

Fiosrachadh Pearsanta / Contact Information

Buidhean Organisation

Lothian Gaelic Choir

Baile-mòr/Baile City/Town

Edinburgh

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?

We are of the view that the Plan is well-structured, clear, simple to understand, and appropriate to the role and status of Gaelic in Scotland. The overall aim is supported. As a choir we have a commitment to learning and using Gaelic through our regular choral activities, and seek to promote a positive image of the language and culture locally and nationally. Local and National Mòds serve an essential purpose in promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

2. Tha sinn dhen bheachd gu bheil e riatanach gum bi deagh iomhaigh 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 worthy priority, as well as the learning and use of Gaelic. Increasing the number of learners is vital to sustaining the language for the future, and a positive image of Gaelic has a beneficial influence on learners and users. It is important to make full use of media opportunities to promote the benefits of bilingualism in education and the cultural wealth that is associated with Gaelic. Maintaining cross-party support for Gaelic is also essential to prevent mis-interpretation of Government-led language initiatives.

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 priority areas listed are appropriate so that learning is encouraged at all levels, but particularly from pre-school onwards, where language learning is more effective. Adult learning has been at an uncertain level of late, and this area merits support and direction with a strategy that supports the efforts of numerous independent tutors and learning institutions. There are many adults actively involved in using Gaelic e.g. soloists and choristers at Local and National Mòds who are keen to develop their conversational skills but who lack opportunities to help them do so. 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. A failure to address this problem will adversely affect the future recruitment of high-quality Gaelic teachers

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?

Organisations with Gaelic Language Plans need to 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 need to be encouraged to make facilities available for their resident Gaelic users where the use of Gaelic is actively encouraged. In the capital city of Edinburgh, where tourism, festivals and the arts are regular features, resources are needed to take advantage of these activities in promoting Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, and demonstrating the cultural value of the language.

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 significant inroads to the education system, though much still needs to be done especially post-primary, but it should be recognised that education alone is not sufficient to ensure a sustainable future for Gaelic and therefore it is now time 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, with a particular focus on the Western Isles as the traditional heartland of Gaelic. Learning and using must be seen as inseparable factors so that the two are part and parcel of all learning programmes. The arts should also feature very strongly in a learning strategy, and exposure to Gaelic cultural activity should be essential components 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 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.

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