

Factsheet 4

The Rural Network for Northern Ireland

October 2009



Sharing & Exchanging Information

Sharing and exchanging information is key to the work of the Rural Network for Northern Ireland. We will share and exchange information in a number of ways.

These include:-

- A dedicated website www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk
- Newsletters, publications and fact sheets
- Events, meetings and visits

This Factsheet provides information on the classification of settlements as defined by the Inter-Departmental Rural-Urban Definition Group in February 2005.

Please Note: The information contained within this Factsheet is for information only.

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Classification of settlements

In February 2005, an Interdepartmental Urban-Rural Definition Group made recommendations on definitions of the terms 'urban' and 'rural'. The factsheet highlights the different classification bands.

What is the classification of settlements?

The Urban-Rural Definition Group considered population size according to the 2001 census data. The table below details the final statistical classification of settlements:

| LABEL | NAME | SETTLEMENT POPULATION SIZE (2001 CENSUS) |
|---------------|---|--|
| Band A | Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) | C580,000 |
| Band B | Derry Urban Area (DUA) | C90,000 |
| Band C | Large Town | 18,000 or more and under 75,000 (outside BMUA and DUA) |
| Band D | Medium Town | 10,000 or more and under 18,000 (outside BMUA and DUA) |
| Band E | Small Town | 4,500 or more and under 10,000 (outside BMUA and DUA) |
| Band F | Intermediate Settlement | 2,250 or more and under 4,500 (outside BMUA and DUA) |
| Band G | Village | 1,000 or more and under 2,250 (outside BMUA and DUA) |
| Band H | Small village, hamlet and open countryside | Settlements of less than 1,000 people and open countryside (outside BMUA and DUA) |

How is 'rural' defined?

The Interdepartmental Group agreed a default definition where Bands F-H in the above table are 'rural' with Bands A-E classified as urban. The Rural Network has previously distributed lists/maps detailing the settlements that fall into each band. It is acknowledged that some villages fall outside of these bands but the information portrayed is the current situation as taken from the 2001 census.