RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY

ISLANDS (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS 4

1. The Bill says that the Scottish Government should publish a national islands plan and then the Scottish Parliament should look at the plan. Do you agree with this?

Yes

What are your views on having a national islands plan?

Scotland and its Islands are a precious resource and must be properly resourced and financed to maintain their uniqueness. This will also keep the Islands populated and encourage the younger people to stay.

2. The Bill will require Scottish Ministers and certain Scottish public authorities to prepare islands impact assessments. Do you agree with this provision?

Yes

What are your views on this provision?

Absolutely necessary, plus it must be done by those who have a proven track record on this sort of project.

3. The Bill suggests that the Scottish Parliamentary constituency boundary of Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) should be protected from any future changes. Do you agree with this?

Yes

Comments:

Na h-Eileanan Siar is one of Scotland’s 32 unitary council areas. It is governed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the only local council in Scotland to have a Gaelic-only name, the title Western Isles Council having been retracted in 1997. It would be an everlasting shame if the area became depopulated by lack of investment.

4. Each local government electoral ward usually elects 3 or 4 members. The Bill suggests that island areas may need fewer members (1 or 2). Do you agree?

No

What are your views on this proposal?
Smaller areas have to fight much harder to maintain their status.

5. The Bill will say that Scottish Ministers should be able to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters. Do you agree?

Yes

Do you have any comments on how it should be used?

Absolutely, it is the main livelihood for Island communities.

6. Are you in favour of the Bill overall?

Yes

7. Do you have any comments on the bill in relation to human rights or equalities?

No Response