

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



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## FREAGAIRT BHÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG DO BHEACHDAN A' CHOMHAIRLICHE ROSIE

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig glè eòlach air beachdan àbhaisteach Mhgr Rosie. Aig a h-uile tionndadh, tha e a' gabhail air gun labhairt dìreach ris a' Bhòrd, a dh'aindeoin cuireadh bhon Chathraiche coinneachadh aig àm sam bith. Cuideachd, tha e air diùltadh na cùisean sin a dheasbad aig coinneamh phoblach na sgìre fhèin. Chan eil e aig àm sam bith air an fhianais a thaisbeanadh a tha e ag ràdh a tha a' seasamh airson beachdan luchd-taghaidh na roinne Pàrlamaid aige.

Bha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd glè uailleil às a cuid teisteanasan Gàidhlig a thaisbeanadh, mar a' chiad ùghdarras ionadail a thug Plana Gàidhlig gu buil. Thug Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd fhèin am Plana gu buil, agus chaidh aontachadh leis a' Bhòrd. Feumar a dhèanamh soilleir gum b' e riatanas a bha seo fo Achd de Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus bu chòir gabhail ris gu trom-chùiseach. San aon dòigh agus a tha Comhairlichean na Gàidhealtachd a' riochdachadh beachdan nan daoine san roinn-taghaidh aca, tha BPA a' riochdachadh beachdan nan daoine sna roinnean taghaidh acasan. Chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig aontachadh gun dùbhlann leis gach pàrtaidh ann an Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Leis gun deach i tron phròiseas iomchaidh dheamocratach, cha bhiodh am Bòrd a' faicinn feum sam bith air referendum eile agus chanadh am Bòrd cuideachd gum biodh a' chosgais an lùib a leithid sin de referendum nas motha na na tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' cosg air Gàidhlig ann am bliadhna.

Tha maoineachadh cudromach air a thoirt do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd gus a miannan fhèin a choileanadh, agus tha fios gun gabh Mgr Rosie iongnadh ma thuigeas e nach eil a' Chomhairle air an t-airgead a chosg air fad. Tha am Bòrd a' ceasnachadh beachd Mhgr Rosie gu bheil cosgais air a' Ghàidhlig a' dèanamh cron air clann agus seirbheisean eile, agus a' faighneachd cò às a tha na milleanan notaichean a tha esan a' smaoinachadh a thathar a' cosg air Gàidhlig ann an Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' tighinn. Bu chòir dha briseadh mionaideach iarraidh air na h-oifigich, a thaobh na tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd dha-rìribh a' cosg air Gàidhlig bho a stòrais fhèin.

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Tha an roghainn a thaobh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig mar roghainn a thathar a' toirt do phàrantan fo Achd an Fhoghlaim 1980 agus bu chòir do Mhgr Rosie tuigsinn gu bheil feum aig sgoiltean agus aonadan Gàidhlig air luchd-teagaisg cuideachd. Bu chòir do leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus na cothroman cosnadh a tha ag èirigh às, a bhith air fhaicinn mar nì dheimhinneach san staid làithreach eaconamach. Ma tha luchd-teagaisg an ìmpis an cosnadh a chall, bhiodh sinn an dòchas gum faiceadh iad Gàidhlig mar sgil fheumail a bharrachd agus chuirteadh fàilte orra an cànan ionnsachadh gus am faighinn air ais a dh'obair.

Is iongantach mura h-eil an Comhairliche Rosie mothachail gu bheil luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' pàigheadh nan cìsean ceudna ris gach neach eile, agus gu bheil taic Riaghaltas na h-Alba don Ghàidhlig tro Achd na Gàidhlig air a cho-fhreagairt le taic ionmhasail brìgheil a tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air a bhith glè dheònach gabhail ris. Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd fhèin a' tional aig a' char as lugha 5 uiread ann an Cìs Comhairle bho luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig na tha i a' cosg ann an taic don chànan. Leis gu bheil cosgais na Comhairle nas lugha na cairteal de aon sa cheud den bhuidseat iomlan aca, tha e duilich fhaicinn ciamar a tha buaidh chronail mhì-chothromach aig caiteachas cho beag air seirbheisean eile mar a tha an Comhairliche Rosie a' tagradh.

Ach airson e a bhith ag ràdh nach eil e an aghaidh na Gàidhlig, faodaidh daoine tighinn gu an co-dhùnadh fhèin mu dheidhinn sin. Tha doras Bhòrd na Gàidhlig fosgailte do Mhgr Rosie gus tighinn a dh'fhaicinn mar a tha am Bòrd ag obrachadh, agus tha sinn a-rithist a' toirt cuireadh dha na cùisean sin a dheasbad gu poblach leinn. San eadar-ama, cumaidh sinn air adhart ag obair còmhla ri Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air a' bhunait gu bheil iad a' dol a liubhairt a' Phlana Gàidhlig a dh'ullaich agus a dh'aontaich iad, agus a dhearbhadh sinne.

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## **BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR ROSIE'S COMMENTS**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is very familiar with Mr Rosie's oft-repeated views. He chooses on every occasion not to address the Bòrd directly, despite an invitation from the Chair to meet at any time. He has also refused to discuss these matters at a public meeting in his own area. He has never passed on any of the evidence he claims are the views of his constituents.

The Highland Council was very proud to display its Gaelic credentials as the first local authority to produce a Gaelic Plan. The Highland Council itself produced the Plan, and it was approved by the Bòrd. It has to be made clear that this was a requirement under an Act of the Scottish Parliament, and should not be taken lightly. In the same way as Highland Councillors represent the views of the people in their wards, MSPs represent the views of people in their constituencies. The Gaelic Language Act was passed unopposed by all parties in the Scottish Parliament. Given that it went through the proper democratic process, the Bòrd would see no need for any further referendum and would suggest that the cost of conducting one would probably be more than the Highland Council spends on Gaelic in a year.

Significant funding has been given to the Highland Council to fulfil its own aspirations and Mr Rosie will no doubt be surprised to know that the Council has not, in fact, spent all of that money. The Bòrd disputes Mr Rosie's view that spending on Gaelic is to the detriment of other children and services and wonders where the millions of pounds he thinks is being spent on Gaelic by the Highland Council is coming from. He should ask officials for a breakdown of exactly how much the Highland Council does spend on Gaelic from its own resources.

The option of a Gaelic education is a choice given to parents under the 1980 Education Act and Mr Rosie should realise that Gaelic schools and units need teachers too. The development of Gaelic, and the employment opportunities arising from it, should be seen as positive in the current economic climate. If teachers are in danger of losing their jobs, we hope they would see Gaelic as a useful additional skill and would welcome them learning the language to get them back into work.

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Cllr Rosie is no doubt aware that Gaelic speakers pay the same taxes as everyone else and that the Scottish Government's support for Gaelic through the Gaelic Language Act is matched by significant financial support which Highland Council has been only too willing to accept. The Highland Council itself collects at least 5 times as much in Council Tax from Gaelic speakers than it spends on supporting the language. Given that the spend by the Council is less than a quarter of one percent of its overall budget, it is difficult to see how such a small expenditure has the disproportionate detrimental effect on other services that Cllr Rosie claims.

As to his claims about not being anti-Gaelic, people can make their own minds up about that. There is an open door at the Bòrd for Mr Rosie to come and see how the Bòrd works and we repeat our invitation to discuss these matters publicly with us. Meantime, we will continue to work with Highland Council on the basis that they are going to deliver the Gaelic Plan which it prepared and agreed, and which was approved by us.