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?

A plan is vital for the future prosperity (and in some cases) survival of island communities in Scotland. Issues such as transport, environment, employment, fuel poverty and health provision must be among those looked at.

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?

Yes

Comments:
Orkney and Shetland's unique identity within Scotland and the UK is recognised in this way. The same should go for the Western Isles and even to other island and mainland communities

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?

Our ward in Orkney (North Isles) has three members covering ten islands. The islands are impossible to reach from one another without first going to Kirkwall which means councillors rarely have the chance to visit islands that are unrepresented - any reduction would make that situation worse. Far better would
be to revert to the former situation with smaller wards and one representative for each.

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

Malcolm Cinnamond
September 2017