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Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland
Colby House
Stranmillis Court
Belfast, BT9 5BJ
Northern Ireland

16 February 2001

Dear colleague

Further to our letter of 15 December, we are now pleased to attach a technical consultation paper on the implementation of a new co-ordinate system for Ireland. This provides more detail than the initial information distributed in December, in particular setting out the technical parameters of the new system. The provision of a new co-ordinate system will provide significant benefits in terms of integrity and compatibility of mapping with positioning systems such as GPS; all data and existing products will, however, still be available in the existing Irish Grid, ensuring that current users can continue to operate as now.

As you will see from the attached paper, there are a number of areas in particular in which we would welcome input from the user community, to ensure that the changes are implemented with a clear view of user needs and preferences. To facilitate this, we are arranging a number of seminars in April, to discuss the new co-ordinate system and other aspects of positioning (such as the implementation of an active GPS network throughout Ireland). The seminars will be organised as follows:

Dublin	Tuesday 3 April
Cork	Tuesday 24 April
Galway	Wednesday 25 April
Strabane	Thursday 26 April
Belfast	Monday 30 April

Invitations to the seminars, including detailed arrangements, will be distributed in the next month or so, along with any further information and consultative material. We intend to announce the results of the consultation, and consequent decisions, at this year's Survey Ireland conference (to be held in Malahide on Tuesday 22 May).

We continue to welcome any views you have on the change of co-ordinate system.

Handwritten signature of Richard A. Kirwan.

Richard A. Kirwan
Director
Ordnance Survey Ireland

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Cory.

Michael J. Cory
Chief Executive
Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland