



4 February 2019

Original: English

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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2019 session**

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on  
the progress made in the standardization of geographical names****Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland****Summary\*\***

There is no national names authority in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, although both Scotland and Wales have place-name authorities. In practice, the geographical names as portrayed on printed and digital products of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain are recognized as being authoritative. Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland, administered within Land and Property Services, performs a similar function in Northern Ireland. The full report provides an outline of the function of Ordnance Survey as the national mapping agency and its role regarding toponymy, indicating developments since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It contains information on names policy, database management and geographical names products.

The report also describes the status of the Government's country register and territory register, which are maintained by its Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its Government Digital Service.

Geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom are the responsibility of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, whose objectives are described in the report. The Permanent Committee gathers information on names standardized by national authorities to inform the Government of appropriate names for use on its products. The Permanent Committee celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2019.

A new edition of the "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" was presented to the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The report contains updates made since the publication of the guidelines.

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\* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

\*\* The full report was prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. The report will be available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st\\_session\\_UNGEGN.html](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/12/CRP.12.

