

<p>Ionmhas poblach na h-Alba ann an 2022-23 agus buidh Covid Freagairt Cho-chomhairle Le Bòrd na Gàidhlig 12 Lùnastal 2021</p>	<p>Scotland's public finances in 2022-23 and the impact of Covid Consultation Response By Bòrd na Gàidhlig 12 August 2021</p>
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<p>1. Ciamar a bu chòir do Bhuidseat Riaghaltas na h-Alba airson 2022-23 dèiligeadh ris an fheum air ath-bheothachadh cothromach is co-ionann bho èiginn Covid?</p> <p>Air a stèidheachadh fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, is e Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba a tha an urra ri a bhith a' cur air adhart leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus a bhith a' toirt comhairle do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Is e amas a' Phlana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23¹ "gum bi Gàidhlig air a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsainge de shuidheachaidhean". Thèid seo a choileanadh le bhith a' cuimseachadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cur ri cleachdadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur ri ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig. • Ìomhaigh fhàbharach a chur air adhart den Ghàidhlig. <p>Bheir cùisean eile – gu sònraichte eaconamach agus bun-structarail – buaidh air an amas seo. Is e pàirt de dh'obair a' Bhùird dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil ag aithneachadh agus a' dèiligeadh ri buaidh nan cùisean sin air a' Ghàidhlig.</p> <p>Feumaidh Riaghaltas na h-Alba, sa bhuidseat aca, cumail orra ag aithneachadh inbhe agus àite na Gàidhlig gus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi ath-bheothachadh cothromach agus co-ionann ann bho èiginn Covid. Bidh sin a' nochdadh poileasaidh Riaghaltas na h-Alba, a' toirt a-steach na geallaidhean manifesto feumail o chionn ghoirid, air a' Ghàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir:</p> <p>"Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba mothachail gu bheil Gàidhlig na pàirt bhunasach de dhualchas, dearbh-aithne nàiseanta agus beatha chultarail na h-Alba san latha an-</p>	<p>1. How should the Scottish Government's Budget for 2022-23 address the need for a fair and equal recovery from the Covid crisis?</p> <p>Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, 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.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23¹⁶ is "that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations". This will be achieved by focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the use of Gaelic. • Increasing the learning of Gaelic. • Promoting a positive image of Gaelic. <p>Other issues - notably economic and infrastructural - impact on this aim. Part of the Bòrd's work is to ensure these issues' impact on Gaelic is recognised and addressed.</p> <p>The status and role of Gaelic must continue to be recognised in Scottish Government's budget to ensure a fair and equal recovery from the Covid crisis. That is to reflect Scottish Government's policy positions, including the welcome recent manifesto commitments., on Gaelic. For example, most recently:</p> <p>"The Scottish Government recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and current cultural life, and has great</p>
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¹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23-1.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23-1.pdf>

diugh, agus tha comas mòr aice a thaobh luach eaconamach is sòisealta a thogail”².

Tha Gàidhlig mar aon de chànanan na h-Alba le a cultar beairteach fhèin a tha a’ meudachadh iomadachd an nàisein. Neartaichidh a slàinte is a spionnadh an dùthaich. Bidh taic iomchaidh gus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh a’ cur ri co-ionannachd agus in-ghabhaltas ann an Alba.

Tha Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn air feadh na dùthcha. Tha timcheall air 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach air a’ Ghàidhealtachd agus anns na h-Eileanan leis a’ chòrr anns a’ chòrr de dh’Alba. Aig Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 neach ann an Alba (timcheall air 1.7% den t-sluagh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh sin nan luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig.

Tha iarrtas a’ sìor fhàs airson cànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach agus sòisealta nan lùib. Tha an t-iarrtas airson a bhith ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig follaiseach anns an uiread dhaoine a tha a’ cleachdadh làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo³ Gàidhlig. Tha timcheall air 600,000 neach a’ conaltradh ris an ùrlar, le timcheall air 500,000 neach-cleachdaidh beò.

Tha Foghlam Meadhain-Ghàidhlig (FMG) a’ leudachadh air feadh na dùthcha. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an 15 de na 32 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich FMG ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan bun-sgoile agus a-nis tha còrr air 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlam tràth-bhliadhnaichean, bun-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile.

Thathas a-nis ag obair air timcheall air 60 Plana Cànan Gàidhlig ann an grunn bhuidhnean. Mar eisimpleir, Gailearaidhean Nàiseanta na h-Alba, Alba Chruthachail, Poileas Alba agus 30 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail. Tha geallaidhean anns na Planaichean seo airson cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh agus buannachdan na Gàidhlig adhartachadh mar mhaoin.

Cuidichidh taic Riaghaltas na h-Alba don Ghàidhlig a dh’ionnsaigh ath-bheothachadh cothromach, co-ionann oir:

potential as an asset for adding economic and social value”¹⁷.

Gaelic is one of the languages of Scotland with its own rich culture which increases Scotland’s diversity. Its health and vitality will enrich the country. Sufficient support to help increase the use of Gaelic will contribute to equality and inclusion in Scotland.

Gaelic is spoken across the country. About 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of Scotland. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers.

There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic and social benefits. The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the uptake for the Duolingo¹⁸ language-learning website. Around 600,000 people are engaging with the platform, with around 500,000 live users.

Gaelic medium Education (GME) is expanding across the country. It is now available in 15 of Scotland’s 32 Local Authorities. GME began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils and there are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education.

Around 60 Gaelic Language Plans are now being worked on in a diverse range of organisations. For example, National Galleries Scotland, Creative Scotland, Police Scotland and 30 Local Authorities. These Plans contain commitments to increasing the use of Gaelic and realising the benefits of Gaelic as an asset.

Scottish Government support for Gaelic will help achieve a fair and equal recovery because:

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-governments-draft-gaelic-language-plan-2021-2026/>

³ <https://www.duolingo.com/>

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-governments-draft-gaelic-language-plan-2021-2026/>

¹⁸ <https://www.duolingo.com/>



- Tha e a' nochdadh poileasaidh Riaghaltas na h-Alba gu soilleir.
- Tha a' Ghàidhlig na pàirt bhunaiteach de dhualchas, fèin-aithne nàiseanta agus beatha chultarach na h-Alba – tha i na cànan nàiseanta.
- Tha comas mòr aig a' Ghàidhlig gus tuilleadh bhuannachdan eaconamach is sòisealta a thoirt gu buil airson luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus comann-sòisealta na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd.
- Tha iarrrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan, cultar agus foghlam Gàidhlig agus feumar coinneachadh ris.

2. Ciamar a bu chòir do Bhuidseat Riaghaltas na h-Alba dèiligeadh ri buaidhean eadar-dhealaichte a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte thar buidhnean aoise, teachd-a-steach agus foghlaim, agus thar àiteachan?

Bidh sinn a' soilleireachadh gu h-ìosal na buaidhean eadar-dhealaichte a tha aig a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte a thaobh àite. Tha am Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig a' comharrachadh trì seòrsachan de choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig:

- Eileanan agus sgìrean dùthchail far a bheil Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn le cuid mhòr den t-sluagh.
- Sgìrean bailteil far a bheil an àireamh de luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig a' fàs - m.e., Dùn Èideann, Glaschu, Inbhir Nis.
- An iomadach duine a tha a' gabhail pàirt anns a' choimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig air-loidhne.

Bu chòir do bhuidseat Riaghaltas na h-Alba dèiligeadh ri buaidh a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte air na diofar choimhearsnachdan sin.

A. Eileanan agus Sgìrean Dùthchail

Tha Gàidhlig gu sònraichte cumanta ann an cuid de dh'eileanan a' chosta an iar. Sheall Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 gu robh cuid de sgìlean Gàidhlig aig 64% de shluagh nan Eileanan Siar. Bha am figear os cionn 40% ann an Ratharsair agus Tiriodh. **Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach do na h-eileanan sin – tha seasmhachd nan eilean sin deatamach airson seasmhachd is fàs leantainneach na Gàidhlig.**

Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh seo ann am Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean aca.⁴ Tha seo “ag

- It clearly reflects Scottish Government policy.
- Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life - it is a national language.
- Gaelic has considerable potential to realise further economic and social benefits for Gaelic speakers and wider Scottish society.
- There is growing demand for Gaelic language, culture and education which needs to be satisfied.

2. How should the Scottish Government's Budget address the different impacts of the pandemic across age, income and education groups and across places?

We highlight below the different impacts of the pandemic in terms of **place**. The National Gaelic Language Plan identifies three types of Gaelic communities:

- Island and rural areas where Gaelic is spoken by a large percentage of the population.
- Urban areas where the number of Gaelic speakers is growing - e.g., Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness.
- The many people who participate in the online Gaelic community.

Scottish Government's budget should address the impacts of the pandemic on these different communities.

A. Islands and Rural Areas

Gaelic is particularly prevalent in some west coast islands. The 2011 Census showed that 64% of the Eilean Siar population had some Gaelic skills. The figure was over 40% in Raasay and Tiree. **The Gaelic language is not only important to these islands - these islands' sustainability is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language.**

This is acknowledged by Scottish Government in its

⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-plan-scotlands-islands/>



aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig do mhòran choimhearsnachdan eileanach, agus cho cudromach 's a tha coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig nan eilean airson mairsinn agus seasmhachd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba". Tha e cuideachd ag ràdh "ann an sgìrean le dualchas Gàidhlig, bu chòir beachdachadh air a' Ghàidhlig an-còmhnaidh ann an cùisean leasachadh eaconamach."

Tha grunn amasan ro-innleachdail Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean a' toirt iomradh air gnìomhan co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir:

- *Gus aghaidh a chur ri crìonadh sluaigh agus gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil pròifil sluaigh fallain agus cothromach ann bidh sinn:* A' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil poileasaidhean ag amas air luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a chumail agus a thàladh gus fuireach agus obair ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach a tha a' bruidhinn na Gàidhlig.
- *Gus leasachadh eaconamach seasmhach a leasachadh agus a bhrosnachadh bidh sinn:* A' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheilear a' beachdachadh air cothroman gus sunnd na Gàidhlig a leasachadh agus an àireamh de luchd-labhairt agus luchd-cleachdaidh a mheudachadh mar phàirt de leasachadh eaconamach seasmhach.
- *Gus taic a chumail ri ealain, cultar agus cànan bidh sinn:* A' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil na geallaidhean sa phlana seo air an stiùireadh agus air an aon rèir ris na geallaidhean sa Phlana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig, ag obair gu dlùth le Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Chaidh buaidh a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte air eileanan agus àiteachan eile air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan a mhìneachadh ann an grunn aithisgean agus sgrìobhainnean eile⁵. Tha iad sin air aire a thoirt do:

National Islands Plan¹⁹. This "recognises the importance of the Gaelic language to many island communities, and the importance of the Gaelic speaking island communities to the survival and sustainability of Gaelic in Scotland". It also notes that "in areas that have a Gaelic heritage, Gaelic should always be considered in matters of economic development".

A number of the National Islands Plan's strategic objectives refer to actions relating to Gaelic. For example:

- *To address population decline and ensure a healthy, balanced population profile we will:* Ensure that policies aim to retain and attract Gaelic speakers to live and work in Gaelic speaking island communities.
- *To improve and promote sustainable economic development we will:* Ensure that opportunities to develop the wellbeing of the Gaelic language and increase the number of speakers and users are considered as part of sustainable economic development.
- *To support arts, culture and language we will:* Ensure that the commitments in this plan are informed by and aligned with the commitments in the National Gaelic Language Plan, working closely with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The impacts of the pandemic on islands and other parts of the Highlands and Islands have been set out in a number of reports and other documents²⁰. These have pointed to the:

⁵ Mar eisimpleir: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-islands-plan-through-covid-lens-survey-results/documents/>; <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/9646/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-highlands-and-islands.pdf>; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/REC_S5_20_IB_41.pdf; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/RECC_COMHAIRLE_NAN_EILEAN_SIAR.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-plan-scotlands-islands/>

²⁰ For example: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-islands-plan-through-covid-lens-survey-results/documents/>; <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/9646/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-highlands-and-islands.pdf>; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/REC_S5_20_IB_41.pdf; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/RECC_COMHAIRLE_NAN_EILEAN_SIAR.pdf



- Cugallachd eaconamach air feadh mòran eileanan agus sgìrean dùthchail. Ann am pàirt tha seo a' nochdadh eisimeileachd air àireamh bheag de roinnean (m.e. turasachd, iasgach) agus fastaichean fa leth, cuid dhiubh le pàigheadh ìosal. Ann an cuid de dh'eileanan, tha turasachd a' dèanamh suas ri 40% den gnìomhachd eaconamach. Tha lùghdachadh/stad turasachd air buaidh a thoirt chan ann a-mhàin air gnìomhachasan "turasachd" (me solaraichean àite-fuirich), tha e cuideachd air roinnean eile a bhualadh – m.e. bùthan, solaraichean còmhdhail – a tha a' faighinn buannachd bho airgead luchd-tadhail. Tha an galar lèir-sgaoilte air buaidh mhòr a thoirt air eileanan far a bheil cosnadh a gheibhear as t-samhradh a' toirt taic do mhòran dhaoine aig a bheil teachd-a-steach ìosal no aig nach eil teachd-a-steach idir an còrr den bhliadhna.
- Tha cuibhreann coimeasach àrd de gnìomhachasan ann an roinnean air an tug an galar lèir-sgaoilte fìor dhroch bhuaidh. Mar eisimpleir, Àiteachan-fuirich agus seirbheisean bidhe, Ealain, dibhearsain agus cur-seachad – a tha air a bhith nam fastaichean cudromach.
- Ìrean gu math àrd de dh'fhèin-chosnadh, far a bheil taic an Riaghaltais air a bhith nas ìsle na airson chompanaidhean agus an luchd-obrach aca.
- Barrachd eisimeileachd air cosnadh ann am meanbh-iomairtean agus iomairtean beaga. Tha nas lugha de stòrasan ionmhais is eile aca gu dèiligeadh ris a' chrìonadh ann an iarrtas.
- Tha droch bhuaidh air a bhith air ceanglaichean gnìomhachais agus pearsanta eadar na h-eileanan agus tìr-mòr air sgàth tricead agus comas nas lugha aig seirbheisean aiseig agus seirbheisean adhair.
- Mar thoradh air slugh a tha a' fàs nas sine ann an cuid de sgìrean bha barrachd uallaich air coimhearsnachdan (sin, àireamhan àrda fo dhìonachd agus feumach air taic).

- General economic fragility of many islands and rural areas. In part this reflects dependence on a small number of sectors (e.g. tourism, fisheries) and individual employers, some of which are low paying. In some islands, tourism accounts for as much as 40% of economic activity. Reduced/no tourism activity has affected not only "tourism" businesses (e.g. accommodation providers). It has also hit other sectors - e.g. shops, transport providers - which benefit from visitor spend. The pandemic has particularly affected islands where earnings gained in the summer support many individuals who have low or zero income at other times of the year.
- A relatively high share of businesses are in sectors disproportionately affected by the pandemic. For example, Accommodation and food services, Arts, entertainment and recreation - which have been significant employers.
- Relatively high levels of self-employment, for whom Government support has been lower than for companies and their employees.
- Greater dependence on employment in micro and small enterprises. They have fewer financial and other resources to cope with a downturn in demand.
- Business and personal contacts between the islands and the mainland have been adversely affected by reduced frequency and capacity of lifeline ferry and air services.
- The aging profile of some of areas' populations resulted in increased pressures for communities (i.e. high numbers shielding and requiring support).

Bidh na factaran sin air leantainn gu buaidhean nas troma anns na h-eileanan agus na sgìrean dùthchail,

These factors will have led to more significant impacts in the islands and rural areas, and they



agus tha coltas ann gun toir iad nas fhaide ag ath-bheothachadh na pàirtean eile de dh'Alba.

Bha dùbhlain ro chuid de na raointean sin cuideachd mus tàinig an galar làir-sgaoilte. San fharsaingeachd, **tha sgìrean iomallach na h-Alba nas dualtaiche crìonadh sluaigh fhaicinn na sgìrean bailteil agus ruigsinneach.** Mar eisimpleir, thathas a' measadh gun do thuit àireamh-sluaigh nan Eilean Siar 3.5% eadar 2011 agus 2019.

Tha **cosgaisean bith-beò nas àirde ann cuideachd do luchd-còmhnaidh nan eilean** an taca ri tìr-mòr na Rìoghachd Aonaichte. Tha rannsachadh a rinneadh do lomairt na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean⁶ a' sealltainn gu bheil am buidseat a dh'fheumas teaghlaichean gus ìre beòshlaint iomchaidh a chumail gu math nas àirde na àiteachan eile. Mar eisimpleir, tha am buidseat riatanach airson aon neach ann an Innse Gall (ach a-mhàin màl) eadar 26% agus 42% nas àirde na ann am pàirtean bailteil den RA.

Feumar ìrean iomchaidh de thasgadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil na suidheachaidhean ann airson taic a thoirt do eileanan agus sgìrean dùthchail, a' toirt a-steach an fheadhainn far a bheil cleachdadh na Gàidhlig àrd an-dràsta. Cuidichidh sin le bhith ag ath-thogail misneachd ann an coimhearsnachdan a tha air am bualadh gu cruaidh leis a' ghalar làir-sgaoilte.

Thathar a' sìor aithneachadh barrachd chùisean crìonadh sluaigh agus mì-chothromachadh aois, a' gabhail a-steach tro Cho-chruinneachadh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean. Thathas a' leasachadh bun-bheachd de "phlanaichean togail sluaigh" airson sgìrean air a bheil buaidh. Dh'fhaodadh iad gabhail a-steach gnìomhan air an eaconamaidh agus obraichean, bun-structar, agus seirbheisean poblach agus coimhearsnachd.

Bheir gnìomhan leithid seo gus eaconamaidh làidir seasmhach a thogail – agus mar sin aghaidh a chur ri cùisean sluaigh – taic cuideachd ri amas Bòrd na Gàidhlig a thaobh cànan Gàidhlig soirbheachail.

B. Sgìrean Bailteil

are likely to take longer to recover than other parts of Scotland.

Some of these areas were also facing challenges prior to the pandemic. Generally, **remote areas of Scotland are more likely to experience population decline than urban and accessible areas.** As an example, the population of Eilean Siar is estimated to have fallen by 3.5% between 2011 and 2019.

There are also **higher living costs for island residents** compared to the UK mainland. Research undertaken for Highlands and Islands Enterprise²¹ shows that the budget required by households to achieve a minimum acceptable standard of living is markedly higher than elsewhere. For example, the required budget for a single person in the Outer Hebrides (excluding rent) is between 26% and 42% higher than in urban parts of the UK.

Appropriate levels of investment are required to ensure that the conditions exist to support islands and rural areas, including those where the use of Gaelic is currently high. That will help rebuild confidence in communities hit hard by the pandemic.

Issues around depopulation and age imbalances are increasingly being recognised, including through the Convention of the Highlands and Islands. The concept of "repopulation plans" for affected areas is being developed. They could include actions on the economy and jobs, infrastructure, and public services and community.

Such actions to build strong and stable economies - and thus address population issues - will also support Bòrd na Gàidhlig's aims of a thriving Gaelic language.

B. Urban Areas

⁶<https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6441/aplusminimumplusincomeplusstandardplusforplusremotepusruralplusscotlandplus-plusappluspolicyplusupdateplus2016.pdf>

²¹<https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6441/aplusminimumplusincomeplusstandardplusforplusremotepusruralplusscotlandplus-plusappluspolicyplusupdateplus2016.pdf>



Tha bailtean agus cathair-bhailtean air feadh na h-Alba air an t-àrdachadh as luaithe fhaicinn ann an àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig o chionn ghoirid, air a stiùireadh sa mhòr-chuid le fàs FMG. An seo, is e am prìomh fheum agus an cothrom, luchd-labhairt a thoirt còmhla nas trice – gu sònraichte daoine òga a’ tighinn còmhla ri inbhich – gus coimhearsnachdan beothail a chruthachadh.

Gu ruige seo, tha tachartasan ealain is cultair na Gàidhlig air a bhith gu mòr an sàs ann an seo, ged a thug an galar lèir-sgaoilte buaidh mhòr orra. Neartaicheadh tasgadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba ann an goireasan sònraichte a stèidheachadh cleachdadh a’ chànain anns na coimhearsnachdan bailteil sin – agus thogadh e ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig am measg an t-sluaigh san fharsaingeachd.

Mar eisimpleir, tha molaidhean ann Ionad Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh ann an Dùn Èideann. Is e sin, àite far a bheil Gàidhlig mar phrìomh chànan agus air a cleachdadh ann an gnìomhan agus seirbheisean an Ionaid. Bhiodh raon de ghoireasan ann – m.e., àiteachan coinneachaidh, cafaidh. A bharrachd air a bhith air a chleachdadh le muinntir a’ bhaile, dh’fhaodadh e cuideachd a bhith tarraingeach do luchd-tadhail don sgìre. Thathas cuideachd a’ sireadh goireas den aon seòrsa airson Inbhir Nis.

C. Coimhearsnachdan Ceangailte le Teicneòlas agus na Meadhanan

Tha an galar lèir-sgaoilte air fàs mòr fhaicinn anns a’ choimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig air-loidhne thar gach buidheann aoise ann an Alba agus gu h-eadar-nàiseanta. Faodaidh teicneòlas raon farsaing de chothroman fhosgladh don Ghàidhlig. Leis a’ ghluasad a dh’ionnsaigh ùr-ghnàthachadh teicneòlach a tha a’ fàs gu luath, mar a thig sinn a-mach às a’ ghalar lèir-sgaoilte tha feum air:

- Ruigsinneachd dhìseatach de chàileachd iomchaidh airson gach ceàrnach de dh’Alba.
- Leantainn air adhart a’ tasgadh anns na sgìlean didseatach a dh’fheumar gus innleachdas ùr a leasachadh. Faodaidh iad seo luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a cheangal air feadh Alba agus na cruinne.

Geàrr-chunntas:

Tha a’ Ghàidhlig cudromach chan ann a-mhàin do na h-eileanan far a bheil i gu sònraichte cumanta. **Mar a thug Riaghaltas na h-Alba fa-near, tha seasmhachd nan**

Towns and cities across Scotland have seen the most rapid increase in numbers of Gaelic users in recent times, mainly driven by the growth of GME. Here, the primary need and opportunity is to bring speakers together more often - particularly young people with adults - to create dynamic communities.

To date, Gaelic arts and cultural events have played a central role in this, although these were particularly affected by the pandemic. Scottish Government investment to help establish dedicated facilities would strengthen the use of the language in these urban communities-and raise the profile of Gaelic among the wider population.

For example, there are proposals to develop a Gaelic Centre in Edinburgh. That is, a physical space where Gaelic is the primary language and used in the Centre’s activities and services. It would incorporate a range of facilities - e.g., meeting spaces, café. As well as being used by local residents it could include aspects of interest to visitors. A similar facility is also being sought for Inverness.

C. Communities Linked by Technology and Media

The pandemic has seen a huge growth in the online Gaelic community across all age groups in Scotland and internationally. Technology can open up a whole new range of opportunities for Gaelic. With the momentum for technological innovation that is rapidly developing, as we emerge from the pandemic there is a need to:

- Offer digital access of sufficient quality for all areas of Scotland.
- Continue investment in the digital skills required to develop new products. These can connect Gaelic learners and speakers across Scotland and the globe.

Summary:

The Gaelic language is not only important to the islands where it is particularly prevalent. As recognised by Scottish Government, these islands’



eileanan sin deatamach airson seasmhachd is fàs leantainneach na Gàidhlig.

Bidh structar eaconamach agus deamografach nan eilean air leantainn gu buaidhean nas miosa bhon ghalar lèir-sgaoilte. Tha coltas ann gun toir iad nas fhaide gus ath-bheothachadh na pàirtean eile de dh'Alba.

Bha dùbhlain mhòra ro chuid de na raointean sin ron ghalar lèir-sgaoilte. Gu sònraichte, crìonadh sluaigh agus mì-chothromachadh aoise, agus cosgaisean bith-beò àrda.

Feumar ìrean iomchaidh de thasgadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil na suidheachaidhean ann airson taic a thoirt do dh'eileanan agus sgìrean dùthchail, a' toirt a-steach an fheadhainn far a bheil cleachdadh na Gàidhlig àrd an-dràsta.

Ann an sgìrean bailteil faodar am fàs ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a chumail suas le tasgadh ann an goireasan agus gnìomhan a bheir luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig còmhla. Togaidh seo cuideachd ìomhaigh a' chànain am measg an t-sluaigh san fharsaingeachd.

Airson coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ceangailte le teicneòlas agus meadhanan tha e riatanach gun tèid adhartas a chumail suas. Gabhaidh sin a-steach tasgadh gus ruigsinneachd dhìseatach de chàileachd iomchaidh a thoirt do gach sgìre ann an Alba, agus tasgadh anns na sgìlean didseatach a tha a dhith.

3. Ann an 2022-23, tha coltas ann gun tig ìsleachadh ann an taic ionmhasail co-cheangailte ri Covid airson na roinne phoblaich agus phrìobhaidich. Mar sin, dè na prìomhachasan a bu chòir a bhith aig Buidseat Riaghaltas na h-Alba?

Aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha an eaconamaidh don Ghàidhlig

Sa chiad àite, bu chòir dèiligeadh ris na dùbhlain a tha ro choimhearsnachdan eileanach is dùthchail far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre mhath làidir agus is i a' chiad chànan airson cuid mhath de na daoine. Tha seo a' nochdadh cho cudromach 's a tha eaconamaidh làidir anns na raointean sin ann a bhith a' cumail suas agus a' fàs cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.

Fàs tabhartas eaconamach na Gàidhlig

sustainability is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language.

The economic and demographic structure of the islands will have led to more significant impacts from the pandemic. They are likely to take longer to recover than other parts of Scotland.

Some of these areas were facing significant challenges prior to the pandemic. Notably, population decline and age imbalances, and high living costs.

Appropriate levels of investment are required to ensure that the conditions exist to support islands and rural areas, including those where the use of Gaelic is currently high.

In urban areas the growth in Gaelic usage can be maintained by investment in facilities and activities that bring Gaelic speakers together. This will also raise the profile of the language among the wider population.

For Gaelic communities linked by technology and media it is essential that momentum is maintained. That will include investment to provide digital access of sufficient quality for all areas of Scotland, and in required digital skills.

3. In 2022-23, it is likely that there will be reduced levels of available Covid-related financial support for the public and private sector. Given this, what should be the priorities for the Scottish Government's Budget?

Recognising The Importance of The Economy for Gaelic

First, addressing the challenges facing island and rural communities where Gaelic remains relatively strong and is the first language for a sizeable proportion of the people. This reflects the importance of a strong economy in those areas in sustaining and growing the use of Gaelic.

Growing the Economic Contribution of Gaelic



<p>San dàrna àite, bu chòir barrachd feum a dhèanamh den Ghàidhlig mar mhaoin. Bheir sin taic don chànan agus cuiridh e ri ath-nuadhachadh eaconamaidh na h-Alba às dèidh a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte.</p> <p>Thomhais an aithisg, <i>Ar Stòras Gàidhlig</i>⁷, luach eaconamach is sòisealta aig a' Ghàidhlig do Alba. Bha an aithisg dòchasach. Lorg e gu bheil gnothaichean anns na gnìomhachasan cruthachail, turasachd, dualchas, agus roinnean bidhe is dibhe a' faighinn buannachd bho bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus gu bheil comas aig seo luach eaconamach mòr a libhrigeadh.</p> <p>Sheall e gum faodadh luach na Gàidhlig a bhith suas ri £149 millean. Faodar a ràdh gu bheil am figear seo buailteach a bhith na thuairmse ìosal. Tha sin air sgàth nach eil e ag aithneachadh ach cuid de thaobhan de luach na Gàidhlig – m.e. ann an dìreach cuid de roinnean den eaconamaidh – agus chan eil e a' buntainn ach ri gnìomhachd a tha uile gu lèir san roinn phrìobhaidich.</p> <p>Mar eisimpleir de bhuidhean eile, bha rannsachadh 2015 airson MG Alba a' tuairmse gus robh buaidh eaconamach na Gàidhlig ionann ri 290 cosnadh FTE agus c. £12.5 millean de GVA ann an eaconamaidh na h-Alba. Bha mu 100 de na h-obraichean sin anns na h-eileanan agus phàigh iad ìrean tuarastail os cionn na cuibheasachd.</p> <p>Tasgadh ann an Ath-bheothachadh agus Fàs Turasachd agus nan Roinnean Cruthachail is Cultarach</p> <p>Tha comas mòr ann taic a thoirt do ath-bheothachadh na h-eaconamaidh le bhith a' meudachadh na tha Gàidhlig a' libhrigeadh ann an dà roinn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anns am faod pàirt shònraichte a bhith aig cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig. • A tha air a bhith a' fulang gu mòr leis a' ghalar lèir-sgaoilte – agus gu sònraichte anns na h-eileanan agus na sgìrean dùthchail. <p>Tha comas mòr na Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh turasachd air aithneachadh ann an Ro-innleachd Turasachd Gàidhlig VisitScotland airson Alba⁸. Tha e ag ràdh gu bheil</p>	<p>Second, making greater use of Gaelic as an asset. That will both support the language and contribute to the regeneration of the Scottish economy post-pandemic.</p> <p>The report, <i>Ar Stòras Gàidhlig</i>²², measured the economic and social value Gaelic brings to Scotland. The report was positive. It found that businesses in the creative industries, tourism, heritage, and food and drink sectors benefit from their use of Gaelic, and that this has the potential to bring significant economic value.</p> <p>It showed that the potential value of Gaelic as an asset could be up to £149 million. This figure is, arguably, conservative. That is because it only captures some aspects of the value of Gaelic - i.e. in only some sectors of the economy - and relates only to fully private sector activity.</p> <p>As an example of further impacts, 2015 research for MG Alba estimated its economic impacts as 290 FTE jobs and c£12.5 million of GVA in the Scottish economy. Some 100 of these jobs were in the islands and paid above average wage levels.</p> <p>Investment in The Recovery and Growth of Tourism and the Creative and Cultural Sectors</p> <p>There is significant potential to supporting the economic recovery through increasing the contribution of Gaelic in two sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In which Gaelic language and culture can play a particularly important part. • Which have been especially hard hit by the pandemic - and notably in the islands and rural areas. <p>The significant potential of Gaelic within tourism is recognised in VisitScotland's Gaelic Tourism</p>
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⁷ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>

²² <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>



“Gàidhlig agus an cultar co-cheangailte rithe a’ libhrigeadh cothrom làidir airson gnìomhachas turasachd na h-Alba”. ’S e amas na ro-innleachd a bhith “a’ cumail taic ri fàs eaconamaidh turasachd na h-Alba tro bhith a’ toirt cothrom do bharrachd luchd-tadhail faighinn a-mach mu dheidhinn agus a’ faighinn eòlas air a’ Ghàidhlig agus a cultar sònraichte”.

Tha a’ Ghàidhlig na “buannachd reic gun samhail agus na pàirt fhior den eòlas air tadhal air Alba” a’ ciallachadh gu bheil “comas eaconamach mòr aig ar cànan agus ar cultar Gàidhlig”. Tha an comas eaconamach a’ sruthadh bho “shaoghal beòthail an latha an-diugh aig cultar na Gàidhlig, a’ gabhail a-steach ceòl, fèisean, mar eisimpleir Celtic Connections agus Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Mòdan ionadail agus nàiseanta, litreachas is drama,” cho math ri tro na meadhanan, biadh is deoch, agus spòrs⁹. Tha an Ro-innleachd cuideachd ag ràdh gu bheil “a’ Ghàidhlig beòthail agus fàs-mhor aig ann an Galldachd is bailtean na h-Alba”.

Lorg sgrùdadh VisitScotland ann an 2016, gun àrdachadh sam bith ro-làimh, gu robh barrachd air aon às gach trìùir (34%) luchd-tadhail a’ faireachdainn gun do chuir Gàidhlig, mar chànan nàiseanta na h-Alba, ris an turas aca agus bu mhath leotha tuilleadh fhaighinn a-mach ma deidhinn.

Is e Misean iomlan na Ro-innleachd taic a thoirt do fhàs eaconamaidh turasachd na h-Alba. Feumaidh sin gum bi grunn phrìomh amasan air an coileanadh, a’ gabhail a-steach “Leasachadh is margaidheachd na tha turasachd Ghàidhlig a’ toirt do luchd-tadhail; agus adhartachadh cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig aig cridhe teachdaireachdan margaidheachd na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd”.

San dàrna àite, **gnìomhachasan cruthachail (a’ toirt a-steach meadhanan agus didseatach) agus cultarach (a’ toirt a-steach dualchas)**. Ron ghalar lèir-sgaoilte, bha làthaireachd na Gàidhlig air feadh beatha chultarach na h-Alba agus gu h-eadar-nàiseanta air fàs gu mòr.

Bheir seo buannachdan nas fharsainge Alba a bharrachd air an eaconamaidh. Neartaich an galar lèir-sgaoilte tuigse air àite nan roinnean sin ann a bhith a’ toirt taic

Strategy for Scotland²³. It states that “The Gaelic language and its associated culture represents a compelling opportunity for the Scottish tourism industry”. The strategy aims “To support the growth of the Scottish tourism economy through engaging more visitors in discovering and experiencing the unique Gaelic language and its associated culture.”.

Gaelic as a “Unique Selling Point differentiator and authentic part of the experience of visiting Scotland” means there is “significant economic potential of our Gaelic language and culture”. The economic potential flows from “a dynamic, contemporary Gaelic cultural scene spanning music, festivals such as Celtic Connections and Fèisean, regional and national Mòds, literature, drama”, as well as through media, food and drink, and sport”²⁴. The Strategy also states that “Gaelic has an exciting and growing presence in lowland and urban Scotland”.

A 2016 VisitScotland survey found that, with no prior promotion, more than one in three (34%) visitors felt that Gaelic, as a national language of Scotland, enhanced their visit and they would like to find out more about it.

The Strategy’s overall Mission is to support the growth of the Scottish tourism economy. That will require achieving a number of core objectives, including to “Develop and market the Gaelic tourism offer to visitors; and promote Gaelic language and culture as central to the wider marketing messages for Scotland”.

Second, **creative (including media and digital) and cultural industries (including heritage)**. Pre-pandemic, the presence of Gaelic across the cultural scene in Scotland and internationally had grown impressively.

This will have wider benefits to Scotland beyond simply the economy. The pandemic led to a stronger appreciation of role of these sectors in supporting

⁹ <https://www.feisean.org/en/> <https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/>

²³ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.feisean.org/en/> <https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/>



agus a' cumail suas deagh shlàinte inntinn agus mothachadh air dearbh-aithne agus misneachd.

Taobh a-staigh “Ro-innleachd Chultarach airson na h-Alba” aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba¹⁰ tha amas “a bhith a’ sealltainn gu bheil cultar aig cridhe sunnd na h-Alba agus beairteas cultarach, sòisealta, eaconamach agus àrainneachdail”. Tha e cuideachd a’ toirt fa-near “tabhartas sònraichte agus deatamach dhaoine cruthachail don chomann-shòisealta agus don eaconamaidh” agus “gu bheil an eaconamaidh chultarach agus chruthachail san fharsaingeachd na fhastaiche cudromach”.

Tasgadh ann an Sgilean agus Foghlam gus taic a thoirt don Ghàidhlig agus don Eaconamaidh

Tha Leasachadh Sgilean na h-Alba (SDS) ag aithneachadh ghnìomhachasan cruthachail agus turasachd mar roinnean anns am faod Gàidhlig luach eaconamach cudromach a thoirt seachad¹¹. Bidh feum fhathast air taic SDS gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil luchd-obrach le sgilean iomchaidh rim faighinn airson cothroman a thoirt air adhart gus tabhartas eaconamach na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh. Cuiridh sin ris an tasgadh a dh’fheumar gus solar FMG a mheudachadh aig gach ìre gus coinneachadh ris an iarrtas fhàsmhor airson seo.

Tasgadh bun-structair cuimsichte

Didseatach

Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba a’ tuigsinn gu bheil “ceanglaichean didseatach gu sònraichte cudromach do shunnd eaconamach is shòisealta choimhearsnachdan iomallach agus eileanach. Chaidh seo a thoirt am follais rè a’ ghalair lèir-sgaoilte le dòighean ùra gan leasachadh gus faighinn gu agus libhrigeadh sheirbheisean poblach is malairteach, ionnsachadh agus eadar-obrachadh sòisealta.”¹².

and maintaining good mental health and a sense of identity and confidence.

Scottish Government’s “A Culture Strategy for Scotland”²⁵ includes an aim of “demonstrating that culture is central to Scotland’s wellbeing and cultural, social, economic and environmental prosperity”. It also notes “creative people’s unique and vital contribution to society and the economy” and that “the cultural and wider creative economy is a significant employer”.

Investment in Skills and Education To Support Gaelic and the Economy

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) acknowledge creative industries and tourism as sectors in which Gaelic can bring significant economic value²⁶. SDS’ input will continue to be required to ensure an appropriately skilled workforce is available to take forward opportunities to further increase Gaelic’s economic contribution. That will complement investment needed to increase GME provision at all levels to meet the growing demand for this.

Targeted Infrastructure Investment

Digital

Scottish Government recognises that “Digital connectivity is particularly important to the economic and social wellbeing of remote and island communities. This has been highlighted during the pandemic with the development of new ways to access and deliver public and commercial services, learning and social interaction”²⁷.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/documents/>

¹¹ <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46066/skills-action-plan-for-highlands-and-islands.pdf>

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-governments-draft-gaelic-language-plan-2021-2026/>

²⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/documents/>

²⁶ <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46066/skills-action-plan-for-highlands-and-islands.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-governments-draft-gaelic-language-plan-2021-2026/>



Ach, mar a tha cuid air a ràdh, tha àiteachan ann fhathast far a bheil càileachd ruigsinneachd didseatach feumach air leasachadh. Mar eisimpleir, “Tha an comas airson co-labhairtean iomallach airson adhbharan gnìomhachais, foghlaim agus riaghlaidh fada bho bhith uile-choitcheann air eileanan na h-Alba, far nach eil teicneòlasan air-loidhne fhathast làn in-ghabhalach. Tha seo cuideachd a’ cuingealachadh chothroman airson cosnadh, trèanadh, dibhearsain, roghainn luchd-ceannaich agus conaltradh sòisealta – goireasan a tha gam meas àbhaisteach ann an àiteachan eile.”¹³.

Cuidichidh tasgadh ann a bhith a’ leasachadh càileachd cheanglaichean didseatach gus seasmhachd choimhearsnachdan eileanach agus iomallach a mheudachadh – a’ toirt a-steach an fheadhainn far a bheil Gàidhlig nas cumanta. Gu sònraichte, bidh e:

- A’ cur taic ris na roinnean susbainteach turasachd agus cruthachail is cultarach le bhith a’ leigeil leotha làn bhrath a ghabhail air iarrtas airson turasachd a tha freumhaichte san fhìrinn agus eòlasan cultarach air an libhrigeadh gu bhirtual. Tha sin a thuilleadh air daoine a tha a’ tadhal air sgìre/a’ frithealadh cuirm. Bhiodh an tairgse “mheasgaichte” seo a’ togail air a’ mheudachadh ann an libhrigeadh didseatach aig àm a’ ghalair làir-sgaoilte.
- Bhiodh obair iomallach agus obair aig an taigh nas so-dhèanta – a’ tabhann cothrom airson a bhith “A’ fuireach san Sgìre ’s Ag obair san t-Saoghal”. Chuidicheadh seo daoine a bhith a’ mealtainn na deagh chàileachd beatha a tha ri fhaighinn ann an coimhearsnachdan nas iomallaiche. Bhiodh e cuideachd a’ sealltainn gum faod daoine a tha a’ bruidhinn na Gàidhlig agus a tha a’ fuireach ann am pàirtean nas iomallaiche den dùthaich obair fhaighinn a-nis far a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig riatanach, air sgàth nam buannachdan bho obair aig an taigh
- A’ leigeil le Riaghaltas na h-Alba diofar sheòrsaichean obraichean a sgaoileadh air feadh na dùthcha. Cuidichidh seo le bhith a’ coileanadh an dealais airson “ceannardas a thaisbeanadh

However, as others have noted, there are still locations where the quality of digital access requires improvement. For example, “Capacity for remote conferencing for business, educational and governance purposes is far from universal on Scottish islands, where online technologies are not yet fully inclusive. This also limits opportunities for employment, training, entertainment, consumer choice and social contact, all taken for granted elsewhere”²⁸.

Investment in improving the quality of digital connections will help to increase the sustainability of island and remote communities - including those where Gaelic is more prevalent. In particular it will:

- Support the very significant tourism and creative and cultural sectors by allowing them to take full advantage of demand for authentic tourism and cultural experiences delivered virtually. That is in addition to people actually visiting an area/attending a performance. This “hybrid” offering would build on the increased amount of digital delivery developed during the pandemic.
- Make remote and home working a more viable proposition - offering the opportunity to “Live Local and Work Global”. This would help capitalise on the quality of life available in more remote communities. It would also demonstrate that people who speak Gaelic and live in more remote parts of the country can now secure employment where Gaelic skills are required, due to the advantages provided by homeworking
- Enable Scottish Government to disperse various types of its jobs across the country. This will help meet their commitment to “display leadership in the public sector by

¹³ https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/REC_S5_20_IB_41.pdf

²⁸ https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/REC_S5_20_IB_41.pdf



san roinn phoblaich le bhith a' sealltainn gum faod obraichean agus adhartas dreuchd a bhith soirbheachail air eileanan¹⁴.

- Bhiodh na coimhearsnachdan sin nas tarraingiche mar àiteachan fuirich. Mar eisimpleir, do dhaoine òga a tha a' meas deagh bhann-leathann agus ceanglaichean fòn-làimhe fìor chudromach nuair a nì iad co-dhùnaidhean mu fuireach anns na h-eileanan¹⁵. Do dhaoine eile, dh'fhaodadh e ruigsinneachd air cùram meidigeach ga lìbhrigeadh gu didseatach a mheudachadh, a' lughdachadh an fheum air siubhal gu prìomh ionadan ann an Alba airson seo.

Còmh-dhail Phoblach

Dh'adhbharaich an galar lèir-sgaoilte dùbhlain ùra agus mhill e an fheadhainn a bha ann mu thràth airson còmh-dhail poblach anns na h-eileanan agus sgìrean iomallach eile.

Feumar tasgadh a dhèanamh ann an:

- Seirbheisean aiseig – soithichean ùra le comas nas motha, seòlaidhean nas trice, agus àrdachadh seasmhachd nan seirbheisean san fharsaingeachd.
- Seirbheisean bus, a dh'fhaodadh leantainn air adhart a' fulang àireamhan luchd-siubhail nas isle na ron ghalar lèir-sgaoilte. Feumar seirbheis gu leòr a chumail suas gus am bus a dhèanamh na roghainn tharraingeach eile seach càr agus ullachadh a dhèanamh dhaibhsan aig nach eil cothrom air carbad prìobhaideach.
- Lùghdachadh cosgaisean siubhail, gu sònraichte do dhaoine òga – m.e. leudachadh siubhal an-asgaidh gu seirbheisean aiseig dhaibhsan fo 22.

Geàrr-chunntas

Bu chòir do Riaghaltas na h-Alba cumail orra a' tasgadh gus taic a thoirt do eaconamaidhean sgìrean ionadail ann

demonstrating that jobs and careers can be successful on islands²⁹.

- Make these communities more attractive places to live. For example, young people for whom good broadband and mobile connectivity are key factors in decisions to remain in the islands³⁰. For others, it could increase access to digitally delivered medical care, reducing the need to travel to main centres in Scotland for this.

Public Transport

The pandemic also created new challenges and exacerbated existing ones for public transport in the islands and other remote areas.

There is a need to invest in:

- Ferry services - new vessels with greater capacity, more frequent sailings, and increasing the overall resilience of the services.
- Bus services, which may continue to see lower passenger numbers than pre-pandemic. There is a need to sustain a sufficient frequency of service to make the bus an attractive alternative to the car and provide for those without access to a private vehicle.
- Reducing the cost of travel, especially for young people - e.g. extending free travel to ferry services for those aged under 22.

Summary

Scottish Government should continue to invest to support local area economies in sustaining/growing

¹⁴<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-plan-scotlands-islands/>

¹⁵ Mar eisimpleir, tha an àireamh sa cheud de dhaoine òga ann an Innse Gall a tha a' faicinn dìth ceangal didseatach/fòn-làimhe na bhacadh air na h-amasan cosnadh aca dà uair nas àirde na cuibheasachd na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean. Faic <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6490/2018-young-people-maximising-opportunities-outer-hebrides.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-plan-scotlands-islands/>

³⁰ For example, the percentage of young people in the Outer Hebrides who see lack of digital/mobile connectivity as a barrier to achieving their employment goals is twice the Highlands and Islands average. See <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6490/2018-young-people-maximising-opportunities-outer-hebrides.pdf>



a bhith a' cumail suas/a' fàs na Gàidhlig agus gus tabhartas eaconamach is sòisealta na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh.

Feumar tasgadh ann an ath-bheothachadh agus fàs turasachd agus nan roinnean cruthachail is cultarach. Tha an dà roinn seo gu sònraichte cudromach ann an eaconamaidhean iomallach agus eileanan, ceart mar a tha an comas susbaint na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh anna.

Tha feum air tasgadh leantainneach ann an solar sgilean didseatach agus Foghlam Meadhain-Ghàidhlig.

Bheir tasgadh ann an càileachd ruigsinneachd didseatach cothrom do gach eilean agus sgìre iomallach an coileanadh eaconamach a leasachadh. Bidh sin tro bhith a' toirt taic do thurasachd agus na roinnean cruthachail agus cultarach; a' tabhann barrachd comais a bhith ag obair anns na h-àiteachan sin; a' leigeil le Riaghaltas na h-Alba an gealladh a thaobh sgaoileadh obrach a choileanadh; agus a' tàladh/a' cumail luchd-còmhnaidh le bhith a' dèanamh na h-àiteachan sin nas tarraingiche airson a bhith a' fuireach anna.

Tha feum air barrachd tasgaidh ann an seirbheisean aiseig is bus anns na h-eileanan gu sònraichte, agus ann a bhith a' lughdachadh cosgaisean siubhail do dhaoine òga.

Còmhla, bidh na tasgaidhean seo a' dèiligeadh ri cùisean a tha mu choinneimh nan roinnean agus nan àiteachan as motha a tha fo bhuaidh a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte. Cuidichidh iad cuideachd am Bòrd agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus an amas a choileanadh airson adhartas nas luaithe airson na Gàidhlig.

A bharrachd air sin, mholadh sinn gun sgrùdadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba sgeamaichean taic Riaghaltas na h-Èireann agus Ùghdarras na Gaeltachta airson coimhearsnachdan dùthchail mion-chànanan mar a thig iad a-mach às a' ghalair lèir-sgaoilte. Is dòcha gum biodh gnìomhan mar seo buannachdail ann an Alba.

4. Ciamar a bu chòir do Bhuidseat Riaghaltas na h-Alba dèiligeadh ris na cunnartan a tha ag èirigh bhon uiread agus reat ath-bheothachaidh bhon ghalair lèir-sgaoilte ann an Alba a bhith eadar-dhealaichte ris a' chòrr den RA? Beachdaichibh air buaidh sam bith air uiread chisean tiomnaichte agus sochairean tèarainteachd shòisealta san fhreagairt.

Gun fhreagairt

Gaelic and to increase Gaelic's economic and social contribution.

Investment is required in the recovery and growth of tourism and the creative and cultural sectors. These two sectors are particularly important in remote and island economies, as is the potential to increase the Gaelic content within them.

Continued investment is required in digital skills provision and Gaelic Medium Education.

Investment in the quality of digital access will offer all islands and remote areas the opportunity to improve their economic performance. That will be though supporting tourism and the creative and cultural sectors; offering greater ability to work in these locations; allowing Scottish Government to meet its commitment to job dispersal; and attracting/retaining residents by making the locations more attractive places to live.

Greater investment is required in ferry and bus services in the islands in particular, and in reducing the cost of travel for young people.

Together, these investments will address issues facing the sectors and places most affected by the pandemic. They will also help the Bòrd and Scottish Government achieve their aim of a faster rate of progress for Gaelic.

In addition, we suggest that Scottish Government investigate Irish Government and Ùghdarras na Gaeltachta support schemes for rural minority language speaking communities as they emerge from the pandemic. Similar actions might be beneficial in Scotland.

4. How should the Scottish Government's Budget address the risks arising from the level and rate of recovery from the pandemic in Scotland relative to the rest of the UK? Please consider any impact on devolved tax receipts and social security benefits in your answer.

No response



<p>5. Ciamar a tha am Frèam-obrach Fiosgail air obrachadh ann a bhith a' riaghladh freagairt ris an èiginn?</p> <p>Gun fhreagairt</p> <p>6. Ciamar a bu chòir leasan bhon ghalar lèir-sgaoilte a bhith a' cur taic fiosrachaidh don ath-bhreithneachadh a tha ri thighinn air an Fhrèam-obrach Fhiosgail?</p> <p>Gun fhreagairt</p>	<p>5. How has the Fiscal Framework worked in managing the response to the crisis?</p> <p>No response</p> <p>6. How should learnings from the pandemic inform the forthcoming review of the Fiscal Framework?</p> <p>No response</p>
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