

## Fiosrachadh Pearsanta / Contact Information

Buidhean Organisation	SFC
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 overall aim could possibly be simplified even more to "increasing the number of people using Gaelic in Scotland".

The structure is clear and (generally) works.  
Pp01 and 02 are helpful (although not an indexed part of the document).

**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?**

The promotion of a positive image of Gaelic is essential.

Make clear what the outcome of work in this priority area will be.

'Implementation' of Gaelic language plans by public authorities (rather than just 'adoption') is a good choice. Using Gaelic media, arts and education cannot be your only medium or audience or you will be preaching mainly to the converted. It should be clearer in your list of priority areas that you are promoting this to Scotland as a whole. Positive messages about Gaelic and diversity & inclusion are required but you should be clearer on where these are to go and (once successful) who will have accepted them.

**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?**

Education is rightly central to this plan. However, 'education' covers a vast range of activity and it might be worth acknowledging this.

'Post-school and adult Gaelic learning' arguably covers as wide a range of experiences as school and pre-school learning (from ab initio language learning as a leisure activity to Gaelic-medium higher degrees) – it might be useful to present this in a more nuanced way

It becomes clear later in the document that 'Gaelic medium workforce recruitment, training and supply' refers to the Gaelic-medium education workforce. This should be consistently clear throughout.

'Resources and support for learning' might be supplemented by 'at all levels'

**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?**

Again, we'd support this as a priority. There is a parallel need to increase the number of people willing to have Gaelic used.

The first two bullets could be amended to "... promote and support the use ..."

Extend the bullet Gaelic language plans to add, for example, “in a wider range of bodies”

Extend the bullet Gaelic in the workplace to add “and in services to the public.”

Extend the bullet Gaelic use in heritage ... to add “and in [customer] service industries”

**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 chomharrachadh 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?**

More could be made of opportunities for partnership and joint working among GLP organisations, and of the potential for them to influence others (beyond the GLPOs).

**\*Promoting Gaelic\***

The 'Scottish Government and Parliament' commitment might usefully restate that, under their remits, development of policy should include consideration of the potential to support Gaelic.

Aligning Gaelic promotion to inclusivity and to equality & diversity issues is a useful perspective to take. Although not a protected group, Gaelic speakers are an indigenous minority and this perspective can generate a more sympathetic response.

Equality and diversity issues need to be addressed within Gaelic policy too. (Where is the equality impact assessment for this strategy?) It is not clear what is covered by the equality and diversity commitment on p21 – a bit more information is needed.

**\*Learning Gaelic\***

In Guidance on Gaelic Education specify 2017, rather than “this year”. Make clear that you are referring to Gaelic \*school\* education. This is very time-limited – what happens after “this year”?

In the 'GM ELC expansion' commitment, it would be worth making clear that GM ELC will also contribute to the increased hours.

The 'GM HNC' is also a relatively short-term aim, which might fit better under the 'Gaelic Education Workforce' commitment.

As above, 'Gaelic Adult Learning' is potentially a much wider area for action than implied. As drafted, SFC's responsibilities might not be affected by this key commitment.

SFC's role in this section is primarily in supporting the trainers of staff who will deliver (and support) school or earlyyears GME and GLE, not in addressing provision for adult learners of Gaelic.

**\*Using Gaelic\***

It is worth emphasizing that initiatives should be developed \*in partnership\*, particularly for the 'Young People' and 'Communities in Towns and Cities' key commitments.

Add "in towns and cities" to the key commitment under Communities in Towns and Cities. Why "new" initiatives here? Wouldn't adding a Gaelic element to existing arts and sports initiatives (run by other informed organisations) be easier, more efficient and have follow-on benefits?

The key commitment on 'Gaelic Broadcasting' isn't new, although it is worthy.

As drafted the key commitments are “areas where a new emphasis or initiative is needed”.

The Uist development under 'Gaelic Arts' is too current and too detailed. This might be an illustration of a broader outcome sought, but is unlikely to seem hugely relevant by 2022.

Under 'Gaelic Overseas' reword the second Commitment. Research projects do not assess the potential to collaborate. Maybe "we will work with [Ireland] to identify potential joint developments, particularly in language technology." There is wider overseas interest in Gaelic - there might be value in acknowledging this, even if another detailed commitment is not appropriate at this point.

**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.**

It is worth emphasising that this is a plan for the nation (rather than a Bòrd na Gàidhlig strategic plan).

There are points where the 'voice' of this plan seems to be that of Bòrd na Gàidhlig alone, rather than 'the nation' (although this may actually be the Bòrd working to co-ordinate national efforts among other interested parties). Although the Bòrd is authoring the plan, it is being written for 'the nation' and is likely to be stronger if 'the nation' and 'the Bòrd' can be distinguished.

Comment on the scope of the plan would also be useful. It should inform the attitudes to Gaelic of \*all\* public bodies (or at least publicly-funded bodies) in Scotland, not just those which have been asked to produce Gaelic language plans.

Terminology – 'areas' and 'support' can be interpreted in a variety of ways. It will be important to have these clearly defined, somewhere, with regard to each usage.

Section 5 –

As noted above, this section contains various commitments – could these be more clearly identified?

'Gaelic language plans' section (p17): some commentary on the range of organisations to be identified to produce Gaelic language plans, and why, would be good; it might also be worth making the point that organisations with GLPs have the opportunity to influence their networks beyond those who have their own GLPs; can you provide some examples of service delivery in Gaelic that goes beyond GME and GLE?

'International links' section (p17): There is value in links, and in making common ground, with minority languages within the UK as well as beyond (eg BSL, Scots, Welsh); links are often with supporters of minority languages as well as with their speakers; exposing international interest in Gaelic can increase value attributed to the language within Scotland; the Soillse is another example of a Gaelic organisation with international links; there is some scope for SFC on this issue too.

Section 9 –

A stronger claim could be made for a brokering role in delivering collaborations and partnerships to achieve the plan's aims.

Afterword (p31)

The draft contains very few targets or measures of progress. The final version should include a commitment to produce a monitoring plan which will be used for the annual review of progress.