

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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Litir bho Chathraiche a' Bhùird dhan West Highland Free Press *Beurla a-mhàin*

07 An t-luchar 2011

Dear Sir,

The article in the West Highland Free Press (Bòrd says arts funding blow 'disappointing'), and Brian Wilson's column of 1 July raises issues of my personal integrity, and that of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and I am grateful for the opportunity to reply.

As stated in my letter last week, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has not withdrawn a single penny from Pròiseact nan Ealan (PnE). The Bòrd was not party to Creative Scotland's decision to discontinue PnE's foundation funded status, which was reached by the board of Creative Scotland on the recommendation of a Foundation Organisation Review Team, of which the Gaelic Arts Officer was not a member.

To be helpful to Brian Wilson, I asked Andrew Dixon directly about the matter of his Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) Lecture (I must have a doppelganger as I was unable to attend) and he confirmed that he writes all his own speeches. He pointed out that the SMO Lecture predated the review of foundation organisations and confirmed that the Gaelic Arts Officer had nothing to do with it's content. The exclusion of a mention of PnE had not been deliberate and Andrew made the point that other organisations were not mentioned.

Andrew Dixon also confirmed that which the Bòrd's Chief Executive told me previously. There was no collusion between the two organisations on the review by Creative Scotland undergone by PnE. Bòrd na Gàidhlig knew nothing of it's decision until after PnE itself was informed -a situation that is only right and proper. Given that this is a matter between PnE and Creative Scotland, have not seen the letter from Venu Dhupa to which Brian referred, and it is for Creative Scotland to articulate it's reasons for discontinuing PnE's foundation funded status.

We would not expect Creative Scotland to be party to our decisions, so why it is assumed that Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be party to Creative Scotland's decisions is what stretches credulity and it is disappointing that Brian persists in questioning the integrity of the answers I gave in relation to this matter in the first place. I am confident that Bòrd na Gàidhlig's hands are, indeed, 'clean'. Rather than being bounced into a 'flurry of activity', the Bòrd's Chief Executive already had an appointment to see the Director of PnE before

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this story appeared in the WHFP, to offer support and assistance. We will continue to do so now that we know PnE's position.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

Arthur Cormack Cathraiche