



Lerwick & Bressay



Lerwick and Bressay sit either side of the Bressay Sound, creating a natural harbour in Lerwick which is busy year round with fishing vessels, ferries and more recently, increasing numbers of cruise ships.

Lerwick, Shetland's Capital town, is home to over a quarter of Shetland's population. A base for many businesses and services, it is also the main transport hub for buses and for the ferry to mainland Scotland. Lerwick is a vibrant community with many facilities including a hospital; health centre; leisure centre; community centre; the UK's most northerly music, cinema and creative industries centre; museum; supermarkets, shops, restaurants and services. Each year, various festivals with events throughout Shetland, attracts masses of visitors to Lerwick. Lerwick is home to a high school, two primary schools and UHI Shetland's Lerwick Campus.

The island of Bressay lies east of the sound, separated from Lerwick by a 5 minute ferry journey. Bressay has several community facilities, including a community hall, football pitch, and heritage centre. Bressay Development Limited's Speldiburn premise houses a Community Office, Café, Good As New shop, studio space and an NHS approved facility. Bressay hosts the UK's most Northerly ParkRun event, weekly, welcoming visitors from all over the world.

7% decrease in population over 10 years, the Shetland population overall has declined by 1%



6,848 people live in Lerwick & Bressay, 30% of Shetland's population



15.1% of children are living in poverty, higher than the Shetland average of 11.6%



22.8% of the population are aged 65 and over, higher than the Shetland average of 21.8% and 5% more than 10 years ago



The cost of living is up to 13% lower than the Shetland average and up to 26% higher than the UK average



2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

15.1% of the population are under 16 years old, lower than the Shetland average of 17.9% and 2.1% less than a decade ago





2 sites considered the best for Wildlife in Europe (international designations)

15% of the population report growing and eating their own produce, the Shetland average is 30%



2 Local Nature Conservation Sites



12% of the population claim out of work benefits, the Shetland average is 8.8%



The school roll is 1,597



53% of the population report being physically active on 5+ days per week, the Shetland average is 58%



96.9% of 16-19 year olds are in education, training or employment, the Shetland average is 97.4%

Median income is 3.1% lower than the Shetland average and 0.4% less than the Scottish average



18% of the population report feeling lonely, the Shetland average is 17%



17.9% of the population report drinking alcohol at a harmful or hazardous level, the Shetland average is 17.7%



The average house price is £196,493, the Shetland average is £178,000



Locality Profiles are intended to be useful for both communities and partners to provide detailed information at a local level, for purposes including service redesign, local plans and maximising opportunities to seek external funding to support community development. Profiles have been created for each of the 7 localities in Shetland. Statistics should be treated with caution due to small numbers, and figures can fluctuate significantly. A profile for Bressay will also be made available soon.

Data Sources: CACI Paycheck 2022; Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Minimum Income Standard 2016; Improvement Service 2023; National Records Scotland (NRS) Population estimates 2021; NHS Shetland Population Health Survey 2021; Scottish Government: House Prices - Residential Properties Sales and Price 2022; Shetland Islands Council Local Development Plan 2014 Appendix III Environmental Baseline; Shetland Islands Council 2023; Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure 2023. Definitions, full details and links can be found on the Shetland Partnership website.