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Report on the Implementation of The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018



THE
ISLANDS
SCOTLAND ACT 2018
ACHD
NAN EILEAN
ALBA 2018



Report to the Scottish Parliament 2022

Laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers
under Part 8 Section 28 of The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.

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Ministerial Foreword



I am very pleased to present this report to the Scottish Parliament. It outlines the progress Scottish Ministers have made to date on the operation of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.

2022 marks four years since the introduction of the Act, and I remain extremely proud that Scotland is still one of the few countries worldwide with an island-specific piece of legislation. Following a campaign by our island partners (Our Islands, Our Future), which focused on ensuring the needs of island communities were taken into account by “island-proofing” future policies, the Islands Act was unanimously passed through the Scottish Parliament and adopted in July 2018.

The Islands Act introduced, in concrete terms several measures to ensure that there is a sustained emphasis across the Scottish Government and the public sector to meet the needs of island communities, now and in future. The Act has eight Parts that focus on 1). Key definitions; 2). The National Islands Plan; 3). Duties in relation to island communities; 4). Representation of island communities; 5). Additional powers requests; 6). Development in the Scottish Marine Area; 7). Delegation of functions relating to Regional Marine Plans and 8). final provisions.

Since its introduction, a great deal of work has been done to deliver on many areas of the Act, and our understanding of the unique needs of our island communities has vastly improved.

The Act led to the publication of our first ever National Islands Plan in December 2019. All of our work on islands policy is now framed around the implementation of the Act and the delivery of the National Islands Plan, which guarantees that we retain a strong focus on improving outcomes for our islanders. The National Islands Plan sets out the Scottish Government’s long-term improvement strategy for islands and Scottish Ministers are obliged under the Act to report annually on our progress. Two such reports have now been laid before parliament alongside our Implementation Route Map for the Plan.

Without doubt, much of what we do in government and across our public services affects people who live, work and study on our islands. The Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) provisions within the Act respond to such reality and are designed to improve outcomes for island communities in meaningful ways. I am delighted that it is now a legal requirement.

An important aspect of ICIA is that, under section 9 of the Act, Scottish Ministers are obliged to make provision for review of decisions relating to ICIA. So, in 2020 we were proud to introduce The Island Communities Impact Assessments (Publication and Review of Decisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. These new regulations put

in place a process to allow island residents and communities to seek a review of a decision by a relevant authority relating to ICiAs.

In order to take forward the implementation of the Act the Scottish Government has, since 2018, created a new and dedicated Islands Team within the Directorate of Rural Economy and Communities. This team includes island-based officials and those with experience of island living, and has been formed specifically to ensure island policy expertise and commitment to delivery of both the Act and the National Islands Plan.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support we have received from our island partners over the past four years. Without their help and energy, we would not be as far forward as we are with operational delivery of the Act, and I am deeply indebted to them for their wisdom and drive.

It is also important that we acknowledge in this report, the impact that COVID-19 has had on delivery. The past couple of years have been extremely difficult for so many islanders as the pandemic has forced us to adapt the way we live. Islanders were separated from their families by travel restrictions and border closures, and many older islanders endured long periods of time apart from their loved ones. I want to thank them all for their resilience and compassion during such a challenging time, and to all those who worked so hard to support our island communities for their care and dedication.

Whilst we have achieved a lot together since the Act was introduced in 2018, I recognise that it is absolutely imperative that we maintain momentum by taking forward new and innovative policies and projects to support our island communities. This is more vital than ever, both in light of recovery from the pandemic and the cost of living crises that is being so acutely felt across Scotland. The Scottish Government's commitment to our island communities is absolute, and our Programme for Government outlines a range of measures we are taking to continue our focus on improving outcomes. Initiatives such as our recently announced Carbon Neutral Islands project, and our ambitious new National Strategy for Economic Transformation will help us to drive forward Scotland's green recovery, adapt to our changing climate, deliver economic prosperity and continue the great work that has been undertaken since the introduction of the Act.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure that our Islands Act continues to deliver policy and programmes for our communities that are truly second to none.

Mairi Gougeon

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands



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Introduction

This is the first report on the implementation of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. It is intended to inform the Scottish Parliament of the work that has been carried out on the operation of the Act as required by Part 8, section 28. Island authorities have been asked to contribute to the drafting of this report. Their feedback has been warmly welcomed and incorporated.

Under the Act, Scottish Ministers must *before the end of the period of four years beginning with the day after Royal Assent, publish and lay before Scottish Parliament a report on the operation of this Act. In preparing the report, the Scottish Ministers must consult such relevant authorities listed in the schedule to the Act as they consider appropriate, and such other persons as they consider appropriate.*

When preparing the report, the Scottish Ministers must consult the relevant authorities listed in the schedule as thought appropriate and any other persons considered appropriate. As key delivery stakeholders, our local authority partners have contributed to the writing of this report.

Scope

In addition to meeting the reporting requirements specified in the Act, this report provides an overview of some of the Scottish Government's key islands-specific policy activities (including those not governed by the Act).



- **In 2021, the Scottish Government announced a £4 million funding package to help improve infrastructure on Scotland's islands and to support delivery of the National Islands Plan.**
- **The capital investment was allocated directly to our six local authority partners to fund the improvement, creation or safeguarding of locally developed infrastructure projects.**

Background to the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 30 May 2018 and received Royal Assent on 6 July 2018.

In 2013 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council launched the '[Our Islands - Our Future](#)' campaign, which sought to ensure that the needs of island areas were taken into account, and the particular nature of Scotland's three main island areas recognised. In response, the Scottish Government formed the [Island Areas Ministerial Working Group](#) to consider how Scotland's island areas could be supported and empowered.

In June 2014, the Group published the [Empowering Scotland's Island Communities prospectus](#), which set out proposals for increased autonomy for island communities. In this Scottish Ministers recognised that, while all three island councils are in a unique position, Scotland has 93 inhabited islands in total whose communities could all benefit from greater empowerment.

From 29 September to 23 December 2015, the Scottish Government [consulted on provisions for a future Islands Bill](#). The [analysis of responses](#) to this consultation was published in March 2016, along with an [Empowering Scotland's Island Communities: Progress Update](#) which outlined the work that we, our agencies and the island councils were doing to help support and sustain Scotland's island communities.

In August 2016, Scottish Ministers established the [Islands Strategic Group](#) to help them build upon the work of the previous Island Areas Ministerial Working Group and the Empowering Scotland's Island Communities prospectus.

[The Islands \(Scotland\) Act](#) was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2018 and is only one of a handful of place-based pieces of legislation to focus specifically on islands in the world. The measures it contains, like the Island Communities Impact Assessment, are designed to meaningfully improve outcomes for island communities now and in the future. The Act also seeks to help create the right environment for sustainable growth and empowered island communities.

Sections of The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

The Islands Act contains 32 sections, arranged into 8 Parts of which 6 are key (as detailed in the table at the end of this report). This report provides an update on these, as well as an overview of all specific legislative, policy and implementation work undertaken since the introduction of the Act to improve outcomes for Scotland's island communities:

Part 1

Key definitions: This Part of the Act sets out the definition of an island, an inhabited island, and an island community. An island includes all naturally formed areas enclosed by the sea and above water at high tide, ignoring the addition of man-made structures such as bridges, which means that islands like the Isle of Skye are included. An inhabited island is defined as being permanently inhabited by at least one individual, whilst island community is interpreted broadly to include communities of common interest, identity or geography whether resident on a single island; or spanning a group of islands. Within these parameters, even two people who permanently inhabit an island can constitute an island community.

Part 2

National Islands Plan: This places a duty on Scottish Ministers to prepare, lay before the Scottish Parliament and publish a 'National Islands Plan', which sets out the main objectives and strategy of the Scottish Government in relation to how relevant authorities might help to improve outcomes for island communities that result from, or are contributed to by the carrying out of, functions of a public nature. The first draft of the Plan had to come before Scottish Parliament within 12 months of Part 2 of the Act coming into force. Ministers are now reporting on the Plan annually to monitor progress and to consider where outcomes may or may not have improved.

Part 3

Duties in relation to island communities: These provisions require relevant authorities, including the majority of public bodies and the Scottish Ministers, to have regard to island communities in carrying out their functions. To comply with this duty, relevant authorities must make arrangements to review their policies, strategies and services and either prepare an Island Communities Impact Assessment where that is required (see below), or otherwise assess or take appropriate steps in relation to the policy, strategy or service in question. There is a power for Ministers to issue guidance in relation to the duty. [This guidance](#) has been issued and is currently being moderately revised in response to feedback from relevant authorities.

An Island Communities Impact Assessment is required where a policy, strategy or service is considered, by the relevant authority, likely to have a significantly different effect on island communities compared to other communities (including other island communities). A similar duty is imposed on the Scottish Ministers in relation to legislation, which, in their view is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities in Scotland.

Part 4

Representation of island communities: This Part provides for the protection of the Scottish parliamentary constituency boundary of Na h-Eileanan an Iar from variation (thus placing it on the same basis as Orkney and Shetland). It also allows an exception to be made, in respect of areas with inhabited islands, to the usual three or four member ward rule for local government electoral wards and allows areas with inhabited islands to return one or two members instead of three or four. This is an effort to increase flexibility and subsequently reduce the likelihood of island communities being part of a ward which also includes part of the mainland, and therefore being represented by a councillor who is not resident on an island. Also under Part 4, Boundaries Scotland submitted its [final proposals](#) for councillor numbers and wards in Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands council areas to Scottish Ministers in May 2021.

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 required the Commission to review the six councils containing inhabited islands (Argyll and Bute, Highland, North Ayrshire, Orkney, Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar) as soon as practicable. The reviews formally commenced in January 2019 and the Commission has submitted its proposals on a timescale that would allow them to be in force, if accepted by the Scottish Parliament, in time for the local government elections in 2022.

Part 5 (and section 15)

Additional Powers Requests: These provisions require the Scottish Ministers to establish a scheme to allow local authorities to request that additional devolved functions, duties or responsibilities be transferred to them. The Act requires that a draft of the regulations establishing the scheme must be laid before the Scottish Parliament before 6 July 2019. In accordance with section 15(4) of the Act, Scottish Ministers consulted with each local authority listed in the schedule of the Act(2) and the resulting [regulations](#) were made on 17 October 2019.

Part 6

Development in the Scottish island marine area: This provision gives the Scottish Ministers regulation-making powers to establish a licensing scheme in respect of development activities within the Scottish island marine area (adjacent to, or within 12 nautical miles of an island). Under the regulations, a person will not be able lawfully to carry out a development activity in an area designated under regulations as an “island licensing area” without first obtaining a licence from a local authority; and if such a licence is granted, will have to carry out the activity in compliance with its terms. For areas to be designated as an “island licensing area”, a local authority will first have to apply to the Scottish Ministers for a designation to be made.

Delivery of Islands Policy throughout the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has seen significant impacts to work across all areas of government. Whilst there have been some considerable achievements, many island-focused policies were necessarily delayed by COVID-19 to allow Ministers and officials to adapt quickly to respond to the needs of communities impacted by the pandemic.

Despite this, however, there have been a number of positive achievements which will be covered in this report. Throughout the pandemic, COVID-19 regulations were subject to an Island Communities Impact Assessment and the needs of islanders were kept constantly to the fore. These assessments can be seen online in the Publications section of the government's website www.gov.scot.

Just before the pandemic began in March, a new and dedicated Islands Team was formed by the Scottish Government to take forward the implementation of the Islands Act. Just three months later, Scotland entered its first national lockdown and the team pivoted their focus away from policy development in order to support island communities to navigate the challenges and complexities which emerged during the pandemic.

The Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance at the University of Strathclyde worked with Scottish Government officials throughout 2020 in order to carry out a survey aimed at better understanding how COVID-19 was being dealt with on islands around the world. The [data from this survey](#) helped Scottish Ministers, policy makers and wider island-related stakeholders to deal with and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In December 2020, Scottish Ministers brought forward the new [Island Communities Impact Assessments \(Publication and Review of Decisions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#), and, in the midst of the pandemic, published new guidance to help relevant authorities to complete an Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) as required under the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.

Early in 2021 Scottish Ministers published [The National Islands Plan \(NIP\) through a COVID Lens Survey](#) which gathered responses from island authority colleagues regarding the impact of the pandemic on the delivery of National Islands Plan Strategic Objectives and Commitments. This was in recognition of the profound impact of COVID-19 on our islands.

Since the formation of the Scottish Government's Islands Team in early 2020, there have been two progress reports laid before parliament on delivery of the National Islands Plan. One in [March 2021](#) and one in [March 2022](#).

In 2020, Ministers introduced the £30 million Islands Programme to support delivery of the National Islands Plan by focusing investment on projects that: encourage population growth and stem population decline; deliver on Scotland's net-zero ambitions in a way that no-one is left behind; and support a green economic recovery from the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October 2020, we carried out an extensive National Islands Plan Survey which gathered data with a view to collecting information about people's lives against which we are measuring the effectiveness of the National Islands Plan. Some 20,000 surveys were posted to adult residents of 76 permanently inhabited islands, with options to complete it on paper, online or by phone, and in English or Gaelic. A total of 4,347 people responded to the survey from 59 islands, giving a response rate of 22%.

The National Islands Plan Survey has significantly improved the availability of data held about Scotland's islands. It has also provided baseline data against which to measure the effectiveness of the Plan. An [interactive data explorer](#) can be found online.

The pandemic brought about many economic and financial pressures across our island communities. In recognition of this, the Scottish Government introduced three new community-focused funds in 2021 under the umbrella of the Islands Programme, which were designed to support health, wellbeing, employment and community resilience through activities that deliver green economic recovery from the COVID-19. These were the £2.5 million Islands Green Recovery Programme, £2.5 million [Island Communities Fund](#) and the £1.3 million [Healthy Islands Fund](#).

The National Islands Plan is supported through the [NIP Implementation Route Map 2020-2025](#).



➤ In December 2020, the Scottish Government introduced commencement regulations to bring into force provisions in the Act that ensure public bodies ‘island-proof’ their policies, strategies and services.

➤ An Island Communities Impact Assessment prepared by a relevant authority must be published on a website of the relevant authority. Whilst the Scottish Government are not legislatively required to monitor Island Communities Impact Assessments which are carried out by partner bodies, we are aware of almost 100 which have been supported since the introduction of the Act.

➤ The first-ever Island Communities Impact Assessment was against Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Bill in early 2019. This was completed in the spirit of the Act as sections 7, 8, 10 and 13 were not yet in force and led to a number of mitigating actions in order to support the Scottish Government’s aim of reducing fuel poverty within island communities in the context of the Fuel Poverty Bill.

Operation of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

Part 1: Key definitions

Islands and island communities in Scotland are, by definition, geographically remote places and are demarcated in the Act as being naturally formed areas of land surrounded on all sides by the sea (ignoring artificial structures such as bridges) and above water at high tide. Islands share many similarities with rural areas across Scotland, and in particular with coastal communities.

As such, the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 presents Ministers with an opportunity to develop good practices in terms of genuine input across Scotland. For example, the Scottish Government's Carbon Neutral Islands project which will implement strategies to support communities in moving towards net zero in a just way, has a stated aim to inform policy across the whole country, and indeed the rest of the world.

This places Scotland's islands at the forefront of innovation. Good practices can be adapted by rural communities on the mainland to meet their own interests and specific circumstances.

The Act provides that an "island community" means a community which:

- (a) consists of two or more individuals, all of whom permanently inhabit an island (whether or not the same island); and
- (b) is based on common interest, identity or geography (including in relation to any uninhabited island whose natural environment and terrestrial, marine and associated ecosystems contribute to the natural or cultural heritage or economy of an inhabited island).

This offers an exciting opportunity within the Act for island based local democracy, exploring the role of community councils and local community groups and organisations and this will be a key area of work going forward.

Part 2 – National Islands Plan

The Islands (Scotland) Act mandated Scottish Ministers to present to Parliament a [National Islands Plan](#). Published in December 2019, the Plan is based on the principles that it is fair, integrated, green and inclusive.

Helpfully, the Islands Act obliged the Scottish Government to undertake a consultation to inform the content of the National Islands Plan and to ensure it was shaped by the voices of the different island communities.














The Act provides some guidance in relation to outcomes for island communities that the Plan must address. Section 3(3) lists the following aspects as areas that will need to be improved:

- (a) increasing population levels
- (b) improving and promoting— (i) sustainable economic development, (ii) environmental wellbeing, (iii) health and wellbeing, and (iv) community empowerment,
- (c) improving transport services,
- (d) improving digital connectivity,
- (e) reducing fuel poverty,
- (f) ensuring effective management of the Scottish Crown Estate (that is, the property, rights and interests to which section 90B(5) of the Scotland Act 1998 applies); and
- (g) enhancing biosecurity (including protecting islands from the impact of invasive non-native species).

At its heart, the National Islands Plan aims to address all of these aspects and to improve life on Scotland's islands. It sets out 13 strategic objectives and is supported by an Implementation Route Map.

The Act requires that Scottish Ministers prepare a report for each reporting year of the [National Islands Plan](#).

The Act also requires that Scottish Ministers must review the National Islands Plan before the end of the period of 5 years beginning on the day on which the Plan was last published. This work will be planned well in advance and Ministers will fully involve delivery partners and island communities in any such review.

	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

Part 3 – Duties in relation to island communities

Part 3 of the Islands Act gives island communities a strong voice in relation to policy through the obligation on relevant authorities to have regard to island communities in carrying out their functions and to undertake Island Communities Impact Assessments (ICIA) when required and if not required by making such an assessment or taking such other steps thought appropriate.

An ICIA must take place when a piece of legislation, policy strategy or service will likely affect island communities in a different way than how it would affect communities on the mainland or other island communities.

Scottish Ministers are determined to ensure that this is not simply a tick box exercise and so published a [toolkit along with guidance](#) for relevant authorities in December 2020. This guidance provides the tools that relevant authorities need to complete an ICIA as required under the Act. In particular, the guidance is about the Section 7 duty of the Act where a relevant authority must have regard to island communities.

After receiving helpful feedback from partners and communities, this guidance has recently been revised. During the summer of 2022, Scottish Ministers will publish a new, targeted leaflet and accompanying video as an additional learning resource for relevant authorities who are required to complete ICIA's. This will be of particular benefit to those who are completing the process for the first time.

During the consultation for ICIA's, partners told us that robust community engagement was critical so that islanders are given a platform to voice their opinions, concerns and suggestions. The ICIA guidance fully addresses the need to consult island communities in order for a relevant authority to comply with the [Section 7](#) duty of the Act.

The Scottish Government are not obliged to collate or publish all ICIA's carried out by external partners. However, relevant authorities are required to publish them on for example, their own website. A reporting template has been produced should agencies wish to use it. The Islands Team have supported almost 100 ICIA's by working with internal and external stakeholders. This has included a number of ICIA workshops as well as ad-hoc support to help those relevant authorities who are required to complete an ICIA. The team also feed into wider Scottish Government Impact Assessment networks.

All ICIA's carried out by Scottish Ministers are available on the [Government's website](#).



- **Scottish Government investment through the Island Communities Fund was delivered as one strand of the 2021/22 Islands Programme, providing capital investment for community-led projects that align with community wealth building approaches and support employment, community resilience and contribute to Scotland's just transition to net zero and climate resilient living on islands.**
- **The Scottish Government recently announced that Hoy, Barra, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Yell and Raasay as the six Carbon Neutral Islands that will be supported to become carbon neutral by 2040.**

Part 4 – Representation of island communities

Under Schedule 1 to the Scotland Act 1998, Orkney and Shetland are fixed as two of the 73 constituencies for the purposes of elections to the Scottish Parliament: this ensures that their boundaries cannot be varied. Prior to 2018, the Scottish parliamentary constituency, Na h-Eileanan an Iar did not have this statutory protection but the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 provides this, using the powers transferred to the Scottish Parliament by the Scotland Act 2016. This means that all three island authorities now have the same protection in terms of constituency boundaries, and meet the stated intentions of the Scottish Government set out in [Empowering Scotland's Island Communities](#).

In summary, the provisions under Part 4 are now operational and provide for this protection of the Scottish parliamentary constituency boundary of Na h-Eileanan an Iar from variation (thus placing it on the same basis as Orkney and Shetland).

Secondly, it allows an exception to be made, in respect of areas with inhabited islands, to the usual three or four member ward rule for local government electoral wards and allows areas with inhabited islands to return one or two members instead of three or four.

Part 5 (and section 15) – Additional Powers Requests

Under Part 5 sections 15 (and 21) of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, Scottish Ministers are obligated to produce regulations to create a scheme that satisfies the requirements of both these sections.

Scottish Ministers introduced the [Additional Powers Request \(Scotland\) Regulations](#) in 2019 along with [Guidance for Relevant Local Authorities](#).

Under these regulations, an additional powers request is a scheme by which a relevant local authority can request that the Scottish Ministers promote legislation devolving a function to them, or that the Scottish Ministers transfer an additional function, duty or responsibility to them.

To date no Additional Powers Requests have been made.



- **The Islands Strategic Group was established in August 2016 to build on the work of the previous Island Areas Ministerial Working Group and the Empowering Scotland's Island Communities prospectus.**
- **The Islands Strategic Group is made up of senior local authority partners and is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands.**
- **There is also a National Islands Plan Delivery Group which ensures delivery of the Plan is aligned with local priorities.**

Part 6 – Development in the Scottish island marine area

This Part provides a regulation-making power for the Scottish Ministers to create a licensing scheme in relation to any works in or under the sea in the coastal waters surrounding islands for up to 12 nautical miles.

At the time of writing, the Scottish Island Marine Area Licence provisions are not yet in force, and regulations have not been developed.

Conclusion

In this report, Scottish Ministers hope to have summarised for the Scottish Parliament the key areas of operational delivery of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, whilst also highlighting some important and related areas of islands policy work.

Islands (Scotland) Act 2018	Further developments (2019)
Part 1	
Part 2	<p>National Islands Plan and islands communities impact assessment guidance: consultation - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) (2019)</p> <p>The National Plan for Scotland's Islands - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) (2019)</p> <p>National Islands Plan Survey: final report - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) (2019)</p> <p>National Islands Plan Implementation Route Map 2020 - 2025 (www.gov.scot) (2021)</p> <p>National Islands Plan through a COVID Lens: survey results - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) (2021)</p>
Part 3	<p>Island Communities Impact Assessments: guidance and toolkit - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) (2020)</p> <p>The Island Communities Impact Assessments (Publication and Review of Decisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020: island communities impact assessment - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) (2020)</p>
Part 4	
Part 5	<p>The Additional Powers Request (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (legislation.gov.uk) (2019)</p> <p>Guidance for Relevant Local Authorities (2019)</p>
Part 6	

The Scottish Government fully recognises that there is still much to do in today's post-pandemic, post-Brexit environment. The current cost of living crises, rising sea levels and concerns about climate change weigh heavy on the minds of many islanders. However, the Act provides a solid policy framework which aims to improve day-to-day outcomes for island communities in Scotland, and reflects some of the aspirations put forward by the Our Islands Our Future campaign and the subsequent Scottish Government commitment to the islands.



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