

Postcode to Parliamentary Constituency Specification

This product consists of 6 comma separated text files with a header record described as follows.

Main Files

Files **PCL-PRL-UK-CSV_1.csv** and **PCL-PRL-UK-CSV_2.csv** together represent all current live Postcodes in the UK with their associated Parliamentary information. Each file contains half of the national file - approximately 870,000 Postcode records – which allows each half to be opened in Excel versions 2007 and later if required.

PCL-PRL-UK-CSV_1.csv contains all records for Postcode Areas up to and including LN.

PCL-PRL-UK-CSV_2.csv contains all records for Postcode Areas From LS onwards.

For database applications, both files can be loaded into your choice of database (e.g. Microsoft Access) and appended to create a single national data table of Postcodes.

File **PCL-PRL-UK-CSV_Retired.csv** contains Postcodes which have now been retired from the Postal system and therefore are no longer in circulation. This file is supplied free of charge to provide a comprehensive 'history' of Postcodes and the current Political structure. It is recommended to use this data file in conjunction with the 'live' files above to achieve the maximum match rates for accurate analysis.

Table Structure

Field	Description
Postcode	The Full Postcode (eg UB7 0EB)
Postcode Sector	The Postcode Sector (eg UB7 0)
Postcode District	The Postcode District (eg UB7)
Postcode Area	The Postcode Area (eg UB)
Westminster Constituency Code	UK Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Code
Westminster Constituency Name	UK Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Name
MP	The name of the Westminster Member of Parliament currently holding the seat.
MP Party	The political party currently holding the seat
Scottish Constituency	Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Constituency (Scotland Only)
MSP Name	Member of Scottish Parliament Name (Scotland Only)
MSP Party	Member of Scottish Parliament political party (Scotland Only)
Scottish Parliament Region	Associated Scottish Parliamentary Region name (Scotland Only)
Welsh Assembly	Welsh Assembly Constituency (Wales Only)
AM Name	Assembly Member Name (Wales Only)
AM Party	Assembly Member Party (Wales Only)
Welsh Assembly Region	Associated Welsh Assembly Region name (Wales Only)

Supplementary Files

Northern Ireland MLAs.csv contains the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) names and parties for Northern Ireland. The constituencies for Northern Ireland are the same as the Westminster Constituencies

The role of the MLAs is primarily to scrutinize and make decisions on the issues dealt with by Government Departments and to consider and make legislation. There are multiple MLA's for each constituency and the file **Northern Ireland MLAs.csv** contains a record for each MLA with the associated Party and Constituency name.

This file may be linked to the main PCL-PRL-UK-CSV files described above by joining on the 'Westminster Constituency Name' field.

More information on the Northern Ireland Assembly can be found at:

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/about-the-assembly/general-information/history-of-the-assembly/>

Scottish Parliamentary Regions.csv contains the list of Scottish Regions and the elected Regional MSPs for each.

Each region is a group of constituencies, and the D'Hondt method of allocating additional member seats from party lists is used to produce a form of proportional representation for each region.

This file may be linked to the main PCL-PRL-UK-CSV files described above by joining on the 'Scottish Parliamentary Region' field.

More information on the Scottish Parliament can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/visitandlearn/how-the-parliament-works.aspx>

Welsh Assembly Regions.csv contains the list of Welsh Assembly regions and their respective Regional Assembly Members and parties.

Assembly constituencies are grouped into electoral regions, and an additional member system is used to elect four additional Assembly Members (AMs) from each region, in addition to the AMs elected by the constituencies.

At each general election of the Assembly, each elector has two votes, one constituency vote and one regional vote. Each constituency elects one AM by the first past the post system and the additional Assembly seats are filled from regional closed party lists under the d'Hondt method.

This file may be linked to the main PCL-PRL-UK-CSV files described above by joining on the 'Welsh Assembly Region' field.

More information on Welsh Assemblies can be found at:

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/abthome/Pages/abthome.aspx>

The Postcode

Formerly a Postcode could contain between 1 and over 300 addresses. This is now restricted to a maximum of 100 although the average number of addresses per Postcode is 15.

There can be only one Locality per Postcode, i.e. all addresses in a Postcode have the same Locality.

Formerly a Postcode could cover addresses on up to 12 Thoroughfares. This is now restricted to 1 although some historic Postcodes may contain more.

Parliamentary Constituency Code and Name

Westminster parliamentary constituencies are the areas used to elect Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons, which is the primary legislative chamber of the UK and is located in Westminster, London.

At the May 2015 election there were 650 constituencies. The number of MPs in each part of the UK is as follows:

Country	Number of constituencies/MPs
England	533
Scotland	59
Wales	40
Northern Ireland	18
United Kingdom	650

The Parliamentary Constituency code and name are matched to the Ward codes to provide the Constituency name for each Postcode in the United Kingdom.

Scottish Constituencies & Welsh Assemblies

In addition to the UK Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Codes and Names, these fields provide the names of the Scottish Parliamentary Constituency for Scottish Postcodes and the National Assembly for Wales Constituency name for Welsh Postcodes.

This field is created by point-in-polygon analysis of the Postcode against the Ordnance Survey Boundary-Line product. As this process relies on the Postcode having an accurate grid reference there are Postcode records in Scotland and Wales for which an Alternative Constituency field value can be determined and will therefore be null.

MP Names & Parties

The MP Names and respective Party details for each Westminster Parliamentary Constituency, Scottish Parliamentary Constituency and Welsh Assembly are sourced from the respective government offices at the time of each data update and are correct at the time of release.