

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?

Relocating the Cumbraes into the same region as “the mainland part of North Ayrshire” will mean that the islands no longer qualify for additional funding.

It is currently challenging enough to establish and maintain a valid family life on Cumbrae under the current designation (for example the recent removal of a key school bus service by North Ayrshire Council), and I fear that the reallocation of the Cumbraes into a mainland region will result in a further deterioration in the priority of the island as a family community, i.e. funding for the island will drop so far in priority for a large mainland region that no special consideration will be given.

Life is hard enough on the island as it stands. If we are to maintain a coherent, viable community on our islands then we need to support them. This proposal (in my view) is the complete opposite of support for the Cumbraes communities.

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

Providing the Cumbraes remain within any region containing similar communities (Arran, Bute etc) then I have no issues with the proposed change

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

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