

Response ID ANON-WWGG-JQ4G-J

Submitted to **National Islands Plan and Island Communities Impact Assessments**

Submitted on **2019-04-17 09:58:33**

Questions

1 If applicable, which island(s) do you live on or do you relate to?

If applicable, which island(s) do you live on or do you relate to?:

Isle of Arran

2 If applicable, what is good about living on your island? Please state 3 things that you like about living on your island.

What is good about living on your island? Please state 3 things that you like about living on your island.:

1. Community spirit.

2. Local culture eg food, music, crafts.

3. Natural environment.

3 If you've moved away from your island, please tell us why you left (for example, was it for work opportunities or for education).

If you've moved away from your island, please tell us why you left (for example, was it for work opportunities or for education)?:

4 If you've moved away from your island, please tell us what, if anything you miss about island life.

If you've moved away from your island, please tell us what, if anything you miss about island life.:

5 If possible, please can you give us some examples of good local initiatives/projects/activities, etc.?

If possible, please can you give us some examples of good local initiatives/projects/activities, etc.?:

1. Each village has an 'Improvements Group' which looks after local events, facilities and keeps a mindful eye on local developments which could affect the area, eg planning application.

2. The promotion of the island as a tourist destination has increased the number of visitors and events which are held on the island. This has included a newly emerging interest in basing adventurous events such as Iron man and other triathlons on the island.

3. COAST, a campaign group focusing on protecting our waters has been successful in campaigning for a No Take Zone and MPAs around parts of the island.

6 The Islands (Scotland) Act lists a number of areas that are relevant for islands and island communities. Please rank these in order of priority for you, with 1 being the highest priority.

6 - Depopulation:

6

6 - Economic development:

1

6 - Environmental protection:

2

6 - Health and wellbeing:

3

6 - Community empowerment:

7

6 - Transport:

5

6 - Digital connectivity:

4

6 - Fuel poverty:

8

6 - Land management:

10

6 - Biosecurity:

9

No

7 If you answered no, is there anything else that you believe the National Islands Plan should address?

5. If you answered no, is there anything else that you believe the National Islands Plan should address? :

Affordable housing.

Accessibility.

Local facilities eg public toilets

8 If applicable, are there any specific challenges about living on your island? Please state 3 challenges about living on your island.

If applicable, are there any specific challenges about living on your island? Please state 3 challenges about living on your island. :

1a. A total lack of a reliable, sustainable ferry service. The current ferry is old and regularly breaks down. A replacement is on order, but has been significantly delayed. The new pier isn't fit for purpose and the ferry is unable to use it in certain weather conditions.

1b. Lack of a policy to give islanders a priority access to the ferry bookings in the event of a need to travel to the mainland.

2. A ferry and terminal which are not fully accessible.

3. Limited competition from energy and digital suppliers so high cost of living.

9 If you've moved away, please tell us about any challenges that you experienced whilst you were living on your island.

If you've moved away, please tell us about any challenges that you experienced whilst you were living on your island.:

10 If applicable, what could be done to make living on your island better?

What could be done to make living on your island better?:

1. A ferry service fit for purpose: reliable, resilient, accessible, and priority for residents.

2. An appreciation from the Local Authority that an island has different needs than the mainland. eg blanket closure of public toilets across North Ayrshire, including Arran. This has meant that each village has had to take on the responsibility for providing and servicing the toilets.

3. Better digital connectivity. Parts of the island still do not have a mobile phone signal.

11 How do you feel the National Islands Plan should address and respond to the distinctive geographical, natural heritage and cultural characteristics (including the linguistic heritage) of local island communities, including the needs of Gaelic speakers within those communities?

How do you feel the National Islands Plan should address and respond to the distinctive geographical, natural heritage and cultural characteristics (including the linguistic heritage) of local island communities, including the needs of Gaelic speakers within those communities?:

I welcome the concept of on Island Impact Assessment but strongly feel that this should also include an assessment of the impact on accessibility.

Each island is different and this uniqueness needs to be maintained so any planning should involve local people, tourists and interested bodies.

Any developments in the plan should be considered in a 'totality'. eg if tourism is increased this has an impact on services such as accommodation, cafes, restaurants etc. To operate these business there is a need for more local people and these people need affordable housing. On Arran the service industries severely struggle to find staff because of a lack of accommodation. Last summer a tented village developed of staff working in the retail, food and care industries.

General Questions Section

12 What should be the main objectives for the National Islands Plan?

What should be the main objectives for the National Islands Plan?:

To develop a plan and policies for island communities that respects their uniqueness, supports their development as modern communities and enables their residents to live without barriers such as connectivity and transport.

To protect the natural and cultural uniqueness of the islands for future generations.

13 What should be the key priorities for the Scottish Government in relation to the National Islands Plan?

What should be the key priorities for the Scottish Government in relation to the National Islands Plan?:

1. Reliable, sustainable, accessible transport links.

2. Provision of local services.

3. Affordable and accessible housing

14 What should be taken into account in terms of the functions of relevant authorities within the National Islands Plan?

What should be taken into account in terms of the functions of relevant authorities within the National Islands Plan?:

Relevant authorities need to recognise that living on an island is different than living on the mainland, and provision should be made to make adjustments to enable islanders to have opportunities. eg housing, education, health.

15 How can we measure outcomes in relation to the National Islands Plan?

How can we measure outcomes in relation to the National Islands Plan?:

1. Benchmarked consultation.
2. Economic development.
3. level of new build housing.
4. Ferry cancellations.

16 If you have any further comments or points that you think should be taken into account in the development of The National Islands Plan, please state these below.

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Island Communities Impact Assessment

17 Can you name any policies, strategies or services that don't work very well for your island? Why do you feel they don't work well?

Name one policy or law you can think of that doesn't work very well for your island because the impact on the island was not properly assessed?:

1. ferry services: unreliable, often fully booked, not fully accessible.
2. Local Government cutbacks where both mainland and islands are treated alike.

18 On the other hand, can you name any policies, strategies or services that DO work well for your island? Please tell us what it is about these that works so well.

On the other hand, can you name any policies, strategies or services that DO work well for your island? Please tell us what it is about these that works so well. :

Local community groups who step up to the mark and take over services which they know are needed by both the community and visitors.

19 How can Scottish Ministers and other relevant authorities involve island communities in assessments?

Online surveys, Focus groups, Public meetings, Paper documents

If you answered other, please specify: :

20 Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?:

Islands are very fragile communities, inward and outward movement of residents is I believe grater than in a non-island community. More research is needed to establish why this is the case.

The balance between fulltime residents on the island and people with second homes or homes which they rent out for holiday makers is putting a severe pressure on local services.

Island Communities Impact Assessments: General Questions Section

21 What should be the main objectives for Island Communities Impact Assessments?

What should be the main objectives for Island Communities Impact Assessments?:

to consider how a proposal would impact on the uniqueness of an island, it people, environment and resources.

22 What do you think needs to be considered in the guidance and templates which will be developed to support the carrying out of Island Communities Impact Assessments by relevant authorities?

What do you think needs to be considered in the guidance and templates which will be developed to support the carrying out of Island Communities Impact Assessments by relevant authorities?:

Accessibility should also be part of each assessment: everyone deserves to be able to access a service, provision or locality.

23 What should be taken into account in relation to the reviews of decisions of relevant authorities relating to Island Communities Impact Assessments?

What should be taken into account in relation to the reviews of decisions of relevant authorities relating to Island Communities Impact Assessments?:
Impact on the culture of an island

24 If you have any further comments or points that you think should be taken into account in the development of Island Communities Impact Assessments, please state these below.

If you have any further comments or points that you think should be taken into account in the development of Island Communities Impact Assessments, please state these below.:

About you

What is your name?

Name:
Hilary Stubbs

What is your email address?

Email:
stubbs8765@gmail.com

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Transport Scotland's Mobility and Access Committee (MACS)

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

It is refreshing to see that islands are now being treated as different from mainland Scotland

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

easy to use, but is it fully accessible?