



Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Co-chomhairle Maoineachaidh Ro-Innleachdail
Strategic Funding Consultation
Foirm-freagairt / Response Form

A. Mu do dheidhinn / About you

A1 **D' ainm / Your name** Malcolm Maclean

B. Buidhnean Com-pàirteach Lìbhrigidh / Delivery Partners

B1 **A bheil thu den bheachd gu bheil an lìonra chom-pàirtichean lìbhrigidh a th' ann an-dràsta èifeachdach agus a' toirt seachad luach an airgid ann a bhith a'libhrigeadh amasan Plana Corporra Bòrd na Gàidhlig?**
Do you believe that the current network of delivery partners is effective and provides value for money in their delivery of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan objectives?

No

B2 **A bheil thu den bheachd gu bheil taic ri fhaotainn bhon a' Bhòrd gus taic a chumail ris a' bhuidheann agaibh a bhith ag obair ann an com-pàirt le buidhnean eile, agus mur eil dè an taic a bhiodh thu smaoinichadh a bhiodh freagarrach?**
Do you believe that support is available from the Bòrd to support your organisation to work in partnership with other organisations, and if not what support do you believe would be appropriate?

No.

1. BnG have inexplicably neglected their responsibilities to the the Outer Hebrides and their invisibility in Scottish island communities has alienated the last Gaelic speaking community in the world.
2. Neither BnG nor Creative Scotland have any Gaelic arts and cultural strategy which is a shameful failure.

B3 **A bheil thu den bheachd gu bheil taic ri fhaotainn bhon a' Bhòrd airson taic a chumail ris a' bhuidheann agaibh a thaobh goireasan is trèanadh a thaobh conaltradh is tèicneòlas fiosrachaidh, agus mur eil de an taic a bhiodh thu smaoinichadh a bhiodh freagarrach?**
Do you believe that support is available from the Bòrd to support your organisation with resources and training in terms of communication and ICT, and if not what support do you believe would be appropriate?

Provision of resources and training will always be welcome but BnG's failures in the islands and the arts and cultural context are major strategic failures. The absence of any coherent strategies in these key and inter-related areas is BnG's achilles' heel. After 15 years of BnG the Gaelic community and the wider public are entitled to more than minimal generic services and a bit more vision, ambition, creativity and cultural integrity.

B4	<p>A bheil thu den bheachd gu bheil an cothromachadh maoinachaidh a th' ann an-dràsta eadar com-pàirtichean libhrigidh, sgeamaichean maoinachaidh agus pròiseactan a gheibh taic bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' libhrigeadh prìomhachasan a' Phlana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig agus a' dèiligeadh ri feumalachdan na coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig?</p> <p>Do you believe that the current balance of funding between delivery partners, funding schemes and Bòrd na Gàidhlig supported projects adequately deliver the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan and address the needs of the Gaelic community?</p>
No	
B5	<p>A bheil molaidhean sam bith agaibh a bhiodh leasachadh mar a tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig cumail taic ri bhuidhnean a tha libhrigeadh pròiseactan Gàidhlig?</p> <p>Do you have any proposals that could improve the way Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports organisations that deliver Gaelic projects?</p>
<p>1. An inter-agency National Gaelic Arts and Cultural Strategy</p> <p>2. A Gaelic Islands Strategy that recognises the special cultural, social and economic challenges faced by Scotland's Hebridean communities and learns from the experience of models elsewhere such as Ireland.</p>	

C. Sgeamaichean taic-airgid / Funding schemes

C1	<p>A bheil thu den bheachd gu bheil na sgeamaichean maoinachaidh aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig an-dràsta a' dèiligeadh gu h-ìomchaidh ri prìomhachasan a' Phlana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig agus na coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig, agus mura h-eil, dè na h-atharrachaidhean a bhiodh tu a' moladh gus an leasachadh?</p> <p>Do you believe that Bòrd na Gàidhlig's current funding schemes adequately address the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Gaelic community, and if not what changes would you propose to improve them?</p>
<p>BnG's current funding streams may address the priorities of a narrow National Gaelic Language Plan which is over-focused on education. Demonstrably, however, their Plan does not address the priorities of the Gaelic community as evidenced by more than one recent publication. My recommendations for improving BnG's performance and improving their results are for ..</p> <p>1. An inter-agency National Gaelic Arts and Cultural Strategy</p> <p>2. A Gaelic Islands Strategy that recognises the special cultural, social and economic challenges faced by Scotland's Hebridean communities and learns from the experience of models elsewhere such as Ireland.</p>	
C2	<p>A bheil sgeamaichean maoinachaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt cothrom gu leòr dhut fhèin no don bhuidheann agad taic a thoirt do na h-amasan agad ann an leasachadh na Gàidhlig? Mura h-eil, ciamar a mholadh tu dèiligeadh ri seo?</p> <p>Do Bòrd na Gàidhlig's current funding schemes provide you or your organisation sufficient opportunity to support your goals in Gaelic development? If not, how would you propose addressing this?</p>
<p>No. See above. My Gaelic speaking island community views BnG as another distant mainland bureaucracy that is largely irrelevant to their goals in Gaelic development.</p>	

C3	<p>A bheil thu ag aontachadh ris na prionnsapalan maoinachaidh agus a bheil dad sam bith eile a bhiodh tu a' moladh gus an leasachadh?</p> <p>Do you agree with the funding principles and is there anything else you would recommend to improve them?</p>
<p>No. See above.</p>	
C4	<p>A bheil molaidhean sam bith eile agaibh a bhiodh leasachadh sgeamaichean maoinachaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig?</p> <p>Do you have any other proposals to enhance Bòrd na Gàidhlig's funding schemes?</p>
<p>Yes. See above. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the concept of normalisation was a priority for Gaelic development organisations. The creation of BnG has led on to a greater focus on assimilation and bureaucratisation with an implicit assumption that everywhere is the same as everywhere else. Gaelic development cannot be progressed on a one-size-fits-all basis.</p>	

D. San fharsaingeachd / General	
D	<p>A bheil molaidhean sam bith eile agaibh a bhiodh leasachadh mar a tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cleachdadh am buidseat leasachaidh aige?</p> <p>Do you have any other proposals that could improve how Bòrd na Gàidhlig uses its development budget?</p>
<p>Yes. This entire form has been focused on BnG's funding schemes and not on their strategic priorities. Focussing on bricks and mortar does not teach us anything about architecture. BnG's problems are strategic and there is a big cultural hole at the centre of the Bord's conceptual architecture. Unless this is addressed then BnG will continue to fail, regardless of how much you tinker with its funding schemes. The role of Gaelic in 21st century Scotland is a major question that should concern all of Scotland's cultural agencies. This is especially true of Creative Scotland whose lip service to their Gaelic responsibilities should be a national embarrassment. For as long as BnG continues to narrow its role to Gaelic language learning it will fail to realise Gaelic's cultural potential, fail to mobilise other cultural agencies and alienate those who already speak the language.</p>	