

## 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

The Highlands and Islands has been supportive in many ways to our island community, not least because of their inherent understanding of the complex and unique nature of island life. It seems unlikely that South West Scotland, faced with a barrage of deprivation across its region could possibly perceive and treat the fragility of a small island community.

**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