

## 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

**Our organisation exists to foster community development of the island of Cumbrae, and we know from our efforts how unique an island situation is. Any development comes at a premium – the cost of remoteness/ 1 mile of water. We do not feel that realigning NUTS 2 to mirror the local authority boundary in the case of Cumbrae and Arran is feasible and will be detrimental to the communities of both islands.**

**Why change what works and has worked well since the late 1990's? Keep things as they are for Cumbrae and Arran – they are ISLANDS – they don't fit with mainland Scotland, and are quite clearly geographically, economically and culturally distinct from mainland Ayrshire and therefore the South West Scotland NUTS 2 area.**

**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