

Fiosrachadh Pearsanta/Contact Information

Ainm Name

John Campbell

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 overall aim should include reference to intergenerational transmission as an essential part of language revitalisation. Otherwise it is too easy to form the impression that the Bòrd intends merely to increase the "usage" of Gaelic in some vague, possibly trivial sense. The plan as a whole, with its emphasis on broadcasting and education, suggests a vision of Gaelic as a second, hobby or heritage language, used in a restricted set of situations and prey to the suggestion that it is therefore not a "real" language. The few mentions of home and family appear to have been tacked on as an afterthought. They should be at the heart of the matter. Otherwise it appears that the Bòrd's aim is to oversee the extinction of Gaelic as a living language in the fullest sense and to promote its replacement with something that people perceive as artificial.

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?

Apart from a brief mention of "traditional areas" there is no sense of urgency in the plan when it comes to promoting Gaelic and Gaelic language planning to its existing traditional speakers and those who have partially acquired the language by hearing spoken around them. It must be obvious to the Bòrd that much of the uninformed, negative, comments repeated so often in the mainstream media originate amongst traditional speakers. For example, "Gaelic was never a written language", "Gaelic doesn't have enough words for everyday things", "Gaelic is stupid" and so on. What exactly does the Bòrd want to achieve and how can people in traditional communities help? That isn't clear from the plan. The impression from the plan is that Gaelic development is for the benefit of fashionable people, tourists, intellectuals and so on, but not for its traditional speakers.

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 absence of adult literacy must surely be intended. You can't have forgotten about it. That means that you have taken a decision at some level to ignore it. Adult literacy is achievable by simple means. That has been shown time and again all over the world. Yet the Bòrd continues to ignore it. Further evidence that the Bòrd deliberately excludes traditional speakers and has no desire to see them able to enjoy simple written text in their own language. The lack of any reference to other literacies, televisual literacy, radio literacy, internet literacy, is also odd. If you want to increase usage then you should be aiming at increasing literacies.

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 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?

It must be obvious that we need authentic learning materials for adult learners. Didactically contrived materials have their place but if you want to increase usage of Gaelic media then you should have materials based on Gaelic media.

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?

Print media. Books, newspapers, websites. You know if makes sense.

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.

The plan reads like a pitch for MG Alba/BBC Alba. That leaves you vulnerable give that your chairman is involved in organisations that receive funding from those bodies.

28 mentions of MG Alba/BBC Alba and only one mention of literacy. Come on, you can't be that gòrach