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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**  
2023 session

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 4 (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\*\***

Though there is no single national names authority in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, there are thorough practices ensuring the accuracy and currency of geographical names. For Great Britain, the geographical names as portrayed on products of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain are recognized as being authoritative. Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland performs a similar function in Northern Ireland.

The full report outlines the function of Ordnance Survey as the national mapping agency and its role with regard to toponymy, noting developments since the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom are the responsibility of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. The Permanent Committee gathers information on names standardized by national authorities to inform the Government of appropriate names for use on its products.

The report also notes that the current edition of the “Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland” was updated with administrative changes as required so that it remains up-to-date.

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\* [GEGN.2/2023/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

\*\* The full report was prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/12/CRP.12, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd\\_session\\_2023/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

