

Islands Communities Impact Assessment – Consultation

09 November 2020

<p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' chothrom beachdan a chur a-steach gu foirmeil chun na co-chomhairle seo. Tha sinn mu thràth air conaltradh gu neo-foirmeil le Sgioba Eileanan Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a' chùis seo.</p> <p>Is e Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba le uallach airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig adhartachadh agus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean na Gàidhlig. Is e fear de na prìomh dhleastanasan againn am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig a thoirt gu buil agus obrachadh le com-pàirtichean ann a bhith ga libhrigeadh. Tha plana nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a' feuchainn ri inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tèarainte mar chànan oifigeil ann an Alba aig a bheil spèis cho-ionnan ris a' Bheurla.</p> <p>Chuir sinn fàilte air fòcas Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean air cho cudromach sa tha a' Ghàidhlig ann am mòran thaobhan de bheatha nan eilean. Tha coimhearsnachdan nan eilean deatamach do shlàinte na Gàidhlig agus tha cùisean a tha a' toirt buaidh orra cuideachd a' toirt buaidh air a' Ghàidhlig. Anns a' cho-theacsa seo, tha e riatanach gum beachdaich Measaidhean Buaidh Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach air buaidh a' ghnìomha air a bheilear a' beachdachadh air a' Ghàidhlig. Bu chòir seo a bhith na cheist shònraichte ann am Measadh sam bith.</p> <p>Is e aon eisimpleir a tha a' sealltainn carson a tha feum air seo am Measadh Buaidh a chaidh a dhèanamh airson Buidheann Ath-bheothachaidh Roinnleachdail COVID airson Foghlam mu bhith ag ath-fhosgladh sgoiltean agus buidhnean thràth-bhliadhnaichean.</p> <p>Sgrìobh sinn chun na Buidhne oir, ged a rinn iad measadh buaidh eileanach ann am paragrafan 34-</p>	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the opportunity to formally submit its views to this consultation. We have already corresponded informally with the Scottish Government Islands' Team on this matter.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. One of our primary remits is to produce the National Gaelic Language Plan and work with partners in its delivery. The National Gaelic language plan seeks to secure the status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.</p> <p>We welcomed the National Islands Plan's focus on the importance of Gaelic in many aspects of island life. The island communities are critical to the health of the Gaelic language and issues which impact on them also impact on Gaelic. In this context, it is essential that Island Communities Impact Assessments consider the impact of the action being considered on Gaelic. This should be a specific question in any Assessment.</p> <p>One example which illustrates why this is necessary was the Impact Assessment carried out for the COVID Strategic Recovery Group for Education on re-opening schools and early years' groups.</p> <p>We wrote to the Group as, although it carried out an island impact assessment in paras 34-36, there is no</p>
--	---

36, chan eil guth air foghlam Gàidhlig sa mheasadh. Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag obair gu dlùth le Comhairle nan Eilean Siar agus chuir sinn fàilte air a' Phoileasaidh Gàidhlig na Prìomhachas aig a' Chomhairle a tha a' làimhseachadh Gàidhlig mar an cànan àbhaisteach airson sgoilearan ùra ann an sgoiltean nan Eilean Siar. Tha sinn den bheachd gu bheil seo na dheagh chleachdadh agus na dheagh eisimpleir de dh'obair com-pàirteachais.

Leis gu bheil Comhairle nan Eilean Siar air gabhail gu h-oifigeil ri poileasaidh Gàidhlig, gu sònraichte a thaobh foghlaim, agus a' mhòr-chuid den t-sluagh nan luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig, bha seo na adhbhar dragh dhuinn.

Gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil co-dhùnaidhean mu poileasaidh, ro-innleachd no seirbheis dha na h-eileanan a' beachdachadh gu h-ìomchaidh air buaidh poileasaidh no gnìomhan air a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar, mholamaid gum biodh seo air ainmeachadh gu sònraichte anns an stiùireadh measaidh. Nam biodh ùghdarras poblach sam bith airson comhairle a ghabhail air mar a dh'fhaodadh an gnìomh no am poileasaidh aca buaidh a thoirt air a' Ghàidhlig, bhiodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig gu math deònach a leithid de thaic a thoirt seachad. Bhiodh sinn cuideachd gu math deònach a dhol an sàs le Sgioba nan Eilean gus seo a leasachadh.

Air ìre nas practaigiche, tha sinn a' cur fàilte air ur rùn na stuthan co-chomhairleachaidh a thoirt seachad sa Ghàidhlig. Is e leasachadh math a tha seo agus fear a bhrosnaicheas luchd-freagairt barrachd Gàidhlig a chleachdadh. Tha sinn den bheachd, agus a' toirt taic do bhith a' libhrigeadh Plana Gàidhlig Riaghaltas na h-Alba 2016-21, gum bu chòir a h-uile foillseachadh a tha ceangailte ri Achd nan Eilean a bhith ri fhaighinn sa Ghàidhlig agus gum brosnach sibh daoine, gu gnìomhach, gus am pròiseas ath-bhreithneachaidh a dhèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

mention of Gaelic education in the assessment. Bòrd na Gàidhlig work closely with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and welcomed the Comhairle's Gaelic First Policy which sets Gaelic as the default language for new pupils in Western Isles schools. We consider this to be good practice and excellent example of partnership working.

As Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has officially adopted a Gaelic First policy, particularly in relation to education, and the majority of the population are Gaelic speakers, this was a concerning omission.

So as to ensure that decisions on policy, strategy or service for the islands appropriately consider the impact of policy or actions on Gaelic language and culture, we would recommend that this is specifically mentioned in the assessment guidance. If any public authority wished to take advice on how their action or policy might impact on Gaelic, Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be very willing to provide such input. We would also be very willing to engage with the Islands' Team to develop this further.

On a more practical level, we welcome your intention to provide the consultation materials in Gaelic. This is a welcome development and one which will encourage respondents to use Gaelic more. We are of the view, and in support of delivering the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan 2016-21, that all publications linked to the Islands Act should be available in Gaelic and that you will pro-actively encourage people to undertake the review process through the medium of Gaelic.

