

<p>Co-chomhairle Aonadh Colaistean Dùthchail is Eileanan OGE</p> <p>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>12 Dàmhair 2022</p>	<p>UHI Rural and Islands College Merger Consultation</p> <p>Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>12 October 2022</p>
<p>Ann a bhith ag ullachadh ar freagairt, tha sinn a’ toirt fa-near gur i a’ Ghàidhlig aon de na prìomh raointean a chaidh a thogail aig na tachartasan airson a’ chiad cho-chomhairleachaidh air an aonadh a tha ga mholadh. Tha sinn cuideachd mothachail air àite nan colaistean mar phrìomh luchd-fastaidh ionadail – gu sònraichte na 139 obraichean anns na h-Eileanan an Iar.</p> <p>Tha sinn gu mòr a’ cur fàilte air na diofar aithrisean agus geallaidhean don Ghàidhlig anns a’ mholadh aonaidh agus sgrìobhainn cùis-gnothaich. Gu sònraichte:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gus ath-bheothachadh na Gàidhlig a ghluasad air adhart. • Ro-innleachd Ghàidhlig mar aon de ghrunn phrìomh ro-innleachdan agus planaichean. • Gàidhlig mar aon de shia roinnean/fo-roinnean a chì fàs agus ùr-ghnàthachadh sa churraicealam aice. • Toirt comas do chultar na sgìre againn tro chànan na Gàidhlig, dual-chainntean roinneil, agus cultaran Lochlannach. • Na molaidhean mionaideach mun churraicealam aig 5.4.2 den sgrìobhainn, a’ nochdadh na Gàidhlig mar phrìomh roinn airson colaiste aonaichte. • Tuilleadh togail air a’ chom-pàirteachas le Bòrd na Gàidhlig. <p>Tha sinn cuideachd toilichte gum bi na molaidhean “a’ daingneachadh ar prìomh àite ann an leasachadh curraicealam na Gàidhlig agus foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air feadh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan Siar”.</p> <p>Mar sin, san fharsaingeachd, tha sinn an dùil gum bi àitean Gàidhlig, ann an teagasg is rannsachadh, agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, air a neartachadh taobh a-staigh an structair ùir</p> <p>A thuilleadh air sin, bhiodh sinn ag iarraidh a’ Ghàidhlig fhaicinn mar chuspair a bhuineas ri iomadh raon ann an rannsachadh agus teagasg na Colaiste – m.e., ann an turasachd agus na gnìomhachasan cruthachail. Tha sin le sùil ri comas na Gàidhlig</p>	<p>In framing our response, we note that Gaelic was one of the main areas raised during the events for the initial consultation on the proposed merger. We would also highlight the existing colleges’ role as major local employers - and particularly so with 139 jobs in the Outer Hebrides.</p> <p>We very much welcome the various statements on, and commitments to, Gaelic in the merger proposal and business case document. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To drive forward the revitalisation of Gaelic. • A Gaelic language strategy as one of several key strategies and plans. • Gaelic as one of six sectors/sub-sectors which will see growth and innovation in its curriculum. • Enabling our region’s culture through Gaelic language, regional dialects, and Nordic cultures. • The detailed curriculum proposals at 5.4.2 of the document, reflecting Gaelic Language as a key priority sector for a merged college. • Further building of the partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig. <p>We also welcome the statement that the proposals will “cement our leading position developing Gaelic language and Gaelic medium curriculum across the Highlands and Outer Hebrides”.</p> <p>Thus, overall, we expect the role of Gaelic, in teaching, research and using Gaelic, to be strengthened within the new structure.</p> <p>In addition, we would want to see Gaelic as a cross cutting theme in the College’s research and teaching - e.g., in tourism and creative industries. That is with a view to realising the potential of Gaelic as an</p>

mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach a thoirt gu buil. Rinn an aithisg, *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*¹, tomhas air an luach eaconamach a bheir a' Ghàidhlig do dh'Alba. Fhuair e a-mach gu bheil gnothaichean anns na gnìomhachasan cruthachail, turasachd, dualchas, agus roinnean bìdh is deoch gu sònraichte a' faighinn buannachd bho bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus gu bheil comas aig seo luach eaconamach cudromach a thoirt a-steach.

Tha iomradh air duilleag 24 den sgrìobhainn de *dh'fhìreantachd, tùs, agus dualchas* mar aon de na Prìomh Chothroman Roinneil. Tha e ag ràdh gu bheil iad seo "nam prìomh bhrosnachadh airson turasachd, Gnìomhachasan Cruthachail agus biadh is deoch. A' meudachadh àite na Gàidhlig". Tha feum air an dà sheantans seo a cheangal ann an dòigh nas soilleire gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil comas na Gàidhlig mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach ri fhaicinn tarsainn teagasg agus rannsachadh na Colaiste.

Tha barrachd de chleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an gnìomhachd ghnothachasan agus na treas roinne a' riochdachadh ùr-ghnàthachadh – a tha tòrr nas fharsainge na dìreach a bhith a' toirt a-steach teicneòlas ùr/nas fheàrr

Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri bhith a' faicinn tuilleadh leasachaidh air na molaidhean a tha sa phàipear. Gu sònraichte, farsaingeachd agus susbaint na ro-innleachd Ghàidhlig agus mar a bhiodh sin a' freagairt air a' Phlana Ghàidhlig a chaidh a mholadh.

Bhiodh sinn a' dùileachadh gum biodh suaicheantasan agus dearbh-aithne lèirsinneach Colaiste aonaichte, co-dhiù, dà-chànanach agus mar sin a' gabhail a-steach Gàidhlig, a' toirt follaiseachd co-ionann don chànan.

Tha sinn toilichte gun deach Measadh Buaidh Co-ionannachd a' phròiseact aonaidh nas fhaide na dìreach buidhnean le feartan dìonta. 'S e sin, gu robh e a' gabhail a-steach an dà chuid coimhearsnachdan dùthchail air tìr-mòr agus coimhearsnachdan dùthchail nan eileanan.

Tha mòran dhiubh sin nan coimhearsnachdan far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre mhath làidir. Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach do na coimhearsnachdan sin. Tha seasmhachd nan coimhearsnachdan deatamach airson seasmhachd agus fàs leantainneach na Gàidhlig. Bidh sin an

economic asset. The report, *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*², measured the economic value Gaelic brings to Scotland. It found that businesses in the creative industries, tourism, heritage, and food and drink sectors in particular benefit from their use of Gaelic, and that this has the potential to bring significant economic value.

Page 24 of the document includes a reference to *authenticity, provenance, and heritage* as one of several Key Regional Opportunities. It states these are "key drivers for tourism, Creative Industries and food and drink. Maximising the role of the Gaelic language". There is a need to link these two sentences more explicitly to ensure that the potential of Gaelic as an economic asset is reflected across the College's teaching and research.

Greater use of Gaelic in the activities of businesses and the third sector represents innovation - which is much broader than simply the introduction of new/better technology.

We look forward to seeing the further development of the proposals contained in the document. In particular, the scope and content of the Gaelic strategy and how that would fit with the suggested Gaelic Language Plan.

We would expect logos and other visual identities of a merged College to, at least, be bilingual and thus include Gaelic, giving equal prominence to the language.

We welcome that the Equality Impact Assessment of the merger project went beyond simply groups covered by protected characteristics. That is, it included both rural mainland communities and rural island communities.

Many of these are communities where Gaelic remains relatively strong. The Gaelic language is not only important to these communities. Their sustainability is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language. That will depend, in no small part, on the range and quality of provision of

¹ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

² <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>



<p>urra, gun teagamh, air roghainn agus càileachd foghlaim is trèanaidh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus mun Ghàidhlig.</p> <p>Tha sinn a’ tuigsinn gum bi an aithris “Thèid beachdachadh cuideachd air dleasan OGE a thaobh Measadh Buaidh air Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach (MBCE)” a’ ciallachadh gun tèid MBCE a dhèanamh airson a’ phròiseact aonachaidh. A’ nochdadh stiùireadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba a chaidh ùrachadh o chionn ghoirid, feumaidh seo a’ bhuidh air a’ Ghàidhlig a ghabhail a-steach.</p> <p>Tha sinn a’ moladh gun toirear aire do Phlana Gàidhlig Chomann Oileanach na Gàidhealtachd ’s nan Eilean agus gun tèid beachdan oileanach is luchd-obrach aig a bheil Gàidhlig a shireadh.</p>	<p>education and training through the medium of Gaelic and about Gaelic.</p> <p>We understand the statement “Due consideration will also be given to the UHI’s obligations regarding Island Communities Impact Assessments” to mean that an ICIA for the merger project will be undertaken. Reflecting the recently refreshed Scottish Government guidance, this will have to include the impacts on the Gaelic language.</p> <p>We recommend that the the Highlands and Islands Students’ Association Gaelic Plan is taken into consideration as well as the views and considerations of Gaelic speaking students and staff actively sought.</p>
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