

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

NUTS boundaries are used for reporting of regional statistics to Eurostat and those statistics are used to inform regional policy. The Scottish Government is proposing to make minimal changes beyond aligning existing NUTS boundaries to Local Authority Boundaries.

Do you have any comments on the Scottish Governments proposals for NUTS 2 regions?

On behalf of the Arran Community Council we wish to submit a response to the NUTS 2 regional consultation which is considered will have significant implications to our location. We ask that you reject the proposal to move Arran and the Cumraes from the current grouping which includes all other Scottish islands and support the locations staying in their current grouping.

We have distributed your consultation information to island residents and the topic has also been covered in our local press and the overwhelming view of respondents is to preserve the status quo.

While this may be considered expeditious in local administration and reporting, it is anticipated that the structure of the locations would mean that most of the data collection will proceed with little change other than the reporting groups.

The current structures ensure that the islands needs and circumstances are widely understood and not, as could be the case, seen as unique within a mainland grouping. Our funding and resource priorities and needs are often different to many areas of the mainland and it is generally considered that moving our locations as proposed would significantly weaken our position.

In the past islands needs have been recognised clearly through the current structure (eg. Arran's road support, etc) and to include individual islands in a mainland predominant group may preclude potential funding opportunities in the future.

We see no benefit to our position by this proposal in either representation or support and therefore strongly register our request that you reject the proposal and recommend Arran and the Cumraes remain in the Highlands and Islands group.

Do you have any comments on the Scottish Governments proposals for NUTS 3 regions?

The proposed changes will have no obvious beneficial impact to the residents of the areas involved. It is also considered that it will also have no significant beneficial impact with regards the data collection and reporting. The potential benefits are not felt to justify the potential negative impact to the residents.

Eurostat have requested we consider merging the Highlands & Islands with North Eastern Scotland to create a new area that's closer to the recommended population thresholds. The Scottish Government plan to request that these areas should be allowed an exemption under Article 3 (5) of the NUTS Regulations, i.e. because of particular geographical, socio-economic, historical, cultural or environmental circumstances, especially in the islands and the outermost regions.

Please provide any evidence in favour of or against an exemption under Article 3 (5) of the NUTS Regulations for Highlands & Islands and North Eastern Scotland NUTS 2 areas?

Comments

Eurostat have suggested that the Scottish Governments proposals for NUTS 3 should include merging Moray with Argyll & Bute Local Authority to create an area that meets their recommended population ranges.

Please provide any evidence in favour of or against an exemption under Article 3 (5) of the NUTS Regulations for the proposed Moray and Argyll & Bute NUTS 3 areas?

Comments