

Postcode to Parliamentary Constituency Data Notes

Data Files

This product consists of 3 comma separated text files with a header record.

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 data. 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. 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)
Parliamentary Constituency Code	UK Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Code
Parliamentary Constituency	UK Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Name
Alternative Constituency	Welsh Assembly Constituency (Wales Only) or Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Constituency (Scotland Only)
Country	Country the Postcode is located in.
MP Name	The name of the Westminster Member of Parliament currently holding the seat.
Party	The political party currently holding the seat

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 2010 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.

Alternative Constituencies

In addition to the UK Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Codes and Names, this field provides the names of the Scottish Parliamentary Constituency for Scottish Postcodes and the National Assembly for Wales Constituency 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 Name & Party

The MP Name and Party details for each Westminster Parliamentary Constituency are sourced from the House of Commons Information Office at the time of each data update and are correct at the time of release.