

## 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

Cumbrae sits quite naturally alongside the other islands of Scotland and should continue to be part of the Highlands & Islands NUTS level 2 area NOT SW Scotland. The Millport Tourist Association has enjoyed a good working relationship with Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Argyll & Bute Council through the LEADER programme, and we feel that these organisations understand us very well – especially H&I which has classified the island of Cumbrae as a “fragile” area. Clearly they understand our economic situation – due to in no small part to our geography – and continue to support our initiatives to bring more visitors to the island. Our culture is shaped by our geography and no less “unique” or attractive than that of the more remote highland and island areas of Scotland.

The islands of Scotland are a major tourist attraction, and we see that Cumbrae and Arran for that matter need to be part of the island “network” which exists to the north. Any European Regional Policy needs to take account of ALL of Scotland’s islands – we feel that is best achieved by maintaining the status quo.

**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