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?

I'll keep this short - the following is what I wrote in the 'comments' section in response to a letter published in 'The Orkney News'. This neatly expresses how I now feel about a lot of these 'consultations' and plans which are made by The Powers That Be, who appear to have their own agendas and, often, not taking much notice of what the public wants, or needs. This comment expresses my view of the OIC - is it likely to extend to how I will feel about The Islands Bill? I don't know - it's up to The Powers That Be whether they actually work for the people - or not. "Alongside the Islands Bill there needs to be an overhaul of local democracy to make it truly representative of the populace." That's putting it mildly! OIC have 'consultations', then go ahead and do exactly what they intended to do in the first place. Time and time again. They say there isn't enough money for services, but there appears to be plenty of money for grandiose schemes. I almost feel that there is no point in even writing this, as they simply take no notice, but I believe in pegging away, as People Power does actually work, sometimes.

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

Yes

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:
Change isn't necessarily a bad thing. It depends on what the changes might be.

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?

Depends on the size of the electoral ward.

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

Yes

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

Bernie Bell
September 2017