

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?

No comment

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

The suggested changes to the NUTS 3 regions are welcomed. However, it is also suggested that there would be considerable merit in some further changes:

- 1) If we are going to be asked to report key indicators like other cities in Scotland then they must split the NUTS 3 areas to local authority area the very least. At the moment as we are grouped with Stirling and it is impossible for either of us to differentiate data.
- 2) It would actually be worth considering some alternative smaller boundaries for 'Perth City', 'Stirling City', 'Inverness City' etc, there will be some indicators that should only be measured for the city as they are only relevant to the dense population areas and not the wider local authority area.

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?

No comment

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?

No Comment