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Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Seventh Conference

Report of the United Kingdom

Submitted by the United Kingdom**

Summary

The report of the United Kingdom states that the recent administrative restructuring of England, Wales and Scotland has now been completed. There is a tentative plan being discussed to reorganize England again and create eight regions outside Greater London, to be run by regional assemblies. However, there are many procedural steps to be taken and, if the plan is approved, there are unlikely to be any changes for at least five years.

The national mapping authority of Great Britain, the Ordnance Survey (OS), treats geographical names in the course of its map production. OS has recently been concentrating on digital products. A names policy review took place within OS during 1998/99, the conclusions of which recommended that the standardization of geographical names' spellings throughout all of its products be addressed. In particular, names policies have been published for the mapping of Welsh and Gaelic place names in Wales and Scotland respectively.

* E/CONF.94/1.

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