

<p>Bann Eilein – Co-chomhairle le Riaghaltas na h-Alba Freagairt bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig 25 Dàmhair 2021</p>	<p>Islands Bond Consultation by Scottish Government Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig 25 October 2021</p>
<p>Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag amas: “Gus cuideachadh le stad a chur air crìonadh sluaigh, stèidhichidh sinn Bann Eilein – a’ tabhann 100 bann luach suas ri £50,000 am fear do dhaoine òga agus teaghlaichean gus fuireach no gluasad gu eileanan a tha an-dràsta fo chunnart crìonadh sluaigh. Cuidichidh na bannan daoine gus dachaighean a cheannach, gnìomhachasan a thòiseachadh agus ann an dòighean eile am beatha a dhèanamh anns na coimhearsnachdan sin.”</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur fàilte air gealltanais gus taic a chumail ris na h-eileanan. Taobh a-staigh sgeama nam bannan eilein, tha feum ann air soilleireachd a thaobh luchd na Gàidhlig. Tha e riatanach gum bi am poileasaidh a’ coileanadh a’ ghealltanais, mar a tha an suirbhidh air-loidhne ag ràdh, gu h-ìosal:</p> <p><i>A’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil poileasaidhean ag amas air luchd na Gàidhlig a chumail agus a thàladh a bhith a’ fuireach agus ag obair ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.</i></p> <p>Tha am briathrachas sa ghealltanais ann am Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean a’ seaghachadh gum bi barrachd prìomhachas ga thoirt do luchd na Gàidhlig a bhios a’ dèanamh tagradh don sgeama airson cumail a’ fuireach ann, no gluasad gu, coimhearsnachd eileanach Ghàidhlig, an coimeas riuthasan a tha gun Ghàidhlig.</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ toirt taic làidir don mhodh-obrach seo. Tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean a’ gabhail a-steach gealltanais “air fad a bheir taic do dhaoine fa-leth, coimhearsnachdan agus buidhnean ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig eileanach le bhith a’ cleachdadh Gàidhlig”. Tha e cuideachd a’ toirt fa-near Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean a tha ag ràdh gum bithear, ann a bhith a’ toirt taic do dh’ealain, cultar agus cànan, a’</p>	<p>Scottish Government has made a commitment that: “To help stem depopulation, we will establish an Islands Bond – offering 100 bonds of up to £50,000 to young people and families to stay in or move to islands threatened by depopulation. The bonds will support people to buy homes, start businesses and otherwise make their lives for the long term in these communities”</p> <p>We welcome this commitment to the islands. Within the Islands Bond scheme, there needs to be clarity on the issue of Gaelic speakers. It is essential that this policy fulfills the commitment, as the online survey states, below:</p> <p><i>Ensure that policies aim to retain and attract Gaelic speakers to live and work in Gaelic speaking communities</i></p> <p>The wording of the National Islands Plan (NIP) commitment implies that Gaelic speakers applying to the scheme in order to remain in or move to a Gaelic speaking island community would be given a greater priority than non-Gaelic speakers.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig would very strongly support this. The National Islands Plan “includes commitments throughout to supporting individuals, communities and organisations in Gaelic speaking island communities in their use of Gaelic”. It also reflects the NIP stating that, in supporting arts, culture and language, Scottish Government will “ensure that the effect on</p>

dèanamh “cinnteach gun tèid beachdachadh air a’ bhuidhean a bhios air leasachadh na Gàidhlig bhon toiseach ann am poileasaidhean agus iomairtean eileanach”.

Feumar dearbhadh a thoirt a thaobh suidheachadh luchd-tagraidh Gàidhlig mar phàirt de leasachadh a bharrachd air a’ Bhann Eilein. Bidh an t-atharrachadh a thathar a’ moladh don stiùireadh air a’ Mheasadh Buaidh air Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach, a bhiodh a’ gabhail a-steach buaidhean air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig, a’ toirt taic don mhodh-obrach seo.

Tha e riatanach cuideachd gum bi am Bann Eilein a’ cur ri, agus chan ann ga chur an àite, gnìomhachd a dh’fheumar dèanamh le Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus dèiligeadh ri cùisean eile a bhios a’ toirt buaidh air seasmhachd ar n-eileanan agus, mar sin, seasmhachd na Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh feadhainn dhiubh. Mar eisimpleir, taigheadas, còmhail agus cothroman cosnaidh.

A bharrachd air sin, nuair a thathar a’ leasachadh nan slatan-tomhais, tha e riatanach gum bithear a’ beachdachadh air feumalachdan luchd na Gàidhlig. Far a bheil bann ga thairgsinn do neach a tha gun Ghàidhlig airson cumail a’ fuireach ann, no airson gluasad gu, coimhearsnachd eileanach Ghàidhlig, bu chòir gu bheil an tairgse ceangailte ri riatanas gum bi iad a’ faighinn sgilean cànan Gàidhlig agus tuigse air cultar na Gàidhlig. Le SpeakGaelic ga chur air bhog, thathar a’ toirt slighe a tha so-ruigsinneach airson ionnsachadh a’ chànain.

Gaelic language development is considered from the outset in island-specific policies and initiatives”.

The position regarding Gaelic-speaking applicants needs to be confirmed as part of the further development of the Islands Bond. The proposed amendment to the Islands Communities Impact Assessment guidance to include assessing impacts on Gaelic speaking communities will support this.

It is also essential that the Islands Bond is complementary to - rather than substituting for - Scottish Government action needed to address other issues that affect our islands’ sustainability and thus the sustainability of Gaelic in some of them. For example, housing, transport and employment opportunities.

Furthermore, in developing the criteria, it is essential that the needs of Gaelic-speaking communities is considered. Where a bond is to be offered to a non-Gaelic speaker to remain in, or move to, an island with Gaelic-speaking communities, the requirement to acquire Gaelic language skills and an understanding of Gaelic culture is linked to the offer. With the launch of SpeakGaelic, there is an easily accessible route to language learning.

