

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?

It would be most inappropriate to move Arran and the Cumbraes from the Highlands & Islands NUTS 2 area into the South West Scotland NUTS 2 area, with consequent adjustment to NUTS 3 areas, due to the wholly different character and needs of the Islands as opposed to the mainland. Arran and the Cumbraes belong with the other western Scottish islands

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

No

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?

The main evidence against this proposal consists in the different character and needs of the Highlands and Islands as opposed to North Eastern Scotland, with its towns and cities and distinctive economy.

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?

This is a lunatic proposal. Moray and Argyll and Bute are not even contiguous. This is pushing "administrative convenience" (whatever that really is) too far.

