

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?

the removal of the Isle of Cumbrae and Arran will severely effect the ability of all island organisations to obtain funding as they will then be competing with much larger areas for funding and in many cases in the past Highlands and islands were the only government department to offer any assistance. This is just an exercise to make things simple for administration purposes and in no way would be of any assistance to the Islanders .

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

It is our opinion that we should maintain the status quo for these regions

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?

Again we are not in favour of any change in the structure as we would lose all of our hard fought for exemptions and inclusion in Island status

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 are as above with the added observation that the whole exercise is simply to make administration easier for European officers who have no insight into the Island life