

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Are you content with the proposed 2011 Data Zones?

Yes  No

If you wish to make suggestions for change to a small number of draft Data Zones please provide the Data Zone code together with an explanation of its design limitations and the statistical benefits that would result from altering its boundary. Any accompanying maps and future supporting details would also be useful; preferably, a list of Census Output Areas with their current draft Data Zone assignment, along with the proposed new Data Zone assignment should be included.

Although there are few changes to the majority of Data Zones boundaries within the HIE area, HIE believe that this consultation creates an opportunity to introduce a better 'fit' in some of our rural areas through fairly minor refinement of a number of Data Zones (approximately 21 out of the 596 in the region).

HIE feels that it would be beneficial to consider the widening of some Data Zones where there are small accessible Output Areas in a neighbouring larger Data Zone. This would take account of some populated areas on the outskirts of particular villages/towns. The main areas where HIE believes there is the potential to improve boundaries are Dingwall; Nairn; Aviemore; Ullapool; Stromness; Avoch; Beauly; Portknockie and Mosstodloch.

HIE would be happy to discuss these issues in more detail should this be required.

### Do you agree that 2011 Data Zones should use the median methodology for the calculation of centroids?

Please see page 17 for further information.

Yes  No

Population distribution within the Highlands and Islands of Scotland is very dispersed, resulting in some large rural Data Zones in the region. As such, using the median rather than mean ensures that measures are less skewed by outliers in data arising as result of relatively small numbers of individuals, living far away from the population centre.

On examination of the location of medians and modes for each Data Zone and Intermediate Zone within the Highlands and Islands they do not appear to differ greatly within each individual Data Zone.

### Are you content with the proposed best fit 2011 Intermediate Zones?

**If changes occur to the proposed 2011 Data Zones post consultation, these changes will be reflected in the Intermediate Zones.**

Yes  No

If you wish to make suggestions for change to a small number of best fit Intermediate Zones; please provide the Intermediate Zone code together with an explanation of its design limitations and the statistical benefits that would result from altering its boundary. Any accompanying maps and future supporting details would also be useful; preferably, a list of Draft 2011 Data Zones with their current draft 2001 Intermediate Zone assignment, along with the proposed new Intermediate Zone assignment should be included.

HIE are content with the proposed best fit for 2011 Intermediate Zones as presented in the consultation document. However, this would cease to be the case if further changes were made as a result of this consultation exercise. Currently, the 2011 Intermediate Zones within the Highlands and Islands are broadly similar to the 2001 boundaries. Where there has been change in recent years, it accurately reflects the growth of the area over the past decade.