

## 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?**

Comments: The suggestion to remove Cumbrae from Highlands and Islands is a shocking one! Cumbrae is a fragile island community, and currently receives support due to it's special island status. Like other islands in Scotland, the island faces a number of issues that are distinct and not shared by our mainland neighbours. To suggest that Cumbrae (and Arran) by adjoined to South West Scotland region is wrong, and could have huge implications for Cumbrae. Our island is a very self-sufficient, unique community of people who, for the most part, grew up loving their yearly jaunts to the island for peace, family fun, and/or rejuvenation. The fact that it is an island makes this possible. Once the ferries are off, that's it. Water separates the mainland from Cumbrae in more ways that physically. Historically, Cumbrae has been a one-off environment. You step off the ferry and find yourself magically transported to the 1960's. The safety of our island has encouraged many families to want to move here. Without vital funding made available only to the Highlands and Islands, the same level of services would not be feasible and, therefore, would DISCOURAGE families from moving onto the island. My husband and I did just that – moved to the island to raise our family. We are now business owners on the island and are adopting children. We are now a vital part of this community. If funding were to “reappropriated” and Cumbrae made just another part of South West Scotland, we might not be able to afford the inevitable increase in living costs or increased costs of running a business on the island. Our economy is a fragile one. Any hasty change made by those who do not live on the island, have never VISITED the island, or have never set foot in Scotland is rash, to say the least, and fool-hardy at best. Places like Cumbrae should be allowed to continue as they are, encouraged to provide “shelter and refuge” (another meaning of Cumbrae) to families/the elderly/disenfranchised, and invested in to see the economy GROW rather than plummet like its mainland neighbours.

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

Comments

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