



**OREF**

ORKNEY RENEWABLE  
ENERGY FORUM

Consultation Future Islands  
Bill

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# Aim of consultation



- Seek views of interested stakeholders on plans for more power and protection for Scotland's islands
- These views will help shape a future Islands Bill
- This is as a result of the “our islands our future” campaign

# What we asked for -



- **Control and management of the sea bed** around the islands, allowing revenues currently paid to the Crown Estate to be channelled into local needs
- **New grid connections to the Scottish mainland** to allow world class wave, tidal and wind energy resources to generate maximum benefits for both the islands and the Scottish economy;
- **New fiscal arrangements** to allow the islands to benefit more directly from the **harvesting of local resources, including renewable energy** and fisheries
- Clear **recognition of the status of the three island groups** in the new **Scottish Constitutional Settlement** and within the European Governance Framework.

# Island Proofing



- when legislating **whether particular functions and responsibilities** could be given to island communities;
- when legislating, whether there was a particular need for **differential application of legislation for island communities**;
- the applicability of the principles contained within the Reference Framework on Regional Democracy of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe; and
- **when developing, formulating and implementing policy, the needs and circumstances of island communities.**

# Questions



1. Is the concept of Island Proofing something the Scottish Government should consider placing in legislation through the proposed Islands Bill ?
2. If you answered 'Yes' to question 1, do you agree that Scottish Ministers should have the power to issue statutory guidance to other relevant public bodies related to Island-Proofing which they would be required to adhere to in exercising their functions and duties ?
3. If you answered 'Yes' to question 2 please state which public bodies, and what specific decisions this statutory guidance you think this should relate to?
4. Are there any other areas that you feel the policy of Island - Proofing should cover



The **Empowering Scotland's Island Communities** prospectus and the commitments it contained made clear the Scottish Government's support for the **principles of subsidiarity**, and to **looking at more powers for our islands**.

This support is further emphasised by the passing into law in June 2015 of the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act**, which will enable **communities to be more involved in local decision-making**.

# Questions



5. Do you **agree that the current powers Island Councils** and Councils with Island responsibilities presently have are sufficient to deliver positive outcomes for their local island communities ?
6. If you answered 'No' to question 5, please outline **what additional powers you feel they require** to benefit or better protect the island communities they serve and explain the reasons for your answer
7. Do you feel there is a requirement to make any **additions to the existing Zetland and Orkney County Council Acts** of 1974? If Yes please state what additions should be made and give the reasons for your answer.
8. Should any of the powers currently set out in the Zetland and Orkney County Council Acts of 1974 be **extended to the Western Isles and other relevant Councils**? please explain which powers and give the reasons for your answer.

# National Islands Plan



One of the proposals for enshrining within a future Islands Act is the possibility of a duty for all future Scottish Governments to prepare a '**National Islands Plan**' which would set out an on-going range of commitments across all policy areas of Government to support promote and empower our Island communities to build a wealthier and fairer future for themselves

9. Do you think the Scottish Government should introduce a 'National Islands Plan' ?  
Please explain the reasons for your answer.
10. Are there any specific areas you feel the plan should cover and report on?
11. If such a plan was introduced, what in your view would be an appropriate life span for the plan—e.g. 3years/5 years/other ?

# Other issues



12. Do you agree that statutory protection should be given to the Na h - Eileanan an Iar Scottish parliamentary Constituency?
13. Should the Scottish Government consider amending the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 to allow the LGBCS the power to make an exception to the usual 3 or 4 member ward rule for use with respect to populated islands?
14. Please provide details of any additional issues, not addressed in your other responses, that you think should be considered in relation to the introduction of a future Islands Bill and its potential provision

# Next steps



Consultation responses at

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/islands-team/islands-bill-consultation>

Closing date ?



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## Thanks

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