RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY

ISLANDS (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS 5

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?

No

What are your views on having a national islands plan?

I think plans for islands should be a local matter. A Scottish plan should be created and managed by Scotland, an islands plan should be created and managed by islanders.

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

No

What are your views on this provision?

We already have representation for the islands at Holyrood. This should be sufficient. This is unnecessary.

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?

No

Comments:
Including Shetland and Orkney separately was a mistake in the Scotland Act, Adding the Western Isles simply makes it worse. Better to remove the others.

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?

Yes

What are your views on this proposal?

Members should, as nearly as possible, represent the same number of people.
5. The Bill will say that Scottish Ministers should be able to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters. Do you agree?

No

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

No

6. Are you in favour of the Bill overall?

No

Is there anything else that you feel should be included or excluded from the Bill?

Exclude it all. Creating 'island proofing' will generate a demand from rural mainland areas for the same 'protection'. This will then lead to similar demands from other 'constituencies' and eventually from the cities that will end up paying for all this. Instituting pressure groups is, I believe, a bad idea.

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

No