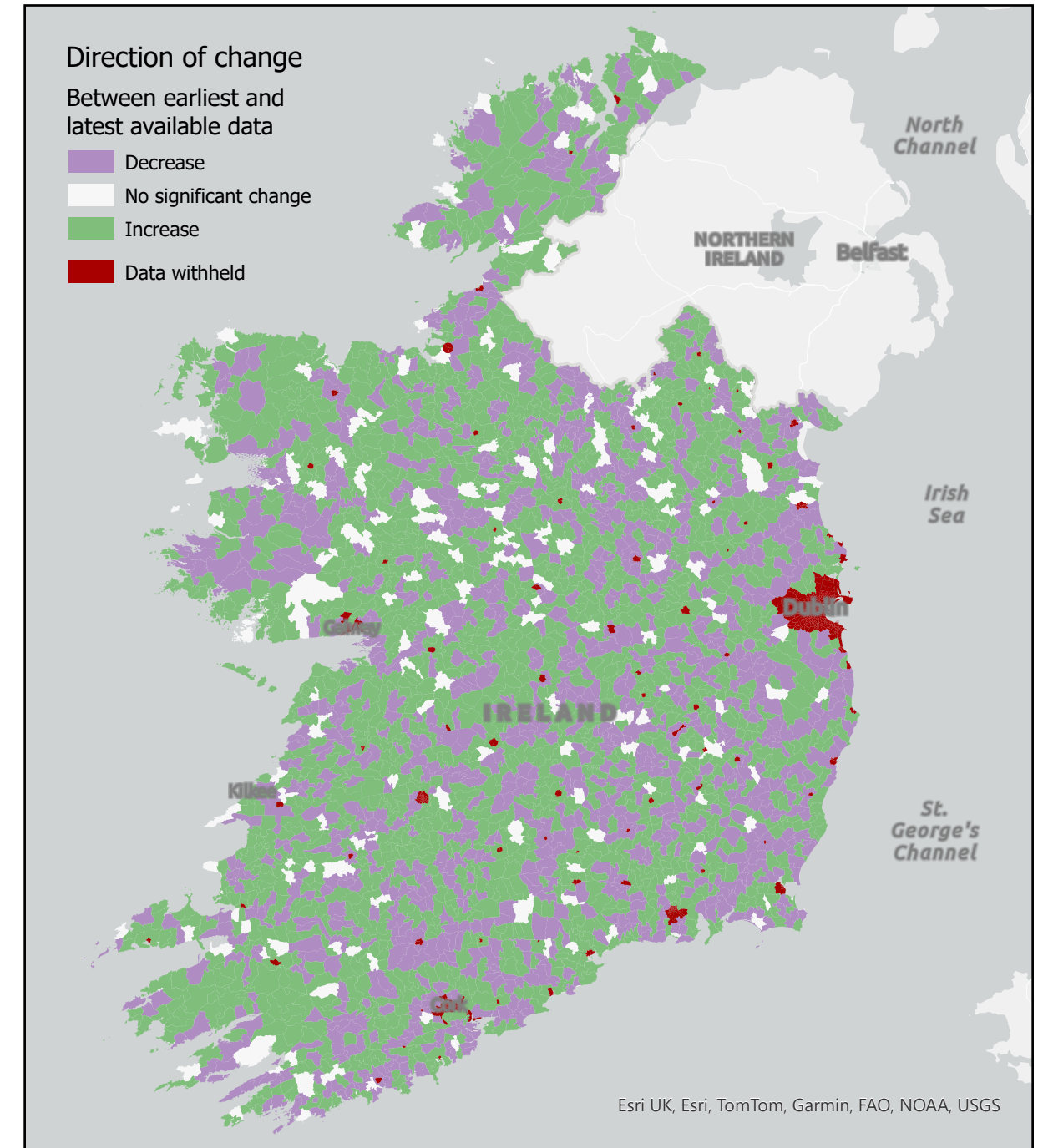
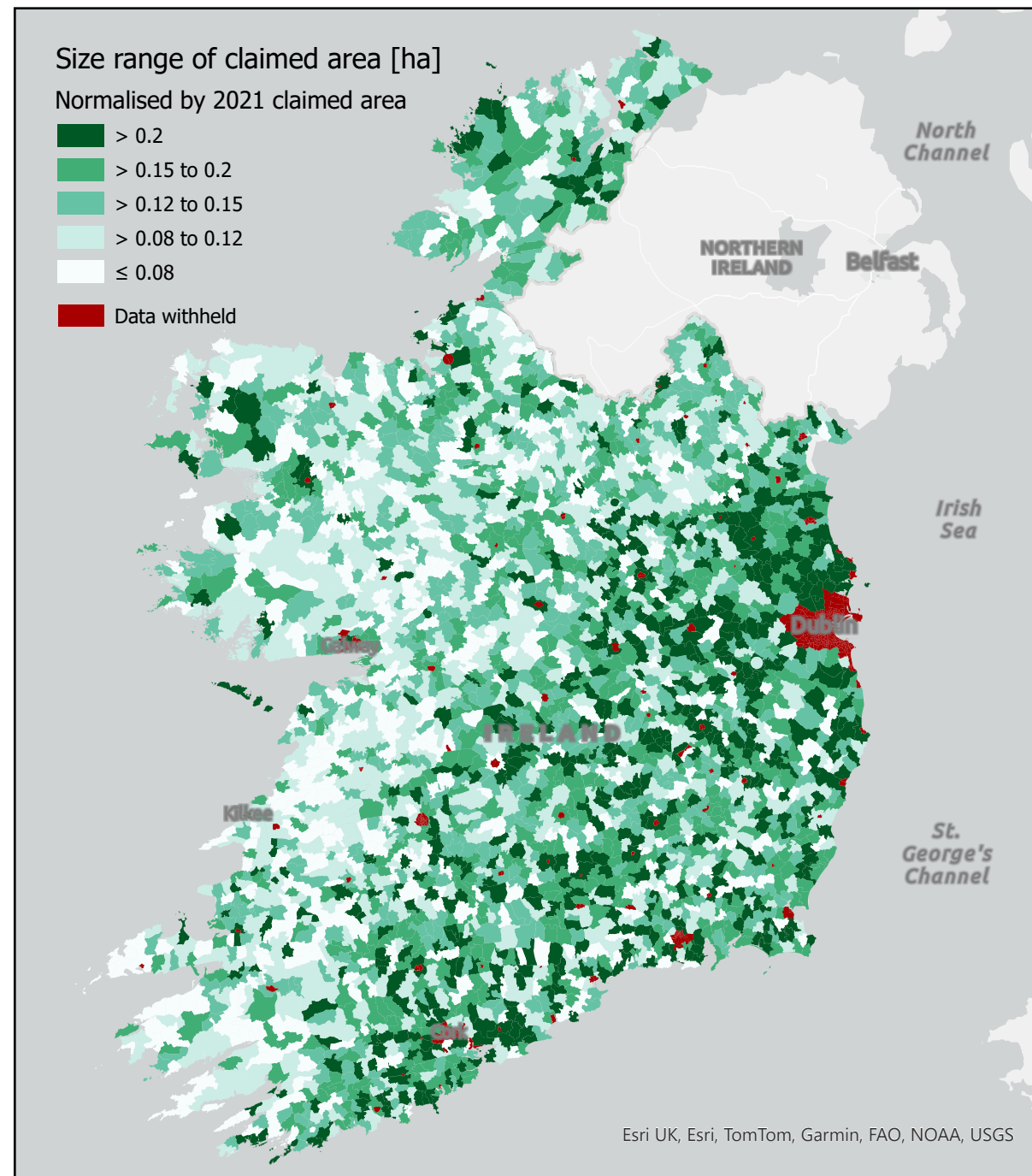


# Changes in claimed farming area between 2017 and 2021



Farming systems are inherently dynamic, with farmers constantly adapting to internal and external drivers, both long and short term. One manifestation of this dynamic is change in farmed area. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine recently released a public version of the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), a database containing the outlines and cropping information for all fields for which subsidies are claimed.

In these maps we are showing changes in the total area claimed by farmers, averaged by EDs in the years 2017 and 2021. EDs with less than five farms reported where obscured for privacy reasons. The map on the left shows the total range of claimed area in the timeframe (i.e. the difference between the largest and the smallest claimed area). This value gives an indication of the overall dynamics of the farms in an ED. To account for differences in farm size, the area was normalised by size in 2021. The map shows three distinct areas. (1) A North East to South band presents the largest range of sizes between years, representing an area linked to larger farms with more intensive agriculture. (2) A Mid North to South West band generally shows small changes in claimed land, these areas are dominated by less intensive beef farming. (3) The North West shows both large and small changes. Generally these areas are least intense, however, while commonage areas were removed for the analysis, the area is dominated by large open pastures, so single changes in area claimed can have large impacts on the average change in the ED. The right map shows the direction of change (with any change over 0.1 ha being considered significant). Generally, the distribution of increase and decrease is evenly distributed across Ireland.

The reason for changes are diverse, but include changes in landownership and rentals, changes in exclusion criteria, temporarily changes in use to non-agricultural, and permanent removal of land from agriculture (e.g. to forestry or built area).

Projection: Irish Transverse Mercator