

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

I have spent a considerable amount of time reading about this issue since the proposed change was first brought to my attention and it just does *not* make sense to separate two of Scotland's islands from ALL of the others when it comes to statistical analysis in Europe. It all depends on data capture methods, of course, but I do not see, given the size of population of both Cumbrae and Arran that "disclosure risk" is a valid reason either for moving towards an alignment at NUTS 2 level with local authority boundaries.

Cumbrae and Arran are islands, and when European Regional Policy is being written, they should be viewed as belonging to the same geographic, economic and cultural "area" as all of the other Scottish islands. This means leaving them at NUTS 2 level with Highlands & Islands.

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