

APPG on UK Islands

The proposed purpose of this group is to promote the needs of island communities within Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and in particular to advocate: (1) the economic and social wellbeing of island residents; (2) the provision of high-quality, accessible public services and connectivity; and (3) affordable transport arrangements to / from these islands and appropriate infrastructure and connectivity investment.

I would like very much the HoC library to start to develop these themes for us so that we lay out an agenda. Could we begin by getting comparative information:

- **Ferries**
 - Return cost, cost per mile passenger, foot and car, (average, there is now variable pricing).
 - Volume of passengers (if such information exists).
- **Broadband speed**
 - Upload and download speeds (for business)
 - Comparative cost of speeds
 - Providers
 - Level of broadband coverage (percentage and number of homes in each island community)
 - Public funding received in last 10 years in support of broadband connectivity
 - Current public funding allocated for future investment
 - Projected future public funding required
- **Mobile signal**

Levels of 4G coverage , methods/plans for enhancing

- **Different types of Gov't** (unitary, district, etc)
 - Including respective functions of each local authority
 - Proportion of local authority (population) relating to the island (i.e. some islands share their local authority with part of the mainland)
 - Local Enterprise Partnership covering the island
- **Education standards**
 - Comparable standards of primary and secondary
 - Number / percentage of children entitled to free school meals / pupil premium (or equivalent in Wales / Scotland)
 - HE participation rates
 - Destinations of school leavers
 - Availability of both FE and HE on-Island
- **Policies to encourage young people to remain.**
- **Economic and demographics**
 - Average incomes
 - Average house prices
 - Unemployment (including month-by-month seasonal variations)
 - Proportion of residents of working age
 - Proportion of residents of retirement age
 - Population change over time – census, mid year estimates
 - Travel to work flows – into /off island
 - Population projections -outliers
- **Subsidies for transport**
 - Availability and amount.
- **Funding/Impact for/of a fixed link**
 - Where fixed link studies have been conducted in recent years.
 - Any impact of fixed link (Skye, Anglesey)

- **Support re business**
 - Local, and regional (i.e. IoW in south east and did not have post-financial business crash package)
 - Reliance on specific sectors – eg CAP/agriculture, Tourism, Energy
 - Current Access/use of structural funds – replacement cost post EU
- **Working Age Population**
 - What are working age populations of Islands.
- **Additional Government support**
 - England,
 - Scotland, Scottish Islands Needs Allowance, how it is worked out, and if it were applicable to England or Wales, would what the funding equate to?
- **Cost of being an Island**
 - Is there an estimate of the costs of being an Island?
 - Are there reports on the costs of being an Island (such as the University of Portsmouth report on being an Island) [*The impact of Physical Separation from the UK Mainland on Isle of Wight Public Service Delivery.*](#)

Environment/Climate Change proportionate risk