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Welcome to day 2 of

TAIEX TSI Workshop

Strengthening the Resilience of Island Economies of Croatia, Greece, and Sweden: focus on data and island proofing

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Introduction to Workshop on Island Proofing and Data Use

Key Take Aways from Day 1

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Case Study: Island Proofing and Data-Driven Island Policy Development in Scotland

Erica Clarkson, Head of Island Policy and
Lewis MacAskill, Scottish Government

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Island Proofing and Data-Driven Island Policy Development in Scotland

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AGENDA

- Islands Policy in Scotland: the story so far
- Island Communities Impact Assessments
- Islands Data: an overview
- The 2023 Scottish Islands Survey: at a glance
- What's next for islands policy in Scotland?

Who Delivers Islands Policy in Scotland?

The Cabinet Secretary for Land Reform, Rural and Islands

The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

DIRECTORATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY

- **The National Islands Plan** (Francesco Bertoldi)
- **Carbon Neutral Islands** (Lewis MacAskil)
- **ICIAs** (Stuart Brown)
- **ICCEF** (Francesco Bertoldi)
- **Islands (Scotland) Act** (Islands Team)
- **Engagement and Influencing** (Islands Team)

LINKING NATIONAL AND LOCAL

Local authorities and locality plans - Scottish Government agencies and delivery partners

Scotland's Islands Policy: The Story so Far

2013: Our Islands Our Future

2014: The Empowering Scotland's Island Communities Prospectus

2018-19

July 2018: Islands (Scotland) Act

2019: Engagement and Consultation (40 islands)

December 2019: National Islands Plan

2020: ICIA Regulations

PfG: CNIs and ICCEF

2020-22

BARRIERS:

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FULL EFFECTS OF BREXIT

WAR ON UKRAINE

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

GROWING PRESSURE ON PUBLIC FINANCES

2020-24

The National Islands Plan in Summary

THE CURRENT NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN FEATURES 13 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND OVER 130 COMMITMENTS.

IN LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ISLANDS ACT, ITS OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE IS THAT OF “IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR ISLANDS COMMUNITIES”.

SCOTTISH MINISTERS ARE REQUIRED TO UPDATE PARLIAMENT ANNUALLY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN.

Strategic Objective 1
To address population decline and ensure a healthy, balanced population profile

Strategic Objective 2
To improve and promote sustainable economic development

Strategic Objective 3
To improve transport services

Strategic Objective 4
To improve housing

Strategic Objective 5
To reduce levels of fuel poverty

Strategic Objective 6
To improve digital connectivity

Strategic Objective 7
To improve and promote health, social care and wellbeing

Strategic Objective 8
To improve and promote environmental wellbeing and deal with biosecurity

Strategic Objective 9
To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and promote clean, affordable and secure energy

Strategic Objective 10
To empower diverse communities and different places

Strategic Objective 11
To support arts, culture and language

Strategic Objective 12
To promote and improve education for all throughout life

Strategic Objective 13
To support effective implementation of the National Islands Plan

How is Islands Policy Funded?

Dedicated **resource and capital budget** support implementation. Investments delivered to date include:

- **Over £15 million capital** since 2021-2022 through the **Islands Programme** in support of community-led islands infrastructure. To date, the fund has supported 71 projects on 51 different islands.

- **£3.4 million** since December 2022 through the **Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund**.

- **Grant funding for island organisations** including Young Islanders Network and Scottish Islands Federation.

- **Part-funding** support for:
  - **Community Settlement Officers roles** within Argyll and Bute Council and Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar contributing towards the objectives of the Addressing Depopulation Action Plan.
  - **Island-focused Senior Officer role** within North Ayrshire Council (Arran and Great Cumbrae).

HOWEVER, the delivery of islands policy includes commitments, investments and policy interventions spanning across the organisation (and beyond).

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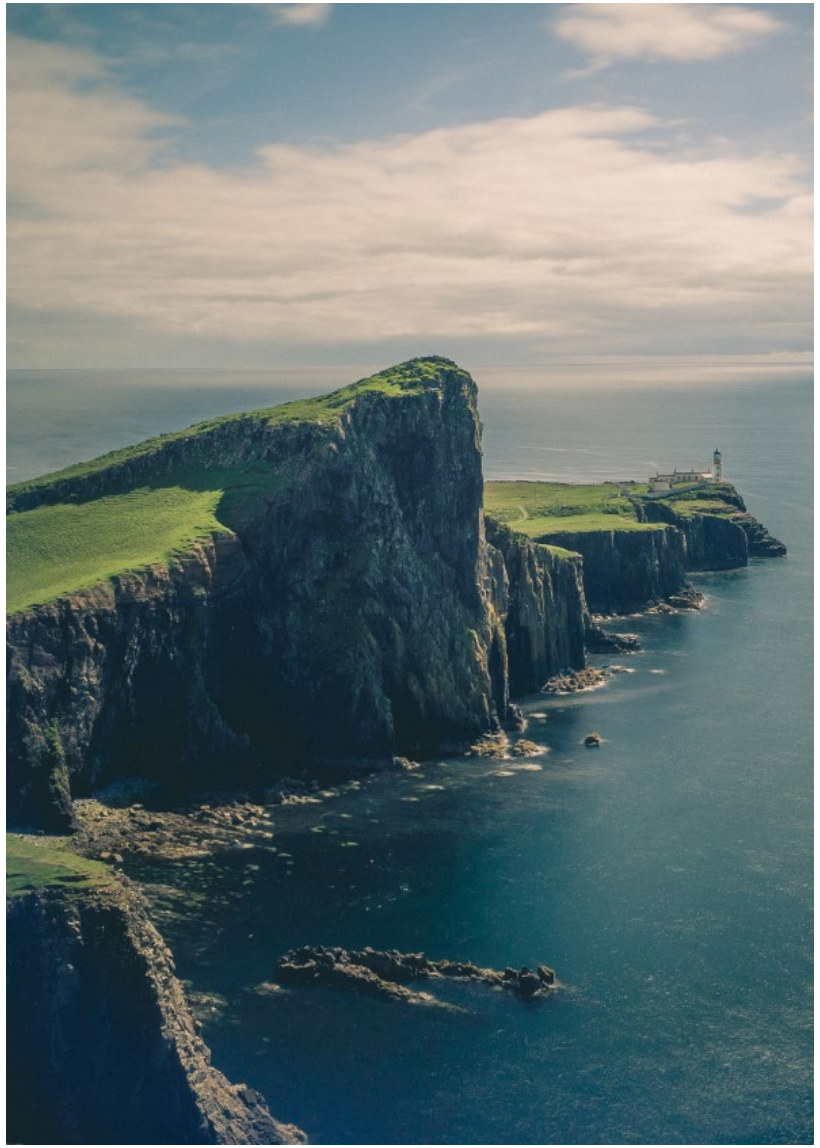
ISLAND COMMUNITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (ICIAs)



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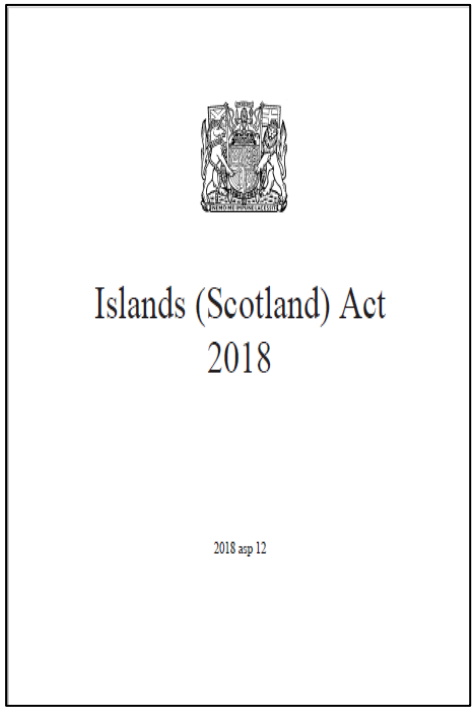
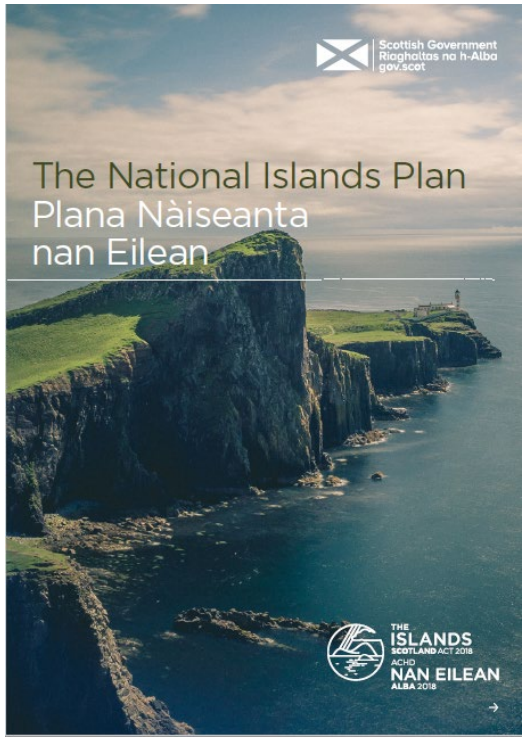
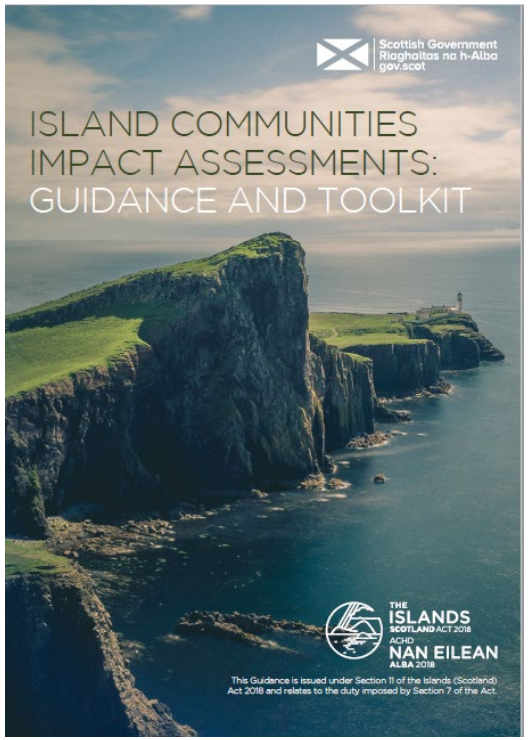

Islands (Scotland) Act
2018

2018 asp 12





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- The National Islands Plan will help shape national policy

- Whilst Island Communities Impact Assessments serve a more immediate role.

- A relevant authority (including Scottish Ministers) must prepare an island communities impact assessment in relation to a policy, strategy or service which, in the authority's opinion, is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities)

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What will a good ICIA achieve?

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- An ICIA will help you to keep islands and their communities in mind throughout the development, implementation and delivery of your policy, strategy or service.

- Help us to support strong, resilient and vibrant island communities.

- Help us to meet the four principles of fairness, integration, environmental protection (green) and inclusiveness that underpin our work to support island communities.

- Promote the voice of island communities in issues that will effect them.

- Recognise that every person in Scotland has a right to live with dignity and to enjoy high quality public services wherever they live.

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1. Understand your objective

2. Assess Impact on Islands

3. Consultation

4. Assessment

5. ICIA
a) Describe significant impact

5. ICIA
b) Publication of explanation

6. Consider adjustments

7. ICIA publication

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STEP ONE
Understand your objective

Develop a clear understanding of your objectives:

- What are the objectives and intended outcomes of your policy, strategy or service?
- Start identifying any potential direct or indirect impacts for Island communities?
- Is your policy, strategy or service:
  - Regional, area based – will the impact on Islanders differ from the regional impact?
  - Island based – does your policy, strategy or service adapt to variations across islands?
  - Mainland focused – is there a corresponding need in island communities?
- Start identifying potential benefits for the island communities.

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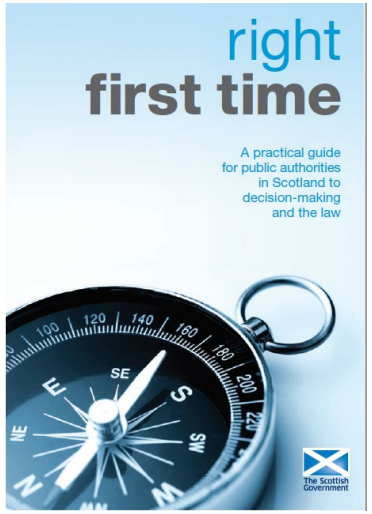
STEP TWO
Assess Impacts on Islands

Gather your data and identify your stakeholders:

- What are the differences that occur in islands communities and across island groups in contrast to Mainland Scotland?
- Sourcing of Islands Level Data.
- What other evidence is already to hand?
  - — Other Consultations
  - — Customer Feedback
  - — Monitoring Exercises
- Working with island stakeholders.



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STEP THREE
Consultation

Your consultation:

- If not already started, arrange to speak to the people likely to be affected by your policy, strategy or service.

- Consultation will give you lots of good information on the likely impact of your work, as well as providing you with a wider context relating to specific islands and the people who live on them.

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STEP FOUR
Assessment

Assessment :

- Consider potential impacts of your work (template in guidance) –
  - Demographic
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Gaelic
- Are these significantly different for Island communities?
- Record this and evidence the process in reaching that conclusion.
- Once finished you should decide if you need to complete further steps in the process.
- If you decide that you don't, you must publish as soon as reasonably practicable, your reasons for not carrying out an ICIA.

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STEP FIVE
Prepare your ICIA

Preparing your ICIA

- The ICIA must (Section8(3) of the Act):

  —Describe the likely significant different effect of your policy, strategy or service on Island communities.

- Clearly set out any impacts or effects of your work

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STEP SIX
Consider Adjustments

Making adjustments to your work:

- Assess the extent to which you consider that your policy strategy or service can be developed or delivered, to improve or mitigate it for island communities.
- You should now have a range of information from which to draw some conclusions and make recommendations.
- Are adjustments, improvements required or are you simply adopting the policy, strategy or service, as it is proposed.
- You might want to pilot the policy, strategy or service or some of the mitigations in order to assess whether you can achieve your objectives without adverse effect.

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STEP SEVEN
Publish your ICIA

Publishing your ICIA:

- ICIA Approved and signed off by a Senior member of the organisation (DD level).
- All ICIAs prepared by a relevant authority need to be published on their website. For Scottish Government an ICIA should be published through APS.

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Further support:

- Additional guidance can be found on saltire and on the gov.scot website.
- We recently published a leaflet and video to complement the guidance and support with the completion of ICIAs
- We are happy to support you with the process of completing ICIAs. For any ICIA enquiries contact our mailbox:

IslandsImpactAssessment@gov.scot

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How Data is Informing our Policy Work

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Strategic Objective 13

“Review the availability, usefulness of, and the wider barriers to, island level data both at an individual island level, groups of islands and consider the creation of a ‘Scottish islands’ data level in order to better understand the challenges faced by island communities.”

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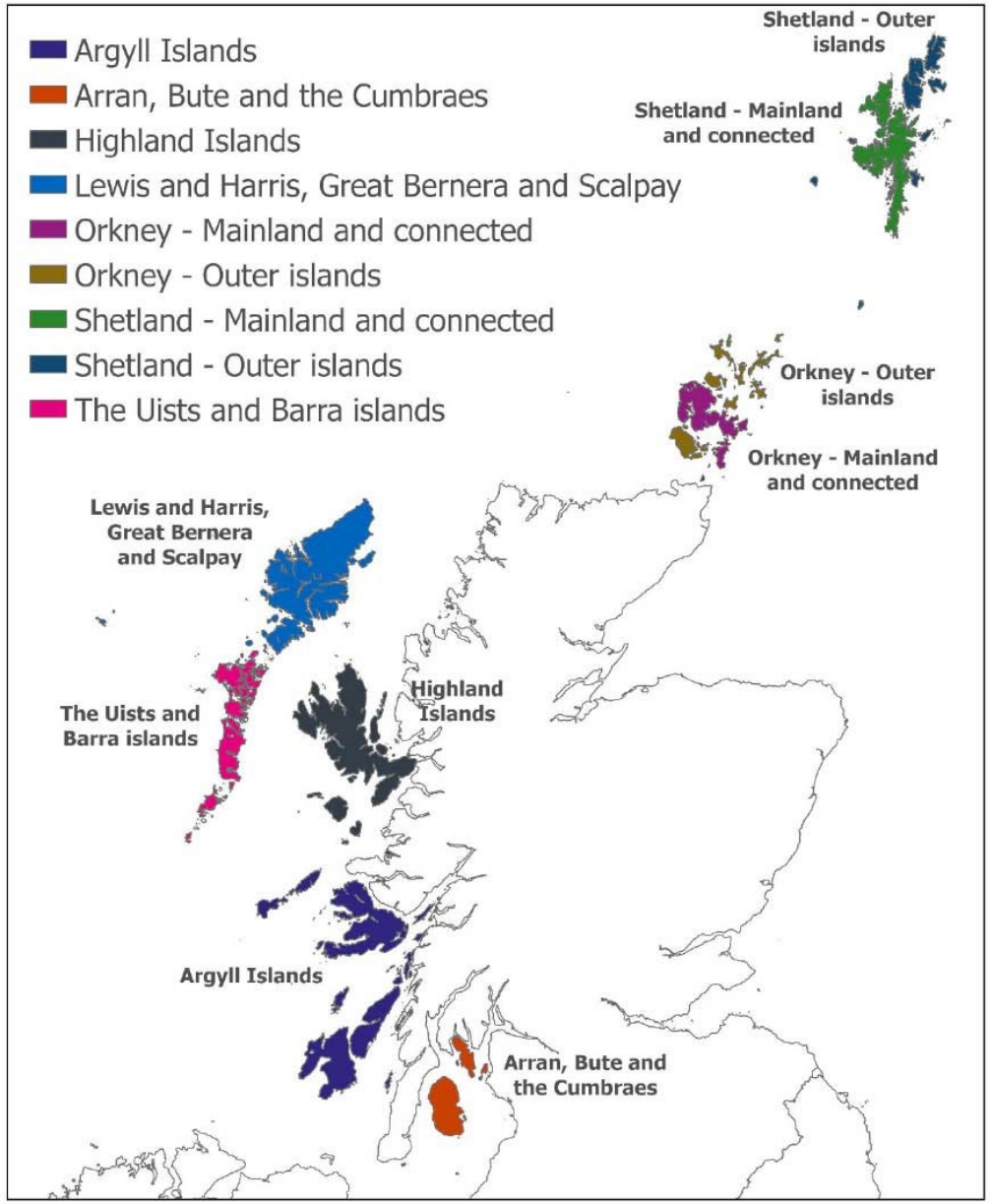
Map of Scottish Island Regions



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Scottish Government Geographic Information Science & Analysis Team. June 2023. Job6304.

What data do we have

- Scottish Islands Survey
- National Records of Scotland Scottish Island Regions Population Dashboard
- Scottish Islands Region Geography
- Registers of Scotland
- Data gathered from consultations and workshops
- Island Level Profiles (under construction)
- The Islands Data Dashboard

Arran (North Ayrshire Council)

Arran, Bute and the Cumbraes *(Scottish Island Regions Geography (2023) class)*
Connected Independent Islands *(Scottish Islands Typology (2024) class)*

Last updated: January 2024

Population

4629 (2011)

(population change since 1981: +20%)

General amenities[1]

Multiple grocery stores with at least one national chain.

Multiple vehicle fuel outlets including national chain.

Schooling

Primary Schooling available on-island.

Schooling available on-island for S1-S4.

Schooling available on-island for S5/S6.

Health[1]

More than one GP practice with resident doctors.

Arran War Memorial Hospital (Lamlash).

Ferries and fixed links[1]

No fixed links to any other island / mainland Scotland.

Scale 1:481,000

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Based on timetables published in November 2023 and covering the winter of 2023/4:

- Arran had access by road to 2 ferry route(s) connecting to mainland Scotland.
- Ferry services were operated by CalMac, departing from Brodick (route 1), Lochranza (route 2) and arriving in Ardrossan (route 1), Claonaig / Tarbert (route 2).
- Arran had access by road to 6.4 crossings leaving the island per day, with an average crossing time of 59 minutes.

Key local organisations[2]

Arran Community Council - arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk/ info@arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk

Arran Development Trust - www.discoverarran.com

Papa Stour (Shetland Islands Council)

Shetland Outer Isles *(Scottish Island Regions Geography (2023) class)*
Outpost Islands *(Scottish Islands Typology (2024) class)*

Last updated: January 2024

Population

15 (2011)

(population change since 1981: -55%)

General amenities[1]

No grocery store on-island.

No vehicle fuel pumps on-island.

Schooling

Primary currently mothballed.

Pupils board away from home for S1-S4.

Pupils board away from home for S5/S6.

Health[1]

Either no GP practice on island or visiting GP attends less than weekly.

No hospital on island.

Ferries and fixed links[1]

No fixed links to any other island / mainland Scotland.

No direct ferry connection to mainland Scotland in winter 23/24.

Requires 2 ferries to access mainland Scotland, travelling via Mainland Shetland & connected isles.

Scale 1:75,000

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Key local organisations[2]

Sandness and Walls Community Council - https://www.shetland.gov.uk/downloads/download/289/sandness-and-walls-community-council-minutes

Papa Stour History & Community Group - www.papastourhcg.org / papastourhcg@gmail.com

The Islands Dashboard

The Islands Survey

The 2023 Scottish Islands Survey

20,000 surveys posted to adult residents of 75 permanently inhabited islands

4,358 respondents from 66 islands

22% response rate

vs 2020

From 394 variables in the 2023 survey, 117 were considered comparable. Of these:

- 15% (18) have improved;
- 23% (27) have stayed the same; and
- 62% (72) have declined since 2020.

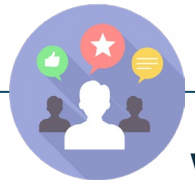
THE GOOD NEWS: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN ON THEIR ISLAND

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS: IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE SURVEY FOUND A DECLINE IN PERCEPTIONS OF ISLAND LIFE

- Public transport, housing, fuel poverty, sense of community
- Differences between age groups and between island groups

The 2023 Public Consultation: An Overview

ONLINE PORTAL: 167 responses submitted by 39 organisations and 128 individuals



WORKSHOP: 16 of which 13 in–person and 3 online. Total of 231 participants.

KEY THEMES

- IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND INCREASE AWARENESS
- MIXED VIEWS ON IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS
- PERCEPTION THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE FOR MOST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
- A NEW PLAN IS REQUIRED
- PRIORITISATION OF COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The New National Islands Plan: Key Principles

A more **agile** document, with fewer strategic objectives (BUT the Islands Act features a list of outcomes and thematic areas that must feature in the Plan).

A more **strategic** approach, with a focus on additionality. *"Focus on things that would not have happened without the Plan".*

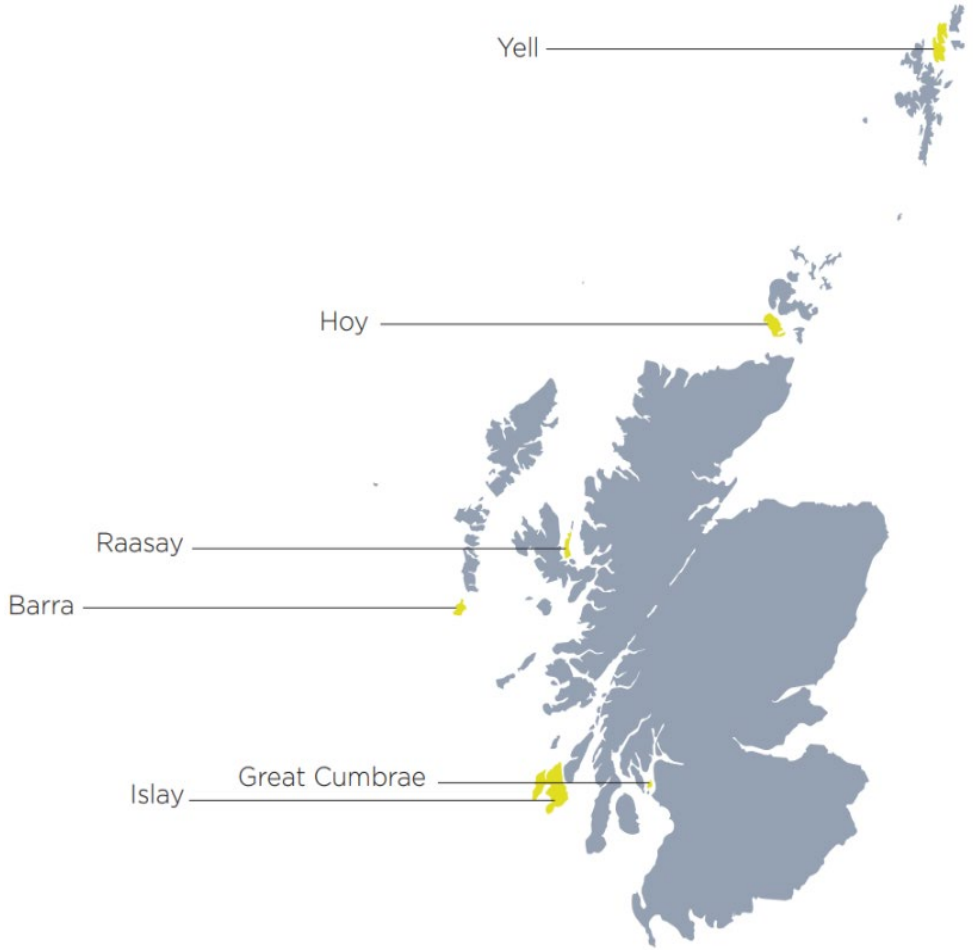
Fewer commitments but **tangible** and **measurable**.

A plan **connecting national and local**.

A **clear** allocation of responsibilities.

Carbon Neutral Islands - Investment

- 2022/2023 - £822,000 to develop Community Climate Action Plans and carbon audits
- 2023/2024 - £960,000 for project capital funding
- 2024/2025 - £1.3 million for project capital funding



Data is Key

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lewis.macaskill@gov.scot

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COFFEE BREAK!

The workshop continues 10:15

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TAIEX TSI Workshop

Interactive Parallel Sessions on Policy Implementation and Data Collection

Stefano Barbieri, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD

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1. Island Proofing Policies – what steps in your own country?

- Strategies for initiating and advancing island proofing within national policies
- Identifying key stakeholders and partners for successful implementation

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2. Data Collection for Island Development – for use and for change on the ground

- Tools and instruments for gathering island-specific data
- Assessments and Mitigation
- Steps to design effective data collection frameworks for robust island development strategies

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Panel Reflections on Implementation of Island Proofing and Data Collection

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Panel Reflections on Implementation of Island Proofing and Data Collection

Panelists:

Zrinka Raguž, State Secretary, Croatia

Manolis Koutoulakis, General Secretary, Greece

Meit Fohlin, Chair, Executive Board, Region Gotland, Sweden

Jan Utbult, Chair, Executive Board, Öckerö Municipality, Sweden

Moderator:

Elodie Boulch, Policy Officer, Directorate General Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)

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Final Reflections

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Concluding Remarks and Next Steps for Island Economies Project

Summary of insights and actionable next steps for national action plans.

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