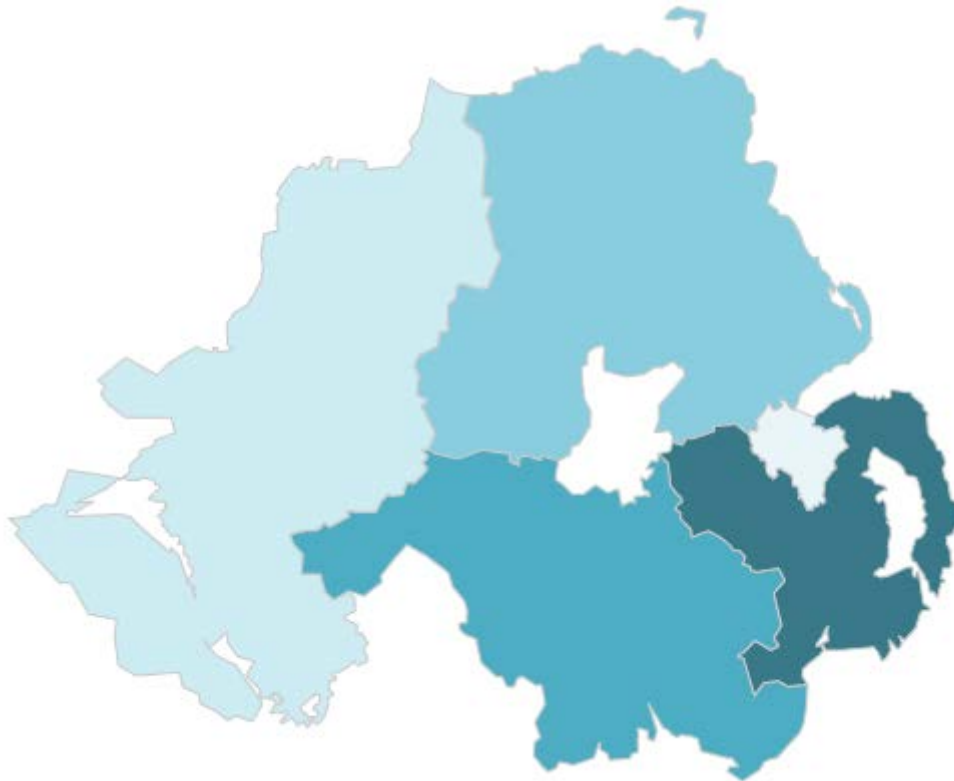
Average of 4,000 (range 700 to 9,500) 2017 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 1,500

Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCT)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS (HSCT)



Description:

5 Health and Social Care Trusts provide integrated health and social care services across Northern Ireland: Belfast HSC Trust, South Eastern HSC Trust, Western HSC Trust, Southern HSC Trust and Northern HSC Trust.

Number:

5

Codes:

BHSCT, NHSCT, SEHSCT, SHSCT, WHSCT

Population size:

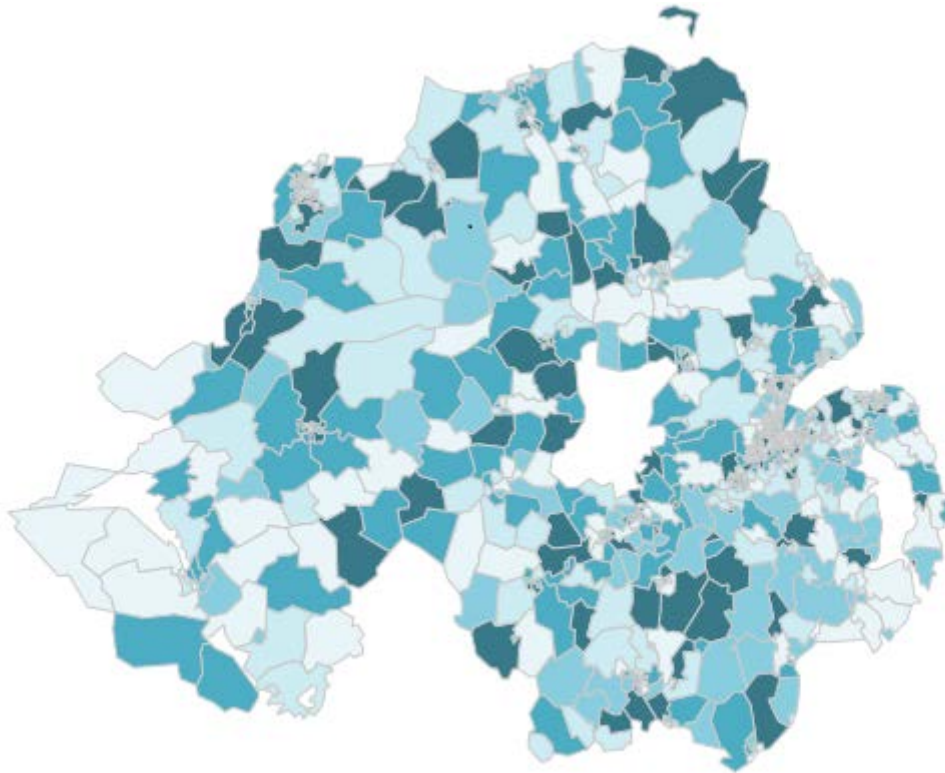
Average of 374,000 (range 300,000 to 475,000) 2017 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 145,000

Super Output Areas (SAO)

Super Output Areas (SOA)



Description:

Super Output Areas (SOAs) were a new geography in 2001, which were developed by NISRA to improve the reporting of small area statistics. Northern Ireland is divided into 890 Super Output Areas since 2001. SOAs areas are the main geography for the Deprivation Measures and were constructed at the smallest practicable spatial scale with similar sized populations. As part of the creation of the 2011 Small Areas, a very small number of realignments of underlying statistical geography boundaries were required affecting six of the 890 Super Output Areas. For further information a paper is available – <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/geography/northern-ireland-super-output-areas>

Number:

890

Codes:

95AA01S1 (Aldergrove_1)...95ZZ16S2 (West_2 (in Derry City and Strabane))

Population size:

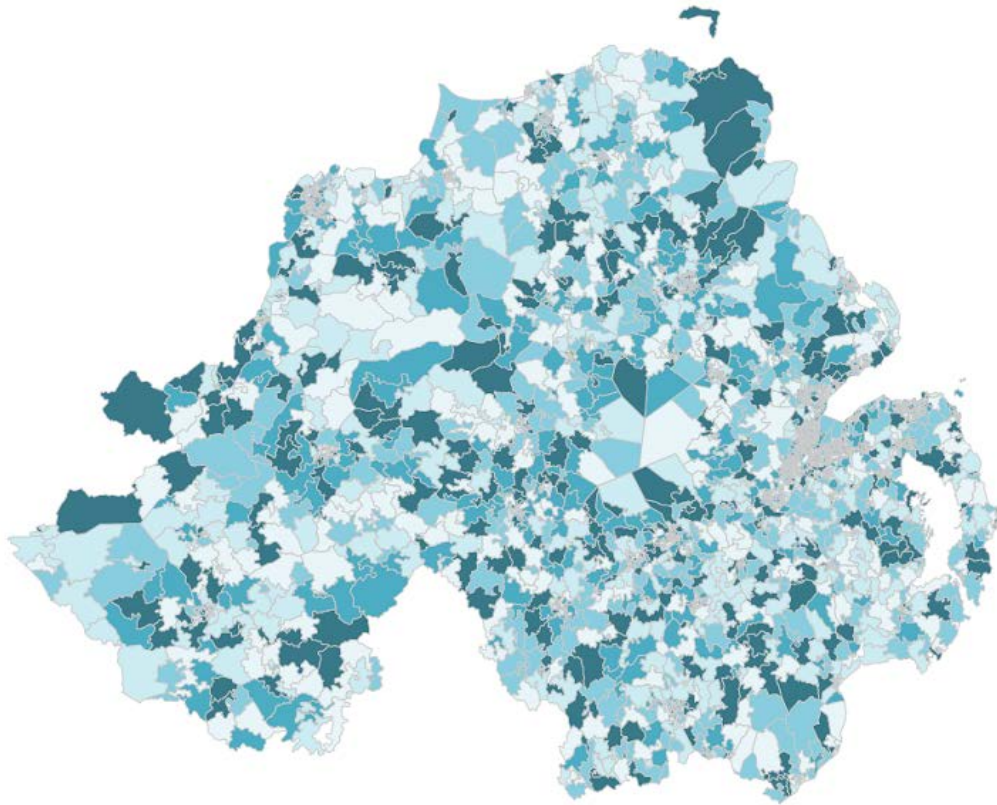
Average of 2,100 (range 300 to 6,000) 2017 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 818

Small Areas (SA)

SMALL AREAS (SA)



Description:

Small Areas (SAs) were introduced in Northern Ireland after the 2011 Census. Small Areas were built from clusters of adjacent postcodes. Output Areas themselves nest within the 582 Electoral Wards in Northern Ireland and were designed to have similar population sizes, number of households, they are also as socially similar as possible. Small Areas in Northern Ireland are based on postcodes as of January 2011.

Number:

4,537

Codes:

N00000001 (Aldergrove Ward) ... N00004537 (West Ward)

Population size:

Average of 412 (range 79 to 4,000) MYE 2017

Average Number of Households:

Average of 160

Further information on where you can access and download a range of maps and digital products that support the use of geography in developing statistics:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/geography>.



Some boundary files are made available as open formats at the OpenDataNI portal:

<https://www.opendatani.gov.uk/dataset?q=boundary>.



The Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS – www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis) website holds other geography based information. Image files of maps for a range of geographies including Health and Social Care Trusts, Local Government Districts, Assembly Areas, Electoral Wards, Super Output Areas, Small Areas and can be downloaded from the maps section of the website:

(<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/StaticMapsAddress.aspx>).

Location information, such as hospitals, schools, and bus stops can be downloaded from the People and Places section:

(<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=10&themeName=People%20and%20Places>).

28 March 2019.