

Neighbourhood Renewal Area Profiles 2026 – Background

Quality Report (BQR)

Background

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area Profiles 2026 bring together a range of official statistics for each of the 36 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in Northern Ireland. The profiles provide information on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of these areas. They include indicators covering topics such as population, health, education, employment, income, housing, crime and access to services. The profiles are a secondary statistical product. This means they draw together data produced by several organisations and statistical systems. The Department for Communities does not collect all the underlying source data directly. The aim is to provide a consistent, accessible evidence base for local area analysis. The profiles support policy development, programme delivery, service planning and wider understanding of Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

Source type	What it contributes	Quality implications
Census and population statistics	Population structure and local area denominators.	Generally robust for small areas, but some figures may become less current between census points.
Administrative data	Indicators such as benefits, housing, education, health, crime or service access, where available.	Quality depends on each administrative system, its coverage, definitions and processing rules.
Published official statistics	Topic-specific measures already quality assured by the source producer.	Users should note the reference period and definitions used by each source.
Geographic lookups and boundary files	Assignment of data to Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.	Some source geographies may not align exactly with Neighbourhood Renewal Area boundaries. Best-fit methods have been used.

Data Quality

Relevance:

The profiles are intended to meet the needs of users who require a high-level statistical picture of Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. Main users are likely to include policy officials, programme teams, local government, community and voluntary sector organisations, researchers and members of the public. The content is broad by design. It gives users a single-entry point to several topics rather than a detailed analytical report on each topic. The profiles are most suitable for describing local area context and identifying patterns that may need further analysis. They should not be treated as a full evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal policy or delivery.

Accuracy and reliability:

Accuracy depends on the quality of the underlying source datasets and the methods used to bring those datasets together for Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The source datasets have different coverage, definitions, collection methods and reference periods. These differences should be considered when interpreting the profiles. Where source data are based on administrative systems, figures may be affected by policy rules, operational processes, recording practice or changes in eligibility. These figures should be interpreted as measures from administrative systems rather than direct measures of need.

Where source data are based on census or population estimates, figures are generally more stable for small areas, but may become less current as time passes after the reference date.

Timeliness and punctuality:

The area profiles use the latest suitable data available at the time the publication is compiled. Because the profiles draw on several sources, not all indicators will have the same reference period. The publication makes this clear to users.

Accessibility and Clarity:

The area profiles are published in HTML format on the Department for Communities website on the pre-announced publication date. Within the profiles, several charts have been provided with titles, axis names and footnotes added to help clarify certain information where applicable. Additionally,

the area profile reports include summary background information, definitions and methodological explanations. The contact details of the responsible statisticians have also been included in each profile report.

Coherence and Comparability:

Indicators may differ in definition, source geography, reference period and method. These differences mean that users should take care when comparing indicators within an area profile. Comparability over time depends on whether the same source, definition, geography and method have been used in previous profile outputs. Neighbourhood Renewal Areas do not align exactly with official statistical geographies used by source producers, best-fit methods are used with the method described in-detail.

Further Information:

For further information relating to the quality of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area Profiles 2026 please contact: ad-nr@communities-ni.gov.uk