

## Fiosrachadh Pearsanta/Contact Information

Buidhean Organisation	Comunn Tir nam Beann Dhùn Eideann
Baile-mòr/Baile City/Town	Edinburgh
Dùthaich Country	Scotland

## Ceistean | Questions

**1. Tha cumadh a' Phlana a' gabhail a-steach amas, cuspairean, prìomh raointean agus gealltanasan. A bheil beachd agaibh air cumadh a' Phlana agus air an àrd-amas againn? The structure for the Plan consists of an aim, priority areas and commitments. Do you have any comments on how we have structured the Plan and the overall aim we have selected?**

The Plan is well-structured, clear, easy to understand, and appropriate to the role and status of Gaelic in Scotland. We support the overall aim. Our organisation with its roots in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland has a commitment to supporting the use of Gaelic in the Edinburgh community through ceilidhs and Mods and we believe it is important to promote a positive image of the language and culture locally and nationally. Local and National Mòds have a beneficial effect in promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

**2. Tha sinn dhen beachd gu bheil e riatanach gum bi deagh ìomhaigh aig a' Ghàidhlig agus gum bi na raointean shuas a' cur gu mòr ri sin. A bheil beachdan agaibh fhèin air na raointean a thagh sinn no càil eile co-cheangailte ris a' chuspair seo? We believe that the promotion of a positive image for Gaelic is essential and we think that the areas above are the key areas that can make a contribution to this. Do you have any comments on the areas we have selected or alternative suggestions?**

We agree that promoting a positive image of Gaelic is a valid priority, as well as the learning and use of Gaelic. It is important that the number of learners continues to increase in order to sustain the language for future generations, and a positive image of Gaelic has a beneficial influence on learners and users. The Bòrd should make full use of media opportunities to promote the benefits of bilingualism in education and the cultural wealth of Gaelic. We believe that cross-party support for Gaelic should be maintained so that Government-led language initiatives are not misunderstood.

**3. Tha sinn dhen beachd gu bheil foghlam agus ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig aig cridhe a' Phlana seo. Tha sinn air liosta a dhèanamh de na prìomh raointean airson leasachadh san àm ri teachd. A bheil beachdan agaibh air seo, agus air na prìomh raointean a thagh sinn airson ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig? We believe education and Gaelic learning are central to this Plan. We have also listed the priority areas that we believe should be a focus for ongoing activity. Do you have any comments on this emphasis and on the priority areas selected for learning Gaelic?**

The priority areas listed are appropriate. Learning needs to be encouraged at all levels, but particularly from pre-school onwards, where language learning is more effective. Adult learning has been faltering in recent years, and this area needs support and direction with a strategy that will co-ordinate the efforts of many independent tutors and learning institutions. There are many adults actively involved in using Gaelic who are keen to develop conversational skills but who lack opportunities to help them do so. It is sad fact of this learning process that many learners are stuck at the same level and never achieve full fluency. The lack of opportunities to use Gaelic also affects pupils in Gaelic-medium education, particularly in urban settings, where there are fast-growing numbers of GME pupils, but with an absence of home or community support. Standards need to be maintained so that there is a core of students ready to become the high-quality Gaelic teachers of the future.

**4. Tha sinn dhen beachd gu bheil na raointean a chaidh a thaghadh cudromach airson cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh. A bheil beachdan agaibh air mar a dh'fhaodamaid piseach a thoirt air ìre cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig? We believe the areas selected are important for promoting the increased use of Gaelic. Do you have any comments or suggestions you would like to make in relation to promoting the increased use of Gaelic?**

Organisations with Gaelic Language Plans should be actively encouraged to have as many services as possible delivered bilingually so that Gaelic speakers can access these services in their language of choice. This is particularly relevant in areas where there are a majority of Gaelic speakers resident in the community. In urban areas, local authorities with Gaelic Language Plans should make facilities available for their resident Gaelic users so that the use of Gaelic is actively encouraged. In our capital city of Edinburgh, where tourism, festivals and the arts are regular events on the calendar, there are great opportunities to take advantage of these activities in promoting Gaelic as a language of value in Scotland, and demonstrating the cultural value of the language, but there is a lack of funding and co-ordination.

**5. Ann an ceistean 2, 3 is 4, chaidh iarraidh oirbh ur beachdan a thoirt air na prìomh raointean a chaidh a chomharrachadh. Anns a' cheist seo, bu mhath leinn ur beachdan fhaighinn air na prìomh ghealltanasan a chomharraich sin agus air gealltanasan a bharrachd a bu chòir a bhith ann gus an dèanar adhartas ann a bhith a' leasachadh na th' ann de dhaoine a tha a' labhairt, cleachdadh is ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba agus ann a bhith a' leudachadh nan suidheachaidhean anns am bi i air a cur gu feum? In questions 2, 3 and 4, you were asked about your views on the priority areas identified. In this question, we would like to hear any views or suggestions you may have on the key commitments we have identified and views on any key commitments you think should be included in order to make progress with the aim of increasing the number of people speaking, using and learning Gaelic in Scotland and the number of situations in which it is used?**

We support the commitment to a greater focus on Gaelic in the community. Gaelic has made major inroads to the education system, though much still needs to be done especially post-primary, but we all recognise that school education alone is not enough to ensure a sustainable future for Gaelic and it is necessary to put more effort into the active use of Gaelic in all areas of public life. There needs to be a specific focus on the geographic areas where Gaelic is still a majority language in the community, and we particularly identify the Western Isles as the traditional heartland of Gaelic. Learning and using must be seen as inseparable factors so that the two come together in all learning programmes. The arts should also feature very strongly in a learning strategy, and exposure to Gaelic cultural activity should be a specific part of the GME and GLE curriculum.

**6. Tha na ceistean co-chomhairleachaidh a nochd na bu tràithe air a bhith rudeigin mionaideach. Ma tha sibh airson puingean eile a thogail, agus mura robh cothrom agaibh sin a dhèanamh thuige seo, nach sgrìobh sibh iad gu h-ìosal. The earlier consultation questions have been fairly specific. If there are any other points you would like to make and feel you have not had the opportunity to do so, please write them below.**

Gaelic language and culture, through events like the Royal National Mòd, receives not just local and national publicity, but also global publicity, and the Plan should place Scottish Gaelic in a global context as a minority, indigenous language, open to similar difficulties that are faced by other minority languages worldwide. The effect of Brexit, austerity and other financial uncertainties could also have an effect on the aspirations for Gaelic in this Plan.