

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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CATHRAICHE BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG A' TOIRT TAIC DO BhBC ALBA

17 An t-Iuchar 2009

Am BBC a' gearradh air ais maoin gus pàigheadh airson TBh Gàidhlig

Tha an ceann-naidheachd “Am BBC a' gearradh air ais maoin gus pàigheadh airson TBh Gàidhlig” a bha anns an Daily Mail air 16 Iuchar ro-innseach agus sàrachail, agus chan eil e idir mar chomharra air a' phoball san fharsaingeachd ann an Alba a chuir fàilte bhlàth air seirbheis BBC Alba. Tha e soilleir gu bheil e furasta càineadh a dhèanamh air an t-sianal a chionn 's gun do lùghdaich àireamh an luchd-amhairc, a rèir coltais, bho ìre àrd – ìre ris nach robh dùil aig duine sam bith – aig àm a chur-air-bhog, gu àireamh a tha fada nas fhaisge air an àireamh reusanta ris an robh dùil agus a tha air a bhith cunbhalach on uair sin, agus cuideachd a tha gu mòr ann an coimeas ris na h-àireamhan a bhios a' coimhead sianalan saideil eile. Dh'fhaodte na h-àireamhan seo a mheudachadh gu ìre shusbainteach nam biodh BBC Alba air a chur air Freeview, agus mar sin chan eil a bhith a' dèanamh coimeas chosgaisean le sianalan eile gu feum air bith, chan eil e gu diofar dè a' bhunait air a bheilear ag obrachadh a-mach nan cosgaisean sin. Gun teagamh sam bith, tha comas aig taisbeanair, luchd-naidheachd, luchd-rannsachaidh, riochdairean, stiùirichean agus teicneolaichean le Gàidhlig a bhith ag obair ann an (co-dhiù) dà chànan – agus mar is trice bidh iad a' dèanamh sin. Dh'fhaodte a ràdh gu bheil am BBC a' faotainn an luaich as fheàrr le bhith a' fastadh luchd-obrach dà-chànanach no ioma-chànanach, as urrainn a bhith ag obair aig BBC Alba agus Rèidio nan Gàidheal ann an Gàidhlig agus air prògraman tro mheadhan na Beurla cuideachd.

A thaobh a' chànan ann an Alba ge-tà, 's e an nì as tàmailtiche mun artaigil seo am fo-fhaireachdainn gu bheil Gàidhlig, air dhòigh air choreigin, de nas lugha luaich na Beurla. Tha Pàrlamaid na h-Alba air reachdas a chur an àite a tha a' rùnachadh air spèis co-ionnan a thèarainn do Ghàidhlig is Beurla le chèile. Dh'fhaodte a bhith a' mìneachadh artaigilean a tha a' càineadh caiteachas air Gàidhlig mar “strùidheadh airgead poblach” no “airgead ga chosg sna h-àiteachan ceàrr” gu bhith lethbhreitheach, gun àite ann don leithid ann an naidheachdas an latha an-diugh ann an Alba. A dh'aindeoin na tha cuid a' creidsinn, chan eil làimhseachadh sònraichte ann don Ghàidhlig. Tha ceumannan àraidh a dhìth gus dèanamh cinnteach gun soirbhich an cànan san àm ri teachd. Tha fios againn gu bheil cosgaisean co-cheangailte ris na ceumannan sin, ach tha seo cho nàdarrach 's a ghabhas ann an àireamh de raointean poileasaidh sòisealta gus nì luachmhor a thèarainn a thathar a' meas a bhith so-leònte.

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'S e seirbheis a th' ann am BBC Alba às am faod Alba air fad a bhith uasal. 'S e seirbheis a th' ann a thathar a' ruith air goireasan teann, gun a bhith strùidheil, ach a dh'aindeoin sin tha e air prògraman a thoirt gu buil a tha a' seasamh gu fìor mhath an aghaidh nì sam bith air a chraoladh ann am Beurla no cànan sam bith eile. Mar mheadhan air tàladh barrachd dhaoine chun na Gàidhlig, cha ghabh luach a chur air BBC Alba agus tha e fada seach tìde.

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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG WRITING TO SUPPORT BBC ALBA

17 July 2009

Dear Chris Williams

BBC cuts cash for Radio Scotland to pay for Gaelic TV

The Scottish Daily Mail's headline of 16 July "BBC cuts cash for Radio Scotland to pay for Gaelic TV" is predictable, though tiresome, and not reflective of the wider public in Scotland which has welcomed the BBC Alba service. The channel appears to be an easy target since its audience has apparently dropped from a high - beyond anybody's realistic expectations - at the time of its launch, to a figure far closer to what was realistically expected, which it has consistently continued to attract, and which compares very favourably with numbers watching other satellite channels. This figure could be increased considerably were BBC Alba to be carried on Freeview, so comparing costs per viewer with other channels is futile, never mind on what basis these costs are calculated. Gaelic-speaking presenters, reporters, researchers, producers, directors and technicians of course have the ability to work in (at least) two languages - and often do. It could be argued that the BBC gets best value by employing bilingual, or multilingual, staff who can work on BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal in Gaelic, and on English-language programming also.

From the point of view of the language in Scotland, however, the most disappointing aspect of this article is the undercurrent that Gaelic is, in some way, of less value than English. The Scottish Parliament has put legislation in place which aspires to secure equal respect for Gaelic with English. Articles that criticise expenditure on Gaelic as "lavishing public money" or "only being spent in the wrong places" could be interpreted as discriminatory, and should have no place in modern Scottish journalism. Contrary to the belief of some, there is no special treatment for Gaelic. There are special measures needed to ensure the language has a future. These special measures, of course, have a cost attached but this is completely normal in a number of areas of social policy in order to secure something of value that is judged to be vulnerable.

BBC Alba is a service that all of Scotland should be proud of. It is a service being run on tight, not lavish, resources yet it has produced some programming that stands up extremely well against anything broadcast in English or any other language. As a means of bringing more people to the Gaelic language BBC Alba is invaluable, and long overdue.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

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Arthur Cormack

Cathraiche