

# Geography – Background Information

## Comparison of thresholds

### Census geography comparison with England & Wales

This table provides information about the England and Wales equivalent geography to Scotlands Census Output Area, Datazone and Intermediate Geographies.

More information about these geographies can be found on the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) website.

The Scottish Government (SG) have responsibility for Datazone and Intermediate geography and more information can be found on the [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics \(SNS\)](#) website.

Output Areas (OA) are based on both population and households but Data Zone (DZ) and Intermediate Zone (IZ) are based on population only, whereas in England and Wales OA, Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) are based on both population and household.

Geography	Population		Household		Count of geography	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	2001	2011
<b>Scotland</b>						
Output Area (OA)	50	n/a	20	*	42,604	46,351
Datazone (DZ)	500	1,000	n/a	n/a	6,505	6,976
Intermediate Zone (IZ)	2,500	6,000	n/a	n/a	1,235	1,279
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>						
Output Area (OA)	100		40		175,434	181,408
Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA)	1,000	3,000	400	1,200	34,378	34,753
Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)	5,000	15,000	2,000	6,000	7,194	7,201

\* Where an OA exceeded the recommended maximum threshold (approx. 78 households), they were split where possible into two or more OAs.