

Assembly Areas and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies in Northern Ireland

Introduction

1. Northern Ireland Assembly elections take place on 5th May 2011. Assembly Areas (AAs) for this election will, from this point in time, be re-aligned with Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (WPCs) which will have an effect on the creation of official statistics in Northern Ireland. This guidance note explains the background to and the detail of the new boundaries.

Background

2. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland is one of four advisory non-departmental public bodies in the United Kingdom required by the Parliamentary Constituencies 1986 Act, as amended, to keep Parliamentary constituencies under continuous review and periodically (every 8 to 12 years) to conduct a General Review of the number, boundaries and names of all Parliamentary Constituencies, and make recommendations (see <http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/>).
3. The commission's "Fifth Periodical Report on Parliamentary Constituencies" which outlined recommended changes to and the composition of constituencies was presented to Parliament in March 2008. These constituency boundaries were subsequently used for the first time during the 2010 General Election and based on their date of Parliamentary approval are referred to as WPC2008.
4. The NI Assembly elections of May 2011 (AA2011) will be contested using Assembly Areas whose boundaries are the same as these WPC2008 Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.

Explanation of the boundary changes

5. In practice the AA2011/WPC2008 boundaries are not very different to their predecessors (which were the 1992 Parliamentary Constituencies).
6. As before there are 18 constituencies, all retaining the same name. In the main, the boundary amendment process has simply involved the re-assigning of existing Electoral Wards (created in 1992) from one constituency into a neighbouring constituency.

7. For example, the following five wards within Castlereagh LGD: Ballyhanwood, Carrowreagh, Dundonald, Enler and Graham's Bridge have been moved across a boundary into Belfast East Borough Constituency from Strangford County Constituency.
8. The only exception to this type of re-assignment concerns Derryaghy ward within Lisburn City LGD which previously resided entirely within Lagan Valley County Constituency. For current boundary purposes it has been divided along the Derryaghy townland boundary to be represented as Derryaghy (North) and Derryaghy (South), the former now included in Belfast West Borough Constituency, the latter remaining where it was. Full lists of boundary changes are detailed in Annex A.
9. A map illustrating the changes between the 1992 Parliamentary Constituencies and the AA2011/WPC2008 boundaries is given in Annex B.
10. With a view to ensuring consistent future use of the new boundaries, the following points are noted:
 - NISRA Geography, in consultation with ONS, have created a definitive set of codes for the Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (see Annex C), comprising part of a UK-wide coding. As such, the new Assembly Areas (AA2011) which are defined exactly by these boundaries will not have a coding of their own;
 - a detailed look-up table for both the 1992 and 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies is included in each Central Postcode Directory (CPD) produced;
 - The WPC2008 boundaries are disseminated by Land and Property Services (LPS) as part of the Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement (NIMA) products, and hence these boundaries can be used for AA2011 purposes.

Creating aggregated data at AA/WPC level

11. It is advisable to use the lowest available spatial reference to create data at WPC level. This section outlines the relationship between AA2011/WPC2008 boundaries and lower-level geographies:
 - **Property level → WPC2008/AA2011**
Property level data may be allocated within WPC2008 boundaries by using the POINTER database or the POINTER spatial reference directory. For further assistance contact Jamie Mill (Jamie.mill@dfpni.gov.uk).
See: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/PSRD.htm>

- **Unit Postcode → WPC2008/AA2011**

Unit postcode level data may be allocated within WPC2008 boundaries by way of the Central Postcode Directory (CPD). The current CPD was released in November 2010 and a new version of the CPD will be issued in May 2011.

See: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/postcode.htm>

- **Census Output Area (COA2001) → WPC2008/AA2011**

Output Area data may be assigned, based on a best-fit methodology, by way of the following table (also available in the COA2001 table within the CPD at the link given above):

[Census Output Area to WPC2008/AA2011.xls](#)

- **Ward1992 → WPC2008/AA2011**

Ward data may be assigned exactly (for 581 out of the 582 wards) by way of the following table (also available in the WARD1992 table within the CPD):

[Ward to WPC2008/AA2011.xls](#)

The remaining ward, Derryagh (95SS07), is split between 'N06000004 - BELFAST WEST' and 'N06000009 - LAGAN VALLEY'. The proportion is approximately 50% in each area.

WARD1992	WARD1992NAME	WPC2008	WPC2088_label	Split
95SS07	DERRYAGHY	N06000004	BELFAST WEST	50%
95SS07	DERRYAGHY	N06000009	LAGAN VALLEY	50%

- **Local Government District (LGD1992) → WPC2008/AA2011**

Only one WPC2008 (West Tyrone) is made up exactly from the amalgamation of whole LGDs (Omagh 95YY and Strabane 95ZZ). There is no simple look-up between LGD1992 and WPC2008/AA2011.

- **Parliamentary Constituency 1992 (PARL1992/AA1998) → WPC2008/AA2011**

Six of the WPC1992 (AA1998) constituencies remain unchanged as a result of the boundary amendments, as listed below:

Name	WPC2008/AA2011	PARL1992/AA1998
FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE	N06000007	9507
MID ULSTER	N06000010	9510
NEWRY AND ARMAGH	N06000011	9511
NORTH DOWN	N06000013	9513
UPPER BANN	N06000017	9517
WEST TYRONE	N06000018	9518

The remaining twelve vary in the amount of change ranging from a 21% increase to a 13% decrease in population size. The following table shows the differences, using the 2008 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) to adjust the constituencies' population estimates for the areas added/removed (See Annex A).

Name	WPC2008/AA2011	PARL1992/AA1998	% Difference
BELFAST NORTH	101,078	83,493	21%
BELFAST EAST	89,471	79,173	13%
BELFAST SOUTH	102,912	91,500	12%
BELFAST WEST	91,699	84,243	9%
EAST LONDONDERRY	97,890	91,123	7%
EAST ANTRIM	88,424	87,239	1%
FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE	101,421	101,421	0%
MID ULSTER	95,719	95,719	0%
NEWRY AND ARMAGH	110,033	110,033	0%
NORTH DOWN	89,123	89,123	0%
UPPER BANN	115,137	115,137	0%
WEST TYRONE	91,729	91,729	0%
NORTH ANTRIM	105,659	109,720	-4%
FOYLE	102,330	109,097	-6%
SOUTH DOWN	107,630	116,172	-7%
SOUTH ANTRIM	97,986	107,398	-9%
LAGAN VALLEY	97,301	110,054	-12%
STRANGFORD	89,461	102,629	-13%

Further details can be obtained from the following **NISRA Geography Section** contact:

- Jamie Mill, x67154, Jamie.Mill@dfpni.gov.uk.

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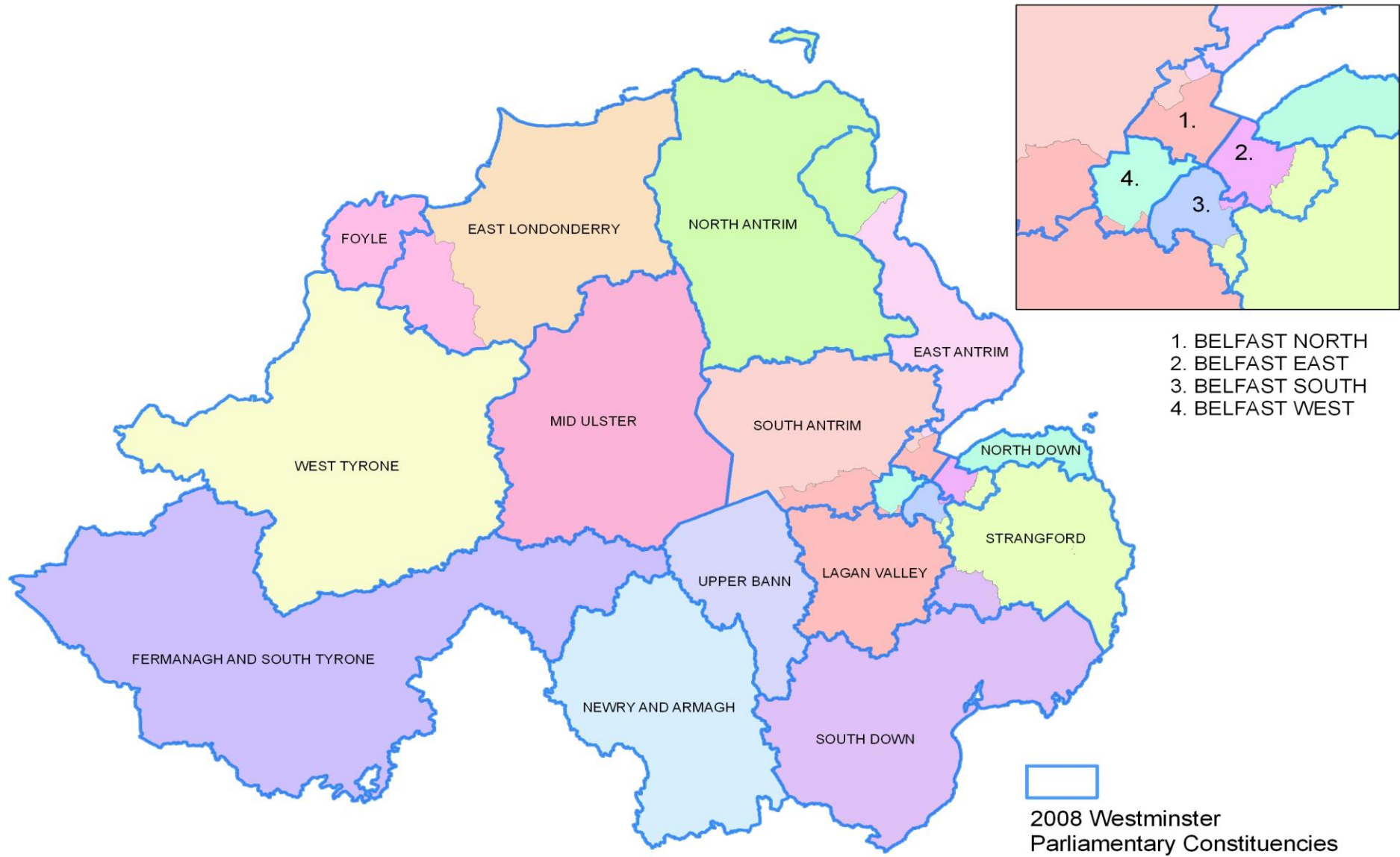
Annex A: Composition of the 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (equivalent to the 2011 Assembly Areas) in Northern Ireland

The table below explains the composition of the 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies. The constituencies contain the same Electoral Wards as before except where highlighted in the following table of information. Lists of wards that have moved to a new constituency are given, alongside the name of their Local Government District (District Council Area) and the name of the constituency in which they previously resided.

2008 Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Electoral Ward Amendments (from 1992 Parliamentary Constituencies)	
	Added	Removed
Belfast East	Castlereagh LGD (from-Strangford) BALLYHANWOOD CARROWREAGH DUNDONALD ENLER GRAHAM'S BRIDGE	Castlereagh LGD (to-Belfast South) HILLFOOT WYNCHURCH
Belfast North	Newtownabbey LGD (from-South Antrim) BALLYHENRY COLLINBRIDGE GLEBE GLENGORMLEY HIGHTOWN Newtownabbey LGD (from-East Antrim) CLOUGHFERN	
Belfast South	Castlereagh LGD (from-Strangford) CARRYDUFF EAST CARRYDUFF WEST Castlereagh LGD (from-Belfast East) HILLFOOT WYNCHURCH	
Belfast West	Lisburn LGD (from-Lagan Valley) DERRYAGHY (North) DUNMURRY	
East Antrim	Moyle LGD (from-North Antrim) GLENAAN GLENARIFF GLENDUN	Newtownabbey LGD (to-Belfast North) CLOUGHFERN
East Londonderry	Derry City LGD (from-Foyle) BANAGHER CLAUDY	
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	NO CHANGE	
Foyle		Derry City LGD (to-East Londonderry) BANAGHER CLAUDY

2008 Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Electoral Ward Amendments (from 1992 Parliamentary Constituencies)	
	Added	Removed
Lagan Valley		Lisburn LGD (to-Belfast West) DERRYAGHY (North) DUNMURRY Lisburn LGD (to-South Antrim) GLENAVY
Mid Ulster	NO CHANGE	
Newry and Armagh	NO CHANGE	
North Antrim		Moyle LGD (to-East Antrim) GLENAAN GLENARIFF GLENDUN
North Down	NO CHANGE	
South Antrim	Lisburn LGD (from-Lagan Valley) GLENAVY	Newtownabbey LGD (to-Belfast North) BALLYHENRY COLLINBRIDGE GLEBE GLENGORMLEY HIGHTOWN
South Down		Down LGD (to-Strangford) BALLYMAGLAVE BALLYNAHINCH EAST KILMORE
Strangford	Down LGD (from-South Down) BALLYMAGLAVE BALLYNAHINCH EAST KILMORE	Castlereagh LGD (to-Belfast East) BALLYHANWOOD CARROWREAGH DUNDONALD ENLER GRAHAM'S BRIDGE Castlereagh LGD (to-Belfast South) CARRYDUFF EAST CARRYDUFF WEST
Upper Bann	NO CHANGE	
West Tyrone	NO CHANGE	

Annex B: 2008 Parliamentary Constituency and 1992 Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries



Annex C – 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Codes

N06000001	BELFAST EAST
N06000002	BELFAST NORTH
N06000003	BELFAST SOUTH
N06000004	BELFAST WEST
N06000005	EAST ANTRIM
N06000006	EAST LONDONDERRY
N06000007	FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE
N06000008	FOYLE
N06000009	LAGAN VALLEY
N06000010	MID ULSTER
N06000011	NEWRY AND ARMAGH
N06000012	NORTH ANTRIM
N06000013	NORTH DOWN
N06000014	SOUTH ANTRIM
N06000015	SOUTH DOWN
N06000016	STRANGFORD
N06000017	UPPER BANN
N06000018	WEST TYRONE