

## ANNEX E - 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

It seems to our group that Cumbrae and Arran already sit in the most appropriate NUTS 2 level area, since they are (the last time I looked out the window anyway....) islands. There is no common ground with mainland Ayrshire in economic, cultural and ESPECIALLY geographic terms. Island living moulds the people and creates tight knit communities despite the challenges of remoteness. We believe that Cumbrae has its own microclimate, resulting in some unique examples of flora especially and we share a lot through formal and informal networking with the other islands of Scotland. We do not feel there is common ground with mainland Ayrshire and feel that our voice would not be heard if moved to SW Scotland NUTS 2 level area.

The other Scottish islands (all of them in H&I NUTS 2) understand us and share our problems (and solutions!). Leave Scottish islands with a united voice at this level in Europe.

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

Comments

NONE

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

NONE

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

NONE