

## 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 ISLE of Cumbrae and the ISLE of Arran should not be the only ISLANDS not included in the Highlands and ISLANDS boundaries. The very definition of ISLANDS includes the demographics and geographical make-up of the Isle of Cumbrae and the Isle of Arran. Trying to exclude these two islands from that boundary is nonsense. As a business, any preclusion of the Isle of Cumbrae means a direct hit on our customer base (should the ferry lose its subsidiary because the Isle of Cumbrae magically becomes NOT an island), direct hit to business funds available through the EEU for the Highlands and Islands, direct hit to our own pockets and ability to keep the shop open in this current economic climate. Bottom line – Cumbrae is an Island and should therefore be included in the Highlands and Islands.

### **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