

## Fiosrachadh Pearsanta/Contact Information

Freagarraiche G / Respondent G

### 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 aims are high level and will command support from most people. It is understandably difficult to choose priority areas when every area is so fragile and requiring massive support. Your aim to promote economic development in areas where there are the highest numbers of Gaelic speakers is absolutely essential as so many of the jobs requiring Gaelic are presently based outwith these areas. However, how to do this requires a strategy and plan of its own.

**2. Tha sinn dhen bheachd 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?**

A positive image of Gaelic comes about through knowledge and awareness about the place of Gaelic in Scotland and good experiences in Gaelic education. More Gaelic awareness sessions for the general public would be beneficial.

The Feis movement is as we know a great introduction to Gaelic for many youngsters but pathways beyond the Feis into Ceilidh trails etc are mainly music based with little Gaelic involved.

**3. Tha sinn dhen bheachd 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 Early Years section seems to focus on the 3 + age group whereas getting parents and families to that stage is the real challenge. Without strong 0 to 3 groups, initiatives, and knowledgeable support the numbers going into 3 + education will remain small.

Similarly secondary education is a very weak area as we are losing so many of the GM pupils due to choice forms working against a continuation of Gaelic. There should be some kind of compulsory Gaelic sessions at secondary school (not necessarily to qualification level) to ensure that Gaelic has a place for all GM pupils at secondary.

**4. Tha sinn dhen bheachd 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 cleachdadh 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?**

The high level statements are fine but there is a lack of any strategic actions to implement the plan. There is a lack of "how" to address the issues.

Increasing the use of Gaelic implies that there are sufficient people fluent to use it. Think the emphasis should be on improving the learning of Gaelic -even a lot of young GM who have left school do not feel confident in using it. Need to address this -a short refresher course 2 weeks long at SMO might do the trick.

**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?**

The adult learning strategy which was drawn up last year is not being implemented. This was the most positive development in years so why is nothing being done with it ?

**6. Tha na ceistean co-chomhairleachaidh a nochd na bu tràithe air a bhith rudeigin mionaideach. Ma tha sibh airson puingeann 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.**

I would hope that there will now be a strategic plan developed to point out how to implement these commitments. Without this you are leaving it open for people to make it up as they go. Surely we are beyond this stage. Any Plan for developing Gaelic should really come from the bottom up if a real sense of ownership is to be created. It is also clear that different parts of the country require different approaches- this should be included in the plan. There is a need for a specific approach to meet the needs of the Western Isles, but another for cities and another for places like Moray.

No mention of workforce planning -much more work has to be done with the teacher training colleges to ensure that new teachers are coming through the system.

Adult learning - a group is required to move this forward to "address the gaps".