

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?

I totally disagree with any proposal to move Arran from the Highlands and Islands NUTS2 administrative area into the South West Scotland NUTS2 area. Arran is the most Southern of the Hebrides and has more in common with Argyll and the Islands than with South West Scotland. In particular North Ayrshire Council covers a large urban area and tends to treat Arran as an extension to the "3 towns" when, as a rural area, it is totally different. Arran is culturally very different and historically spoke Gaelic when Ayrshire did not.

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

As above

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?

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?

Leave Arran where it is

