

Freagairt Bòrd na Gàidhlig do Cho-chomhairle Riaghaltas na h-Alba air Gàidhlig agus Albais agus Bile nan Cànanan Albannach

Facal-tòiseachaidh

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) a' cur fàilte air a' phàipear co-chomhairleachaidh, dealas Riaghaltas na h-Alba airson ceumannan làidir agus àrd-amasach airson luchd-labhairt, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taic na Gàidhlig agus airson an adhartais gu ruige seo. Bidh toirt air adhart nan gealltanasan seo na cheum cudromach ann an adhartas na h-Alba gus a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar ath-bheothachadh.

Tha sinn ag aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha cànanan dùthchasach uile na h-Alba agus na tha iad a' cur ri iomadachd chultarach na dùthcha agus tha ar taic ri ceumannan dhan Albais sa cho-chomhairle seo.

Tha BnG air obrachadh còmhla ri Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus luchd-ùidh gus Gàidhlig a thoirt air adhart bho chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) aontachadh (an Achd)¹ ann an 2005 agus tha e a' toirt taic làidir do fhrèam reachdail nas treasa airson a' chànan agus a luchd-labhairt, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taic.

Tha an fhianais bho Shuirbhuidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021² a' sealltainn gu bheil barrachd taic agus iarrtas airson a' chànan, gu sònraichte am measg dhaoine òga. Is iad sin na prìomh theachdaireachdan aige:

- Fhuair an suirbhuidh a-mach gun robh còrr is an dàrna leth de dhaoine a rinn an suirbhuidh airson 's gum biodh fàs ann an àireamhan luchd-labhairt na h-Alba san àm ri teachd, le 56% den bheachd seo.
- A rèir an t-suirbhuidh, tha daoine òga, daoine le eòlas nas motha air a' Ghàidhlig, agus an fheadhainn a tha air barrachd fhaicinn is cluinntinn den chànan am measg nam prìomh fhactaran san fhàs seo. Tha an suirbhuidh a' sealltainn gu bheil beachdan fàbharach nas dualtaiche a bhith aig daoine a tha air Gàidhlig fhaicinn no a chluinntinn.
- Tha an SSA cuideachd a' sealltainn gun robh atharrachadh mòr ann am beachdan a thaobh foghlaim. Tha còrr is an dàrna leth den fheadhainn a ghabh pàirt san t-suirbhuidh, 55% den bheachd gum bu chòir Gàidhlig a bhith air a teagasg do gach sgoilear aois eadar còig agus 15 eadar uair is dà uair a thìde gach seachdain. Seo àrdachadh mòr bho dìreach 38% ann an 2012.
- Tha e soilleir cuideachd gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ri sunnd le 70% de dh'inbhich ag ràdh gun robh faireachdainn de choileanadh aca bho bhith ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.

Sheall a' cho-chomhairle nàiseanta air an ath Phlana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig a rinn Bòrd na Gàidhlig na bu thràithe am-bliadhna taic làidir dhan phlana mar a chaidh a sgrìobhadh, le cuid eile a' moladh neartachadh no mìneachadh a bharrachd. B' e prìomh theachdaireachd a' cho-chomhairleachaidh an taic làidir a fhuair Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus an obair a bhios e a' dèanamh.

Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri bhith ag obair leis an riaghaltas agus luchd-ùidh gus na h-ath cheumannan ann a bhith a' cruthachadh dreachd bhile tron phròiseas phàrlamaidich fhiosrachadh agus a chuideachadh. Tha ar freagairt a' cuimseachadh air cuid de na prìomh nithean a tha a dhìth nar beachd gus na molaidhean a thoirt air adhart.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/7/contents>

² <https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/scottish-social-attitudes-attitudes-towards-gaelic/>



Tha ar freagairt air a thoirt seachad ann an ceithir earrannan: ro-innleachd nàiseanta ùr airson foghlam; na roghainnean airson Gàidhealtachd oifigeil a chruthachadh; gnìomhan agus structaran Bhòrd na Gàidhlig; agus reachdas eile a thathar a' moladh a dh'fhaodadh cleachdadh agus ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a neartachadh ann an Alba. Tha iomradh air fianais a tha mar bhunait air an fhreagairt againn ann am Pàipear-taice 1. Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach a' phàipear fiosrachaidh a bha mar bhunait dhan dreachd den cheathramh Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig.

1. Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG)

Tha an earrann a leanas a' mìneachadh prìomh phrionnsabalan a bhios bunaiteach, ann am beachd Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, ma tha ro-innleachd ùr dhan chànan gu bhith soirbheachail. A bharrachd air prionnsapalan, tha nòtaichean an cois seo a chuidicheas gus na miannan a tha air cùl gach prionnsapal a thuigsinn.

1.1 Bheireadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba aig ìre mhinistearan stiùireadh dhan Ro-innleachd Foghlam Gàidhlig ùr gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid a libhrigeadh, le Buidhnean Foghlaim Nàiseanta agus Ùghdarrasan Ionadail a' cur ris tro thargaidean. Bu chòir ceangal soilleir ri Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig³ a bhith mar co-theacsa na ro-innleachd.

- a) Mar a chaidh aithneachadh sa phàipear co-chomhairleachaidh, tha ro-innleachdan roimhe seo air adhartas a dhèanamh mean air mhean le leasachadh agus libhrigeadh foghlam Gàidhlig agus mar a tha aithnichte sa phàipear co-chomhairleachaidh, tha feum air barrachd adhartais. Tha am moladh gum biodh ceannardas aig ìre Mhinistreibh san Ro-innleachd na phrìomh fheart ann a bhith a' neartachadh buaidh na ro-innleachd. Mar a thathar a' deasbad san treas pàirt den phàipear seo, chan eil cumhachd aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig aig an àm seo gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil Ùghdarrasan Ionadail agus Buidhnean Foghlaim Nàiseanta ag obair còmhla gus ro-innleachd a chur an gnìomh. Chuidicheadh a bhith a' cur ceannardas aig an ìre as àirde de riaghaltas an dà chuid le bhith a' libhrigeadh na ro-innleachd agus ag àbhaisteachadh foghlam Gàidhlig ann an Alba.
- b) Bu chòir àite soilleir a bhith aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig ann a bhith a' toirt seachad comhairle phroifeiseanta agus taic do Mhinistearan na h-Alba agus dhan a h-uile com-pàirtiche. Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh mu dheidhinn seo ann an Earrann 3.2.d.
- c) Bu chòir aithris gu poblach air targaidean SMART co-cheangailte ri FtG agus Foghlam Luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig (FLI) gach bliadhna.
- d) A rèir fios-air-ais a fhuaras tron cho-chomhairle air an ath Phlana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, bu chòir dhan ro-innleachd nàiseanta dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil FtG a tha a' cumail taic ri togail cànan eifeachdach air a libhrigeadh taobh a-staigh co-theacs sòisealta is coimhearsnachd a tha freumhaichte sa Churraicealam airson Sàr-mhathais agus a' gabhail a-steach cultar na Gàidhlig.

1.2 Thèid còraichean phàrantan air foghlam Gàidhlig a chruthachadh.

- a) Aig an àm seo, tha còir aig pàrantan foghlam bun-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig iarraidh⁴. Bu chòir a' chòir gus iartras a dhèanamh airson foghlam Gàidhlig a leudachadh gus am bi còir ann solar tràth-bhliadhnaichean agus àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig iarraidh. Bidh Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta (CnamP), a' bhuidheann nàiseanta airson comhairle is taic do phàrantan air Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig, na phrìomh chom-pàirtiche ann a bhith a' leudachadh chòraichean phàrantan air foghlam Gàidhlig, le taic bho BnG.
- b) Ann an co-rèir ris an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig, tha a' chòir gus solarachadh FtG ùr iarraidh ag adhbharachadh co-chomhairle leis an ùghdarras ionadail le BnG, Foghlam Alba agus CnamP mar cho-chomhairlichean reachdail. Aig an àm seo, chan eil dleastanas sam bith air an ùghdarras ionadail moladh BnG no Foghlam Alba a tha ag èirigh bhon cho-chomhairle a chur an gnìomh. Thathar a' moladh, far a bheil BnG a' cur taic ris an iartras, gum bu chòir iarraidh air an ùghdarras ionadail gabhail ris na molaidhean mar a thathar a' moladh. Bu chòir comas a bhith

³ <http://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Sti%C3%B9ireadh-Foghlam-airson-Foghlam-G%C3%A0idhlig-G.pdf>

aig an Ùghdarras Ionadail tagradh a dhèanamh gu Ministearan na h-Alba ma tha iad den bheachd nach urrainn dhaibh moladh BnG a chur an gnìomh.

- c) Bu chòir na còraichean seo a leudachadh gu còir air foghlam bun-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile far a bheil an solar ann mar-thà.

1.3 Bu chòir taic agus leasachadh na Gàidhlig a bhith am measg nam prìomh amasan aig a h-uile Buidheann Foghlaim Nàiseanta. Bidh amasan Gàidhlig ann am planaichean bliadhna agus fad-ùine a mhìnichas na bhios gach buidheann a' lìbhrigeadh, agus comharraichidh gach aithisg adhartais na chaidh a choileanadh airson na Gàidhlig.

- a. Tha BnG air fiosrachadh farsaing a sholarachadh gus comhairle a thoirt seachad mu fheumalachdan foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus foghlam luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig airson raon farsaing de cho-chomhairlean air leasachadh foghlam na h-Alba. Tha liosta dhiubh sin agus de na co-chomhairlean eile co-cheangailte ri foghlam ann am Eàrr-ràdh 1.
- b. Tha adhartas air a bhith ann le Buidhnean Foghlaim Nàiseanta ann a bhith lìbhrigeadh airson na Gàidhlig. Feumar seo a dhaingneachadh agus togail air anns na leasachaidhean a tha ri thighinn aig ìre nàiseanta.
- c. Tha feum air fianais nas soilleire air buaidh bho gach buidheann. Bheir seo taic ri fàs, planadh airson leasachadh agus dèiligeadh ri dùbhlain.
- d. Thathar a' dèanamh ath-sgrùdadh air na buidhnean nàiseanta le uallach airson a bhith a' cumail taic ri, agus a bhith a' leasachadh an t-siostam foghlaim nàiseanta againn aig an àm seo. Bu chòir riatanas a bhith air a h-uile buidheann foghlaim nàiseanta comhairle a shireadh agus obrachadh ann an com-pàirteachas le Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a h-uile cùis co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig (faic cuideachd Earrann 3.2.d).

1.4 Bu chòir dhan ro-innleachd a bhith a' gabhail a-steach ath-sgrùdadh air co-theacsan reachdail a th' ann mar-thà, leithid an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig agus comhairle leithid Comhairle Foghlam Alba air Foghlam Gàidhlig.

- a) Bu chòir a' Chomhairle air Foghlam Gàidhlig ath-sgrùdadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil mìneachadh ann air Foghlam Tràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoil is Àrd-sgoil tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Dh'fhaodadh seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach mìneachadh air na tha air a mhìneachadh an-dràsta mar *Fhoghlam Àrd-sgoile Gàidhlig* agus na dh'fhaodadh a bhith air a mhìneachadh mar *a bhith ag obair a dh'ionnsaigh foghlam àrd-sgoile tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig*.
- b) Mar phàirt de dh'ath-sgrùdadh air a' Chomhairle air Foghlam Gàidhlig, bu chòir Foghlam Alba (no buidheann cho-ionann) a tha ag obair còmhla ri solaraidhean ITE Gàidhlig, stiùireadh soilleir a thoirt seachad air modhan teagaisg bogaidh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil an dòigh-obrach a thathar a' cleachdadh gu nàiseanta a rèir cleachdadh co-aimsireil, stèidhichte air rannsachadh.
- c) Bu chòir dhan ath-sgrùdadh air an Stiùireadh Reachdail a bhith a' gabhail a-steach ath-sgrùdadh air solar nan Tràth-bhliadhnaichean agus Àrd-sgoiltean, na thathar a' sùileachadh bho Ùghdarrasan Ionadail agus an stairsnich clàraidh de còignear cloinne.
- d) Anns an ath-sgrùdadh air an Stiùireadh Reachdail, bu chòir beachdachadh air cò air a bu chòir an t-uallach a bhith gus an t-iarrtas tùsail a dhèanamh airson solar FtG. Cha bu chòir seo a bhith an urra ri pàrant fa-leth no buidheann de phàrantan tuilleadh.

1.5 Bu chòir Ro-innleachd ùr do Luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a chruthachadh taobh a-staigh prògram cànanan 1+2 ⁵ leis an amas gum bi a' chlann uile a dh'fhàgas siostam Foghlam na h-Alba air coinneachadh ris a' Ghàidhlig aig àm air choreigin rè am foghlam sgoile (mar L2 no L3).

- a) Bu chòir do dh'Ùghdarrasan Ionadail an t-àrd-amas mar a tha air a mhìneachadh gu h-àrd a thuigsinn agus a bhith ag obair a dh'ionnsaigh thargaidean gus an t-àrd-amas seo a libhrigeadh mean air mhean.
- b) Tha dàta ga chruinneachadh le Foghlam Alba air solar L2 agus L3 aig ìre nàiseanta agus airson nan 32 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail gu lèir. Tha dàta air fhoillseachadh le SQA mu choileanaidhean Nàiseanta 5/Àrd-ìre agus Àrd-ìre Adhartach. Bu chòir leantainn air adhart leis an obair seo anns na buidhnean foghlaim ùra agus bu chòir sgrùdadh bliadhnail air an dàta gu lèir a bhith mar phrìomh chomharra airson soirbheachas na Ro-innleachd Foghlaim Nàiseanta.
- c) Às dèidh measadh, bu chòir beachdachadh air a' phileat airson Teisteanas Teagaisg a Bharrachd⁶ a leudachadh gus am bi cùrsaichean *Gàidhlig mar nuadh-chànan* rim faighinn ann an àireamh a tha a' sior fhàs de sgoiltean tron Bheurla. Bu chòir sùil gheur a chumail air an àireimh de sgoiltean tro mheadhan na Beurla a tha a' tabhann Gàidhlig mar nuadh-chànan gu ìre Nàiseanta, Àrd-ìre agus Àrd-ìre adhartach agus bu chòir adhartas a bhith ann leis na h-àireamhan gach bliadhna.

1.6 Bu chòir Planadh Leasachadh Sgoile agus Aithris air Inbhean agus Càileachd a bhith an sàs aig gach seirbheis FtG gach bliadhna.

- a) Bu chòir seo a bhith ceangaltach fon lagh a thaobh solar FtG uile.
- b) Bu chòir dhan phrìomh bhuidhinn ùir airson Foghlam na h-Alba geàrr-chunntas nàiseanta a chur ri chèile agus fhoillseachadh gach bliadhna de thargaidean Planadh Leasachadh Sgoile agus Adhartas Bliadhnail air a chlàradh ann an Aithrisean Inbhean agus Càileachd.
- c) Bu chòir dhan gheàrr-chunntas bliadhnail a bhith a' fiosrachadh agus a' leasachadh phlanaichean obrach bliadhnail nam buidhnean foghlaim nàiseanta agus libhrigeadh bliadhnail bhuidhnean leithid Stòrlann Nàiseanta.
- d) Bu chòir gach Ùghdarras Ionadail cuideachd geàrr-chunntas a chur ri chèile agus fhoillseachadh gach bliadhna air an adhartas a rinneadh ann am FtG thar Foghlam Tràth-bhliadhnach, Bun-sgoile agus Àrd-sgoile.
- e) Bu chòir e-Sgoil, mar sholarachadh nàiseanta, Prògram Leasachaidh FtG Bliadhnail agus Aithisg Inbhean is Càileachd FtG a thoirt seachad cuideachd, a tha gu soilleir a' nochdadh fàs bliadhnail anns an àireimh de chùrsaichean a thathar a' tabhann (a' gabhail a-steach prìomh fhianais air cùrsaichean le Duais SQA), an àireamh de sgoiltean FtG a tha an sàs agus an àireamh de sgoilearan a tha air buannachd fhaighinn bho sholar chùrsaichean e-Sgoil.

1.7 Bidh sgoiltean FtG fa leth nam bun-roghainn airson gach solar ùr agus mìnichidh gach Ùghdarras Ionadail mar a bhios e a' gluasad a dh'ionnsaigh sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa leth.

- a) Dh'fhaodadh gum feum seo leasachadh meadhan-ùine agus beagan sùbailteachd ann an solar dùthchail far a bheil sluagh beag ann. Ach bu chòir ro-thaobhadh a bhith ann san fharsaingeachd gum bi FtG air a thoirt seachad ann an sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa leth.

⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/languages/language-learning/#:~:text=The%201%2B2%20approach&text=This%20ambitious%20policy%20aims%20to,third%20year%20of%20secondary%20education>.

⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/gd/bord-na-gaidhlig-agus-oilthigh-shrath-chluaidh-a-cur-a-chiad-teisteanas-teagaisg-gaidhlig-mar-nuadh-chanan-air-bhog/>

- b) Bu chòir sùil a chumail gach bliadhna air an àireamh de chloinn is daoine òga a th' ann an sgoiltean FtG fa leth agus iomradh a thoirt air mar àireamh sa cheud den chlàradh gu lèir ann am FtG. Mar an ceudna bu chòir sùil a chumail air an àireamh de shuidheachaidhean bun-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile FtG gach bliadhna.

1.8 Bu chòir prìomhachas fastaidh is leasachaidh luchd-obrach a bhith san Ro-innleachd Foghlaim. Bidh seo a' gabhail a-steach Tìdsearan Bun-sgoile agus Àrd-sgoile ann am FtG agus Oifigearan Leasachaidh Chloinne agus Tìdsearan Tràth-bhliadhnaichean. Cuideachd, bu chòir sùil a chumail air an àireamh de Thìdsearan Nuadh-chànanan a tha a' libhrigeadh Gàidhlig ann am foghlam tro meadhan na Beurla agus bu chòir seo àrdachadh thar raon-ama san ro-innleachd.

- a) Thèid sanasachd a dhèanamh air cùrsaichean Foghlam Tòiseachail Luchd-teagaisg FtG gach bliadhna le solaraichean agus thèid sùil gheur a chumail air an ìre-chleachdadh.
- b) Bu chòir solar a bharrachd de chùrsaichean do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, coltach ris an MA ann am Foghlam Bun-sgoile le Gàidhlig aig Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, a chruthachadh agus a libhrigeadh.
- c) Bu chòir am Prògram Bogaidh⁷ a th' air a mhaoineachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig a bhith air a chleachdadh barrachd le Ùghdarrasan Ionadail. Thèid barrachd solair bogaidh a chur air dòigh a rèir iarrais.
- d) Bu chòir do gach Ùghdarrasan Ionadail le solar FtG aig ìre na h-Àrd-sgoil fianais a thoirt seachad gu bheil tìdsearan FtG a' toirt seachad làn chlàr-ama ann am FtG.
- e) Bu chòir do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig leantainn air adhart le bhith a' dèanamh iomairtean leithid Prògram Tadhalan Sgoile, DèanDiofar luchd-teagaisg⁸, DèanDiofar Tràth-Ìrean⁹, agus Sgeama nan Tabhartasan Foghlaim Ghàidhlig¹⁰ agus a' toirt seachad fianais air buaidh.
- f) Bu chòir do dh'Ùghdarrasan Ionadail sealltainn mar a tha iad a' togail structaran adhartachadh dreuchd anns na seirbheisean FtG aca (m.e. structaran adhartachaidh ann an sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa leth).
- g) Bu chòir prògram STEM Riaghaltas na h-Alba¹¹ atharrachadh gus Gàidhlig a chur ris— gu bhith na sgeama STEM +G. Dhèanadh seo cinnteach gum brosnachadh an sgeama luchd-ceumnachaidh ann an cuspairean neo-STEM a tha airson a dhol a-steach do dh'fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig bursaraidhean fhaighinn.
- h) Bu chòir pileat a dhèanamh air Luchd-taic na Gàidhlig agus bu chòir an toirt a-steach dhan t-siostam FtG.
- i) Bu chòir beachdachadh air crìochan meud chlasaichean FtG, gu sònraichte aig ìre làn-bhogaidh sa bhun-sgoil.
- j) Mar phàirt de phlanadh leantainneach nan Ùghdarrasan Ionadail/Sgoiltean, bu chòir ro-mheasaidhean luchd-obrach a chleachdadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil ullachadh iomchaidh ann gus FtG a leudachadh, agus mar sin gu bheil a' dèanamh feum fiosraichte de chothroman gus sgilean luchd-obrach àrdachadh, m.e. Cùrsaichean Bogaidh do Thìdsearan, gus targaidean a choileanadh.
- k) Bu chòir gealltanais a thoirt gun tèid ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air a' bhuidhe a tha aig modal roghainnean cùrsaichean na h-ìre as àirde air ìre-cleachdadh theisteanasan Gàidhlig/Gaelic gu nàiseanta, le plana gnìomh gus leantainn air seo ma bhios sin iomchaidh.

⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/gd/maoineachaidh/cothroman-maoineachaidh/tabhartasan-cursaichean-bogaidh-gaidhlig-do-luchd-obrach-foghlaim/>

⁸ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/gd/foghlam/deandiofair/>

⁹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/gd/deandiofar-trath-bhliadhnaichean/>

¹⁰ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/gd/maoineachaidh/cothroman-maoineachaidh/tabhartasan-foghlaim/>

¹¹ <https://stembursaryscotland.co.uk/>

- l) Bu chòir dhan ro-innleachd cothroman a libhrigeadh airson solar FtG àrd-sgoile eadar-ùghdarrasan. Dh'fhaodadh seo cur ri càileachd fharsaing FtG do dhaoine òga agus ri bhith a' cumail taic ri bhith a' fòcasadh ghoireasan ann an dòigh nas èifeachdaiche.
- m) Bu chòir ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air Frèaman Cànain 3-18 airson togail cànain mar phrìomh thargaid. Bhiodh seo cuideachd a' fiosrachaidh prògram nan goireasan aig Stòrlann Nàiseanta agus na Buidhnean Foghlaim ùra.
- n) Bu chòir gnìomhan co-cheangailte ri cùisean fastaidh is gleidhidh a bhith san Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta, a thaobh dùbhlain sònraichte ann an Comhairlean na Gàidhealtachd, Earra-Ghàidheal is Bhòid agus Obar Dheathain.

2 Gàidhealtachd oifigeil

Tha grunn structairean agus ro-innleachdan ann mar-thà a tha a' buntainn ri bhith a' coimhead air a bhith a' cruthachadh Gàidhealtachd no Gàidhealtachdan oifigeil.

Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig

Tha Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig 2018-2023 agus an dreachd Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig airson 2023-28 a' cur an cèill gu soilleir gu bheil feum air diofar dhòighean-obrach gus taic a thoirt do dhiofar sheòrsaichean de choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig. Tha am Plana làithreach ag ràdh gu bheil trì seòrsaichean farsaing de choimhearsnachd ann – na coimhearsnachdan traidiseanta ann an sgìrean eileanach agus dùthchail; na coimhearsnachdan a tha a' fàs ann am bailtean-mòra agus cathair-bhailtean; agus a' choimhearsnachd air-loidhne a tha a' sìor fhàs:

"Feumar oidhirp a dhèanamh gu sònraichte gus Gàidhlig a ghleidheadh is a neartachadh sna coimhearsnachdan eileanach is dùthchail far a bheil i fhathast an ìre mhath làidir agus na ciad chànan do chuid mhath den t-sluagh.

'S e aon de na dùbhlain as motha a tha ro na coimhearsnachdan seo sluagh a ghleidheadh a tha a' cosnadh. ... Bidh fuasglaidhean innleachdach a dhìth bho dhiofar luchd-compàirt a thaobh obraichean, taighean aig prìs reusanta sna h-àiteachan ceart, deagh sheirbheisean cùraim slàinte is cùraim-chloinne, goireasan còmhdhail cunbhalach aig prìs reusanta agus ceangal luath ri seirbheisean bann-leathainn agus fòn-làimhe."

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig daonnan a' cur cuideam air feumalachdan nan eilean agus choimhearsnachdan dùthchail a thaobh cumail suas àireamhan-sluaigh agus neart a' chànan tro fhreagairtean do cho-chomhairlean nàiseanta is roinneil, a bharrachd air a bhith an sàs ann am fòraman eadar-bhuidhneach (Eàrr-ràdh I).

Tha teachdaireachd shoilleir sa Phlana cuideachd gum buin a' Ghàidhlig do dh'Alba air fad agus tha seo cudromach ann a bhith a' cur cuideam air luach nàiseanta na Gàidhlig agus a cultar co-cheangailte. Ann a bhith a' cruthachadh structaran sam bith a tha a' comharrachadh no a' toirt dìon sònraichte do sgìrean no choimhearsnachdan, feumaidh iad sin a bhith air an cothromachadh le feumalachdan agus miannan nan coimhearsnachdan no lìonraidhean eile de luchd-labhairt is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba.

Plana Nàiseanta nan Eileanan

Tha a' chiad Phlana Nàiseanta nan Eilean¹² ag aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar gu cunbhalach thar nan trì cinn-uidhe deug ro-innleachdail aige. Tha an Stiùireadh Measadh Buaidh air Coimhearsnachd Eileanach, a chaidh ùrachadh bho chionn ghoirid, air àrdachadh mòr a thoirt air a' chuideam air a' Ghàidhlig ann am measaidhean a nithear airson a bhith a' cruthachadh no ag ùrachadh ro-innleachdan agus poileasaidhean co-cheangailte ri eileanan.

Stiùireadh Reachdail air Planaichean Gàidhlig

Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Planaichean Gàidhlig¹³ a' gabhail a-steach na comhairle coitchinn seo:

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2019/12/national-plan-scotlands-islands/documents/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/govscot%3Adocument/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Stiùireadh-air-Leasachadh-Phlanaichean-Gaidhlig-2007.pdf>

"San fharsaingeachd tha am Bòrd a' sùileachadh anns na ceàrnaidhean far as àirde na h-àireamhan sa chunntas no sa cheud de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig, gum bi raon nas fharsainge agus ìre dhleastanasan nas làidire ann am Plana Gàidhlig an ùghdarrais phoblaich.

Tha inbhe nan dùilean sin air a mhìneachadh ann am barrachd doimhneachd ann an 3.3.c).

2.1 Thathar a' moladh anns an earrainn sin gum bu chòir a' phàirt seo den Stiùireadh Reachdail a bhith mar phàirt den reachdas ùr no ath-sgrùdaichte, a' cruthachadh dleastanas soilleir air ùghdarrasan poblach dèiligeadh ri seo ann an cruthachadh an cuid phlanaichean Gàidhlig.

Tha cothroman ag èirigh bho bhith ag aithneachadh sgìrean cruinn-eòlach mar sgìrean Gaidhealtachd a' gabhail a-steach:

2.2 An cothrom an ceangal eadar a' Ghàidhlig agus a' choimhearsnachd a neartachadh – a' cruthachadh ceangal nas dlùithe eadar dearbh-aithne na coimhearsnachd ionadail agus Gàidhlig mar chomharra air dearbh-aithne sònraichte dhaoine.

2.3 Dh'fhaodadh e cuideachadh gus plana Gàidhlig eadar-bhuidhneach a chruthachadh le fòcas air sgìre chruinn-eòlasach gus leasachaidhean Gàidhlig a cho-òrdanachadh agus a bhuileachadh taobh a-staigh sgìre chuibhrichte agus chomharraichte. Chruthaich seo cothrom do raon farsaing de ghnìomhan co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig a libhrigeadh gun a bhith a' togail structaran biùrocratach a bharrachd. Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh mu dheidhinn seo anns an earrainn air gnìomhan agus structaran Bhòrd na Gàidhlig.

2.4 Dh'fhaodadh gum bi cothroman ann fòcas nas mionaidiche a thoirt air cùisean ionadail, leithid taigheadas, eaconamaidh, còmh-dhail, agus atharrachadh deamografach, a tha a' toirt buaidh air a' Ghàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachdan nas iomallaiche.

Ann a bhith a' cruthachadh crìochan cruinn-eòlasach no crìochan eile, tha grunn dhùbhlain ag èirigh, leithid:

2.5 Tha crìochan stèidhichte air cleachdadh cànan gu tric connspaideach, dh'fhaodadh iad sgaraidhean adhbharachadh agus tha iad gu sònraichte toinnte ann an Alba far am faodadh pàirtean de dh'eileanan a bhith nam pàirt de dheamografaig a gheibh aithne mar sgìre Gaidhealtachd ach nach fhaigheadh pàirtean eile den aon eilean.

2.6 Tha cùisean bun-structair sa chumantas aig coimhearsnachdan eileanach agus dùthchail – còmh-dhail, taigheadas, cothroman eaconamach, agus ceangailteachd. Dh'fhaodadh seo sgaraidhean adhbharachadh eadar eileanan, sgìrean air tìr-mòr agus pàirtean de dh'eileanan.

2.7 Tha fàs ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig bailteil follaiseach. Bu chòir cuideachd taic agus goireasan a thoirt do na coimhearsnachdan sin, agus a bhith air an gabhail a-steach ann am mìneachadh sam bith air Gaidhealtachd oifigeil.

2.8 Bidh libhrigeadh seirbheis nàiseanta is ionadail sa Ghàidhlig le buidhnean poblach taobh a-staigh Gaidhealtachd oifigeil nas toinnte agus bidh feum fhathast air taic aig ìre nàiseanta no ionadail taobh a-muigh crìochan na Gaidhealtachd oifigeil.

2.9 Tha dragh ann gum faodadh buidhnean nàiseanta na geallaidhean aca a thaobh leasachadh a' chànain san fharsaingeachd a lùghdachadh agus fòcas a chur gu sònraichte air sluagh chuibhrichte agus an ìre

mhath beag, a' fàgail gum bi an cànan air a chur air an iomall agus nas fhaide air falbh bho chòmhradh nàiseanta.

Ghabhadh na diofar fheumalachdan agus miannan aig na diofar choimhearsnachdan no lìonraidhean aithneachadh agus a thoirt air adhart tro bhith a' toirt dleastanasan reachdail a bharrachd do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig.

2.10 Dh'fhaodadh iad seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach a bhith a' toirt air ùghdarrasan poblach co-obrachadh ann a bhith a' cruthachadh agus a' cur an gnìomh phlanaichean Gàidhlig air bunait chruinn-eòlach, tro bhuidhinn leithid Com-pàirteachas Planaidh Coimhearsnachd. Dh'fhaodadh an t-ath-sgrùdadh air Achd Cumhachdachadh Coimhearsnachd (Alba) 2015 a tha a' dol air adhart a bhith na chothrom iomchaidh gus an t-atharrachadh seo a bhuileachadh.

Am measg nan dòighean eile a mholamaid, tha:

2.11 Dh'fhaodadh Planaichean Coimhearsnachd ann an dùthchannan eile leithid sa Chuimrigh cuideachadh le bhith a' cruthachadh iomairtean coimhearsnachd a tha an dà chuid air an stiùireadh leis a' choimhearsnachd agus co-chòrdail ri Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig. Dh'fhaodadh planaichean eadar-bhuidhneach coimhearsnachd mar seo a bhith air an cur ri chèile an dà chuid ann an àrainneachdan dùthchail agus bailteil.

2.12 Dh'fhaodadh an iomairt a tha a' dol air adhart airson a bhith a' cruthachadh plana Gàidhlig coimhearsnachd co-òrdanaichte san Eilean Sgitheanach is Ratharsair a bhith na bhunait airson a bhith a' faighinn nam buannachdan aig plana coileanta stèidhichte sa choimhearsnachd, a' tarraing a-steach nam buidhnean poblach a tha ag obair san sgìre sin.

2.13 Bu chòir do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig measadh tùsail bhon taobh a-muigh a dhèanamh air a' bhuidh a bhios aig Plana Gàidhlig Coimhearsnachd an Eilein Sgitheanaich is Ratharsair a tha san amharc a rèir clàr-ama ainmichte gus leasachaidhean a bharrachd fhiosrachadh.

2.14 A' gabhail a-steach fianais bhon chiad sgrùdadh seo air iomairt an Eilein Sgitheanaich is Ratharsair, stiùiridh Bòrd na Gàidhlig cruthachadh dà iomairt eile den aon seòrsa ann an sgìrean far a bheil 20% no barrachd den t-sluagh clàraichte le Gàidhlig ann an cunntas-sluaigh 2021.

3 Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Chaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh tro Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) ann an 2005. Tha 17 bliadhna ann bho chaidh an Achd aontachadh agus tha e follaiseach gu bheil iarrtas ann airson frèam reachdail nas treasa agus le barrachd buaidh gus àireamhan dhaoine a tha a' bruidhinn agus ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba a chumail suas agus àrdachadh.

Tha ìrean riarachais bho luchd-ùidh agus luchd-obrach agus aithne an luchd-sgrùdaidh bhon taobh a-muigh gu bheil piseach nach beag air tighinn air a' bhuidhinn uile a' nochdadh gu bheil a' bhuidheann a' coileanadh a h-adhbhar fon fhrèam a th' ann mar-thà. Ach, tha e soilleir cuideachd gu bheil crìochan an fhrèama sin agus ìrean nan stòrasan a' cur bacadh air barrachd leasachaidh, gu nàiseanta agus gu roinneil, agus tha an earrann seo a' cur air adhart mholaidhean gus dèiligeadh ris na bacaidhean sin.

3.1 Bu chòir Bòrd na Gàidhlig leantainn air adhart mar Bhuidheann Poblach Neo-roinneil agus mar bhuidheann nàiseanta airson na Gàidhlig.

Bidh a' bhuidheann a' toirt seachad comhairle agus taic phroifeiseanta air a h-uile cùis co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig do Mhinistearan na h-Alba, Riaghaltas na h-Alba, buidhnean nàiseanta is roinneil a bharrachd air taic do choimhearsnachdan agus do dhaoine fa leth.

- a) Tha an dàimh leth-eisimeileach aige ri Ministearan na h-Alba a' toirt comas do BhnG comhairle phroifeasanta, neo-eisimeileach a thoirt seachad agus a dhleastanasan riaghlaidh a choileanadh a thaobh Achd na Gàidhlig.¹⁴
- b) Tha a' bhuidheann air a riaghladh le riochdairean bho raon de choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig; tha a' Ghàidhlig aig a chridhe, an dà chuid ann an leasachadh poileasaidh agus cùisean obrachaidh; agus mar bhuidheann nàiseanta, tha an luchd-obrach aice stèidhichte ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach, dùthchail agus bailteil.
- c) Tha an ìre de ghoireasan agus nàdar a' mhaoineachaidh bhliadhnail a' cruthachadh dhùbhlain dhan bhuidhinn. Thathar air fàilte a chur air na h-àrdachaidhean maoineachaidh bho chionn ghoirid (21/22 agus 22/23). Ach, tha nàdar geàrr-ùine nan àrdachaidhean maoineachaidh sin a' cur bacadh air àrdachadh ann an luchd-obrach maireannach. Mar sin bidh e doirbh an obair a bharrachd a chaidh a libhrigeadh bho chionn ghoirid a chumail suas. Bheireadh maoineachadh fad-ùine aig na h-ìrean a chaidh iarraidh sa Phlana Ionmhais Meadhan-ùine a chaidh a chur a-steach gu Riaghaltas na h-Alba barrachd buaidh thairis air planadh cànan, comhairle foghlam Gàidhlig, leasachaidhean coimhearsnachd, adhartachadh na Gàidhlig agus gnìomhan eile. Tha e cudromach a thoirt fa-near cuideachd gu bheil dùbhlain ann a thaobh leantalachd agus planadh èiginn airson luchd-obrach agus tha bunait maoineachaidh bliadhnail a' cur ris na dùbhlain sin.
- d) Bheireadh maoineachadh fad-ùine agus àrdachadh maoineachaidh cothrom gus comhairle a thoirt ann an dòigh nas èifeachdaiche do bhuidhnean nàiseanta is roinneil agus do dh'Ùghdarrasan Ionadail agus bu chòir riatanas a bhith orra comhairle Bhòrd na Gàidhlig iarraidh air a h-uile cuspair a bheir buaidh air a' Ghàidhlig (a' cleachdadh Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig mar phrìomh cho-theacs) (faic an nòta air Buidhnean Foghlaim aig 1.1.b).

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-bodies-in-scotland-guide/>

3.2 Bu chòir do Phlana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig leantainn air adhart mar a’ phrìomh dhòigh-obrach airson planadh ro-innleachdail airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba.

Tha dleastanas air Bòrd na Gàidhlig fo Earrann 2 den Achd gus plana nàiseanta Gàidhlig ullachadh agus a chur a-steach gu Ministearan na h-Alba gach còig bliadhna. Chuir BnG a-steach an ceathramh plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig do Mhinistearan na h-Alba airson aonta bho chionn ghoirid. Tha BnG den bheachd gu bheil plana nàiseanta fhathast deatamach do leasachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba agus do dhealas làidir Riaghaltas na h-Alba dhan Ghàidhlig mar a tha air a mhìneachadh sa cho-chomhairle seo.

- a) Bhiodh buaidh a bu mhotha aig a’ Phlana Nàiseanta nam biodh barrachd soilleireachd ann air cò ris a tha e an urra uallaichean airson nan gnìomhan agus thargaidean a lìbhrigeadh. Tha barrachd tuigse ann air dleastanasan BnG agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus buidhnean eile ann a bhith lìbhrigeadh leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus feumar fàilte a chur air seo. Bhiodh barrachd soilleireachaidh air a thoirt seachad tro cheanglaichean a-muigh eadar na diofar shruthan maoineachaidh nàiseanta co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig agus cur an gnìomh a’ Phlana. Aig an àm seo, bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ faighinn mun chòigeamh cuid de bhuidseat nàiseanta bliadhnail na Gàidhlig. Tha e cudromach gun tèid barrachd feum a dhèanamh den eòlas taobh a-staigh BnG gus sealltainn mar a tha am maoineachadh nàiseanta uile a’ cur ri amasan Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.
- b) Tha an iomairt Mhinistireil, *Adhartas nas Luaithe*, air barrachd spionnadh a thoirt do leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Tha an stiùireadh bho Rùnaire a’ Chaibineit, a’ nochdadh taic aig an ìre as àirde de riaghaltas, air buaidh mhòr a thoirt air adhartas. Is e sin as adhbhar gu bheil am moladh ann an Earrann 1.1 gum biodh ceannardas ministireil aig an ro-innleachd foghlaim nàiseanta ùr. Dh’fhaodadh an obair eadar-bhuidhneach ann an *Adhartas nas Luaithe* a bhith air a neartachadh barrachd le bhith a’ cruthachadh phlanaichean Gàidhlig sònraichte do dhiofar roinnean (faic 3.3.e airson barrachd fiosrachaidh).

3.3 Bu chòir am frèam reachdail airson Planaichean Gàidhlig a neartachadh

Tha planaichean Gàidhlig aig cha mhòr 70 buidheann poblach aig an àm seo a tha iad a’ cur an gnìomh gus fàs a thoirt air a’ Ghàidhlig. Tha na buidhnean sin a’ gabhail a-steach ùghdarrasan ionadail, seirbheisean slàinte is èiginn agus buidhnean cultarail, àrainneachdail agus leasachaidh. Tha plana fa leth aig gach buidheann agus feumaidh iad, ma thèid iarraidh orra, aithisgean sgrùdaidh bliadhnail a chur gu Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha am pròiseas airson planaichean a thòiseachadh, a mheasadh agus a sgrùdadh air a mhìneachadh san Achd. Tha an Achd cuideachd a’ sònrachadh gum bi Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag ullachadh stiùireadh reachdail airson planaichean Gàidhlig agus ga fhoillseachadh aon uair is gun deach aontachadh le Ministearan na h-Alba.

- a) Bu chòir gum biodh a bhith a’ toirt taic agus comhairle phroifeiseanta do gach buidheann nàiseanta a thaobh na Gàidhlig a bhith am measg nam prìomh dhleastanasan aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- b) Bu chòir do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig an t-uallach airson an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Planadh Gàidhlig a chumail.
- c) Bu chòir am frèam reachdail a neartachadh le bhith a’ gluasad na leanas bhon Stiùireadh Reachdail air Planaichean gu reachdas: "Anns na ceàrnaidhean far as àirde na h-àireamhan sa chunntas no sa cheud de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig, gum bi raon nas fharsainghe agus ìre dhleastanasan nas làidire ann am Plana Gàidhlig an ùghdarrais phoblaich." Bheireadh seo taic do na dòighean a tha ag aithneachadh cho cudromach ’s a tha coimhearsnachdan le àireamh sa chiad nas àirde de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig (faic 2.1).
- d) Bu chòir cumhachd reachdail ùr a bhith aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid Planaichean Gàidhlig Eadar-bhuidhneach a chruthachadh taobh a-staigh chrìochan cruinn-eòlach.

Dh'fhaodadh seo a bhith ceangailte ri com-pàirteachasan planadh coimhearsnachd agus dh'fhaodadh an t-ath-sgrùdadh làithreach air Achd Cumhachdachadh nan Coimhearsnachdan (Alba) 2015¹⁵ a bhith a' gabhail a-steach leasachaidhean do choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig. (Faic 2.10.)

- e) Bu chòir cumhachd reachdail eile coltach ri seo a bhith aig BnG a bheir comas dhaibh a bhith a' toirt air ùghdarrasan poblach planaichean Gàidhlig co-obrachail a chruthachadh airson raointean sònraichte, agus mar sin a bhith a' cur ri cleachdadh èifeachdach ghoireasan agus a' cruthachadh barrachd èifeachdais sgèile. Far a bheil iad sin air an cruthachadh, cha bhiodh riatanas ann gus Plana Gàidhlig a chruthachadh agus a bhuileachadh air stèidh nan ùghdarras fa leth.
- f) Aig an àm seo, chan eil an reachdas a' suidheachadh clàr-ama as giorra airson Plana Gàidhlig. Mholamaid gum biodh clàr-ama còig bliadhna aig a h-uile plana,
- g) Bu chòir Plana Gàidhlig ùrachadh mus tig an t-eagraan làithreach gu crìch agus mar sin bhiodh eadar-ghluasad gun chnap-starra sam bith eadar na diofar eagrain den phlana aig ùghdarras.
- h) Tha an reachdas a' toirt cead do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig atharraichean a mholadh air Planaichean Gàidhlig nuair a thèid an cur a-steach airson aonta. Ach, chan eil an dàrna cuid an reachdas agus an stiùireadh a' ceadachadh BnG gus toirt air ùghdarrasan na h-atharraichean sin a dhèanamh agus tha am pròiseas co-dhùnaidh mu eas-aonta no neo-ghèilleadh ris an Achd an urra ri Ministearan na h-Alba.
- i) An àite a bhith a' moladh atharraichean, bu chòir gum biodh e comasach do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig toirt air an ùghdarras atharrachaidhean a dhèanamh. Bu chòir na riatanas seo a bhith a rèir Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.
- j) 'S e dà mhìos an clàr-ama a tha ceadachadh an-dràsta airson eas-aonta eadar BnG agus ùghdarras a rèiteach, rud a tha gu math dùbhlach. Bu chòir seo atharrachadh gu ceithir mìosan.
- d) Far a bheil ùghdarras fhathast ag eas-aontachadh le riatanas, bu chòir gum biodh roghainn ann gum faod an t-ùghdarras ath-sgrùdadh iarraidh air an eas-aonta. Bhiodh an t-ùghdarras a' dèanamh seo tro bhith a' cur an dreachd phlana aca air adhart gu Ministearan na h-Alba, ag ainmeachadh an cuid fianais airson an eas-aonta leantainn. Is iad Ministearan na h-Alba an t-ùghdarras mu dheireadh a bhiodh ann airson co-dhùnaidhean mar a tha e an-dràsta.
- e) Mar an ceudna nuair a gheibhear Aithisg Dearcnachaidh Plana Gàidhlig, ma tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig den bheachd nach deach adhartas gu leòr a dhèanamh, bu chòir cead a bhith aig BnG riatanas leasachaidh fhoillseachadh. Chan eil an reachdas làithreach a' leigeil le BnG ach a bhith a' cur na cùise air adhart do Mhinistearan na h-Alba. Mar a chaidh a chur an cèill aig d) ma tha ùghdarras a' cur an aghaidh riatanas a chaidh fhoillseachadh mar fhreagairt do dh'Aithisg Dearcnachaidh a' Phlana Ghàidhlig aca, faodaidh iad am Plana Gàidhlig agus an Aithisg Sgrùdaidh aca a chur air adhart gu Ministearan na h-Alba a nì co-dhùnadh mun riatanas a dh'fhoillsich BnG.

¹⁵ [https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/#:~:text=Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Act%202015%20Review&text=The%20review%20will%20have%20a,the%20second%20half%20of%202023](https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/#:~:text=Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Act%202015%20Review&text=The%20review%20will%20have%20a,the%20second%20half%20of%202023).

4 Cùisean eile co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig

4.1 Inbhe na Gàidhlig mar chànan oifigeil na h-Alba

Tha BnG a' moladh gum bi a' Ghàidhlig air a h-aithneachadh mar chànan oifigeil na h-Alba ann am Bile nan Cànanan Albannach a tha san amharc. Bheireadh seo air adhart am briathrachas san ro-ràdh dhan Achd a tha a' mìneachadh gnìomhan Bhòrd na Gàidhlig "*Achd Pàrlamaid na h-Alba gus buidheann a stèidheachadh le dleastanasan gus toirt gu buil le sùil gus inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tèarainte mar chànan oifigeil ann an Alba a tha a' faighinn spèis a tha co-ionann ris an spèis a th' ann dhan Bheurla*" agus gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig leabaichte gu ìre nas iomchaidh ann am beatha chatharra na h-Alba.

4.2 Frèam reachdail eile

Ged a tha a' cho-chomhairle seo gu sònraichte a' sireadh bheachdan air Gàidhlig agus Albais a thaobh a bhith a' cruthachadh bile chànanan na h-Alba, tha e cudromach na cothroman a th' ann gus a' Ghàidhlig a neartachadh ann an Alba tro na h-ath-leasachaidhean reachdail eile ann am beatha na Pàrlamaid seo a chomharrachadh. Chaidh cuid de na h-atharrachaidhean sin a chomharrachadh mar-thà agus tha geàrr-chunntas goirid dhiubh sin agus de dh'atharrachaidhean eile a' leantainn.

4.2.1 Bile Ath-leasachaidh an Fhoghlaim

Tha iomraidhean air a bhith ann tron phàipear seo uile air an obair leantainnich a thaobh an leasachaidh seo a tha air leth cudromach dhan Ghàidhlig. Tha e deatamach gum bi aithne ann an obair leasachadh a' bhile air feumalachdan agus miannan FtG is FLI.

Tha fiosrachadh nas mionaidiche ann an Eàrr-ràdh I air a' cho-chomhairle a thug BnG seachad air seo.

4.2.2 Bile Chòraichean Daonna

Bu chòir dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil còraichean daonna co-cheangailte ri mion-chànanan dùthchasach air an gabhail a-steach sa Bhile Còraichean Daonna a thathar a' moladh. Gu ruige seo, tha còmhradhean air fòcas a chur air còraichean cultarail is sòisealta agus feumar seo a leudachadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil còraichean luchd-labhairt mion-chànanan dùthchasach air an cur an cèill sa Bhile.

4.2.3 Lèirmheas air Achd Cumhachdachadh Coimhearsnachd

Mar a chaidh ainmeachadh gu h-àrd (2.10 agus 3.3.d) tha cothroman anns an ath-sgrùdadh seo air reachdas gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil planadh cànan airson na Gàidhlig air àbhaisteachadh taobh a-staigh na dòigh-obrach com-pàirteachais planadh coimhearsnachd a chaidh a stèidheachadh le Achd Cumhachdachadh nan Coimhearsnachdan (Alba) 2015. Dh'fhaodadh dòigh-obrach roinneil a thaobh planadh cànan a bhith mar aon de na dòighean-obrach a tha a' toirt taic dhan bhun-bheachd a bhith a' cruthachadh Ghàidhealtachdan ann an Alba.

4.2.4 Bile Ath-leasachaidh an Fhearainn

A rèir freagairt BnG dhan cho-chomhairle¹⁶, chaidh an ceangal eadar tìr, cànan agus daoine aithneachadh mar rud cudromach thar nan linntean. Tha cothroman nach beag gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig agus àrdachadh-sluaigh air an toirt air adhart anns a' phìos reachdais chudromach seo agus nan rachadh seo a dhèanamh, neartaicheadh e suidheachadh na Gàidhlig ann am buileachadh ath-leasachadh fearainn san àm ri teachd.

4.2.5 Plana Gnìomh Taigheadais Iomallach, Dùthchail is Eileanach

¹⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/land-reform-net-zero-nation-consultation-BNG-response-FINAL-eng-gd.pdf>

Tha BnG agus raon farsaing de bhuidhnean poblach is coimhearsnachd air na dùbhlain a tha mu choinneamh choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig traidiseanta a chomharrachadh, gu sònraichte sa chòig bliadhna mu dheireadh, le fianais a' sìor fhàs air a' bhuidhnean a th' aig gainnead thaighean air prìs ruigsinneach air coimhearsnachdan eileanach agus dùthchail. Tha e deatamach gun tèid dèiligeadh ri feumalachdan nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh fhuasglaidhean gus dèiligeadh ris na dùbhlain seo gus an glèidhear a' Ghàidhlig agus gus am a' fàs i mar chànan coimhearsnachd ann an Alba.

4.2.6 Bile Seirbheis Cùraim Nàiseanta

Fhreagair BnG a' cho-chomhairle air a' Bhile a tha ga mholadh¹⁷, a' moladh gum bu chòir gealltanais a bhith anns a' Bhile gun toir an t-Seirbheis Cùraim Nàiseanta ùr seirbheis do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig aig aois sam bith tro luchd-obrach iomchaidh, faicsinneachd agus cleachdadh a' chànan ann an àiteachan a tha iomchaidh agus ruigsinneach do theaghlaichean.

¹⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/National-Care-Service-BNG-Response-FINAL-en-gd.pdf>

Earr-ràdh 1

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3. Prògram Teagaisg Foghlam Adhartach Oilthigh Shrath Chluaidh, an Cèitean 2022 - [https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Uni-of-Strathclyde-Further-Ed-Teaching-Program-Response-BNG-FINAL .pdf](https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Uni-of-Strathclyde-Further-Ed-Teaching-Program-Response-BNG-FINAL.pdf)
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7. Co-chomhairle air Riaghailtean Clàraidh aig Comhairle Choitcheann Teagaisg na h-Alba, an Dùbhlachd 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Consultation-Response-BNG-FINAL.pdf>
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9. Ath-leasachadh air Ùghdarras Theisteanasan na h-Alba agus Foghlam Alba, an t-Iuchar 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BnG-ReformofSQAES-GD-28072021.pdf>
10. Prògram Teagaisg Foghlam Adhartach Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan, an t-Ògmhios 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/UHI-FE-Teaching-Programme-Consultation-BNG-FINAL.pdf>
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Sgìrean-sgoile FtG agus Freagairtean do Mheasadh air Solarachadh Foghlam Bun-sgoile tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig

13. Stèidheachadh Foghlam Bun-sgoile tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Thornliebank, an t-Sultain 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Freagairt-Co-Chomhairle-Rinn-Friu-An-Ear-FINAL-gd-eng.pdf> Bun-sgoil Ùige (An t-Eilean Sgitheanach), an Lùnastal 2019 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Co-chomhairleachadh-aig-Comhairle-na-G%C3%A0idhealtachd-Bun-sgoil-%C3%99ige.pdf>
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16. Sgìre-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig airson Buidheann Sgoile Co-cheangailte a' Phluic, an Giblean 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Freagairt-Am-Ploc-Eng-Gd-BnG-FINAL.pdf>
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23. Plana Poileasaidh Coimisean na Croitearachd, an t-Sultain 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Litir-bho-BnG-gu-CC-mu-phlana-poileasaidh-ur-FINAL-GD-eng.pdf>
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25. Ro-innleachd nan Coimhearsnachdan airson Coilltean agus Fearann Nàiseanta na h-Alba - an Lùnastal 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Forestry-and-Land-Scotland-Consultation-BNG-FINAL-GDEng.pdf>
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31. Co-chomhairle air Measaidhean Buaidh Coimhearsnachd nan Eilean, an t-Samhain 2020 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Islands-Communities-Impact-Assessment-Consultation-B%C3%B2rd-na-G%C3%A0idhlig-1.pdf>
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Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response to Scottish Government's Consultation on Gaelic and Scots and Scottish Languages Bill

Introduction

Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) welcomes the consultation paper, the commitment of Scottish Government for strong and ambitious developments for Gaelic speakers, learners and supporters and the progress to date. Taking forward these commitments further will be a significant step in Scotland's progress to revitalise our Gaelic language and culture.

We recognise the importance of all Scotland's indigenous languages and their contribution to the cultural diversity of the nation and support measures for Scots within this consultation.

BnG has worked with Scottish Government and stakeholders to progress Gaelic since the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act¹⁸ (the Act) in 2005 and strongly supports a more robust statutory framework for the language and its speakers, learners and supporters.

The evidence from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021¹⁹ shows that there is an increasing support and demand for the language, particularly amongst young people. Its key messages are:

- More than half of those surveyed would like to see the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland rise in the future, with 56% giving their backing.
- Young people, those with a greater knowledge of Gaelic, and those who have experienced greater exposure to the language are credited as the key factors associated with its growth. The survey shows that those who come in to contact with Gaelic are more likely to hold positive views.
- The SSA also highlights a major shift of attitude towards education. More than half of those surveyed, 55%, believe that all children in Scotland between five and 15-years-old, should be taught Gaelic as a school subject for between one and two hours a week. This is a marked rise from just 38% support in 2012.
- It is clear that Gaelic also contributes to wellbeing with 70% of adults stating that learning Gaelic gives someone a sense of achievement.

The national consultation on the next National Gaelic Language Plan carried out by Bòrd na Gàidhlig earlier this year demonstrated strong support for the plan as written, with others recommending strengthening or further explanation. A key message during the consultation was the strong endorsement of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the work it undertakes.

We look forward to working with government and stakeholders to support and inform the next steps in developing a draft bill through the parliamentary process. Our response focuses on some of the core considerations we see as being required in taking forward the proposals.

Our response is set out in four sections: a new national strategy for education; the options for creating a Gàidhealtachd; the functions and structures of Bòrd na Gàidhlig; and other proposed legislation which could strengthen the use and learning of Gaelic in Scotland. Evidence which underpins our response is referenced in Appendix 1. This includes the information paper which formed the basis of the draft fourth National Gaelic Language Plan.

¹⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/7/contents>

¹⁹ <https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/scottish-social-attitudes-attitudes-towards-gaelic/>

1. Gaelic Medium Education (GME)

The following sets out key principles which Bòrd na Gàidhlig considers will be fundamental to the success of a new strategy for the language. In addition to principles notes are attached which will help in understanding further the aspirations underlying each principle.

4.1 The Scottish Government at ministerial level would provide leadership for the new Gaelic Education Strategy to ensure its delivery, with National Education Agencies and Local Authorities contributing through targets. Clear linkage to the National Plan for Gaelic²⁰ should contextualise the strategy.

- e) As recognised in the consultation paper, previous strategies have made incremental progress in developing and delivering Gaelic education and as is recognised in the consultation paper, further progress is required. The proposal that the Strategy would have Ministerial level leadership is a key factor in strengthening the impact of the strategy. As is discussed in the third part of this paper, Bòrd na Gàidhlig currently does not have the power to ensure Local Authorities and National Education Agencies work together to implement a strategy. Placing leadership at the highest level of government would assist in both delivering the strategy and normalising Gaelic education in Scotland.
- f) Bòrd na Gàidhlig should have a clear role in providing professional advice and support for Scottish Ministers and all partners. Further information on this is provided in Section 3.2.d.
- g) SMART targets relating to GME and Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) should be reported on publicly every year.
- h) In line with feedback received during the consultation on the next National Gaelic Language Plan, the national strategy should ensure that GME that supports effective language acquisition is delivered within a social and community context which is rooted in the Curriculum for Excellence and includes Gaelic culture.

4.2 Parental rights to Gaelic education will be created.

- d) The parental right currently exists to request primary Gaelic-medium education²¹. The right to request should be extended to request early-years' and secondary Gaelic-medium provision. Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta (CnamP), the national parents' advice and support organisation on Gaelic Medium Education, will be a key partner in expanding parental rights to Gaelic education, with support from BnG.
- e) In line with the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, the right to request new provision results in a consultation by the local authority with BnG, Education Scotland (ES) and CnamP as statutory consultees. Currently there is no obligation on the local authority to implement BnG or ES's recommendation arising from the consultation. It is proposed that where BnG supports the request, the local authority should be required to consent to the provision as recommended. The LA should then be able to appeal to Scottish Ministers should they consider that they are not able to implement the BnG recommendation.
- f) These rights should be extended to a right to primary and secondary education where the provision is already in place.

²⁰ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Statutory-Guidance-for-Gaelic-Education.pdf>

- 4.3 All National Education Agencies should have support and development of the Gaelic language embedded in their core aims. Annual and longer-term plans outlining what each agency will deliver will include Gaelic language aims and all progress reports will identify what has been achieved for Gaelic.**
- e. BnG has provided extensive information to advise on the needs of Gaelic-medium education and Gaelic learners education for a wide range of consultations on the development of Scottish education. These and other consultations relating to education are listed in Appendix 1.
 - f. There has been progress by National Education Agencies in delivering for Gaelic. This needs to be consolidated and built upon in the forthcoming developments at national level.
 - g. Clearer evidence of impact is required from every agency. This will support growth, planning for development and addressing challenges.
 - h. The national agencies responsible for supporting and developing our national education system are currently under review. All education national agencies should be required to consult and work in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on all issues relating to the Gaelic Language (see also Section 3.2.d).
- 4.4 The strategy should include a review of existing statutory contexts, such as the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and advice such as Education Scotland’s Advice on Gaelic Education.**
- e) The Advice on Gaelic Education should be revised to ensure a definition of GM Early Years, Primary and Secondary Education is provided. This may entail a definition of what is currently defined as Gaelic Secondary Education and what may be described as working towards Gaelic Medium Secondary.
 - f) As part of a revision of Advice on Gaelic Education, Education Scotland (or equivalent agency) working alongside Gaelic ITE providers, should provide clear guidance on immersion teaching approaches to ensure methodology used nationally is in line with contemporary, research-based practice
 - g) The Statutory Guidance revision should include review of Early Years and Secondary provision, expectations of Local Authorities and the five-child registration threshold.
 - h) In the review of the Statutory Guidance, consideration should be given to where the responsibility for an initial application for GME provision should lie. This should no longer be the responsibility of an individual parent or a group of parents.
- 4.5 A new Gaelic Learners’ Strategy built into the 1+2 Languages programme²² should be devised with the ambition that every child in the Scottish Education system leaves it having met the Gaelic Language at some point during their education (as either an L2 or L3)**
- d) Local Authorities should understand the ambition as outlined above and work towards targets to incrementally deliver this ambition.
 - e) Data is currently collected by ES on L2 and L3 provision, at national level and for all 32 Local Authorities. Data is published by SQA on National 5/ Higher and Advanced Higher achievements. This work should be continued in the new educational organisations and annual monitoring of all data should be included as a key indicator for the success of the National Education Strategy.

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<https://www.gov.scot/policies/languages/languagelearning/#:~:text=The%20%2B2%20approach&text=This%20ambitious%20policy%20aims%20to,third%20year%20of%20secondary%20education.>

- f) Following evaluation, the Additional Teaching Qualification pilot²³ should be considered for extension so that *Gaelic as a modern language* courses are available in an ever increasing number of English-medium schools. The number of English-medium schools offering Gaelic, as a modern language to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level should be monitored closely and progress demonstrated annually.

4.6 All GME services should have annual School Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Reporting in place.

- f) The above should be legally binding on all GME provision.
- g) The new lead agency for Scottish Education should compile and publish annually a national summary of School Development Planning targets and Annual Progress recorded in Standards and Quality Reporting.
- h) The annual summary should inform and develop the annual work plans of national education agencies and the annual delivery of organisations such as Stòrlann Nàiseanta.
- i) Each Local Authority should also compile and publish annually a summary report on the progress made in GME across Early Years, Primary and Secondary Education.
- j) E-sgoil, as national provision, should also provide an Annual GME Development Programme and GME Standards and Quality Report, which clearly evidences annual growth in the number of courses provided (including key evidence on SQA Award bearing courses), number of GME schools engaged and the number of pupils who have benefitted from e-Sgoil course provision.

4.7 GME standalone schools will be the default for all new provision and each Local Authority will outline how it will move towards developing GME standalone provision.

- c) This may require medium-term development and some flexibility in very small rural provision. However the general presumption of GME standalone should be established.
- d) The number of children and young people in GME standalone should be monitored annually and referenced as a percentage of all enrolment in GME. Similarly the number of GME Primary and Secondary provisions should be monitored annually.

4.8 The Education Strategy should include a workforce recruitment and development priority. This will include GME Primary and Secondary Teachers and Early Years Child Development Officers and Teachers. In addition, the number of Modern Languages Teachers delivering Gaelic within English-medium should be monitored and increased across a timescale in the strategy.

- o) GME Initial Teacher Education courses will be publicised annually by providers and uptake closely monitored.
- p) Additional provision of courses for Gaelic learners, such as the MA Primary Education with Gaelic at University of Edinburgh, should be developed and delivered.
- q) The Immersion Programme²⁴ funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig should be more widely accessed by Local Authorities. As required, further Immersion provision will be sourced.
- r) All Local Authorities with GME Secondary should evidence that all GME teachers are fully timetabled in GME.

²³ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/bord-na-gaidhlig-and-university-of-strathclyde-launch-the-first-ever-accredited-gaelic-as-a-modern-language-teaching-qualification/>

²⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/funding/funding-schemes/gaelic-immersion-courses-for-education-practitioners-grants/>

- s) Bòrd na Gàidhlig should continue to develop initiatives such as the School Visit Programme, DèanDiofarluchd-teagaisg²⁵, DèanDiofarTràth-Ìrean²⁶, and the Gaelic Education Grants Scheme²⁷ and provide evidence of impact.
- t) Local Authorities should demonstrate how they are building promotion structures in their GME services (eg promotion structures in standalone schools).
- u) The Scottish Government STEM²⁸ programme should be adapted to include Gaelic – becoming STEM +G. This would ensure that the scheme encourages graduates in non-STEM subjects who wish to enter Gaelic-medium to receive bursaries.
- v) Gaelic Language Support Assistants should be piloted and introduced into the GME system.
- w) Consideration should be given to GME class size limits, particularly at the full immersion phase in primary.
- x) As part of ongoing Local Authority/School Planning, staffing projections should be used to ensure adequate preparation for GME expansion, thereby making informed use of opportunities for upskilling staff, eg Immersion Courses for Teachers, in order to fulfil targets
- y) A commitment should be given to undertake a review on the impact of the senior phase course choice model on the uptake of Gàidhlig/Gaelic qualifications nationally, with a follow-up action plan if appropriate
- z) The strategy should deliver opportunities for inter-authority secondary GME provision. This could augment the comprehensive GME experience for young people and support the focusing of resources more effectively.
- aa) A review of 3-18 Language Frameworks for language acquisition should be undertaken as a key target. This would further inform the resourcing programme of Stòrlann Nàiseanta and the new Education Agencies.
- bb) The National Strategy should include actions relating to recruitment and retention issues, with respect to specific challenges in Highland, Argyll and Bute and Aberdeen City Councils.

²⁵ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/education/deandiofar/>

²⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/making-a-difference-in-the-early-years-with-deandiofar/>

²⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/funding/funding-schemes/gaelic-education-grants/>

²⁸ <https://stembursaryscotland.co.uk/>

5 Gàidhealtachd

There are a number of existing structures and strategies which are relevant to the exploration of the creation of a Gàidhealtachd or Gàidhealtachdan.

The National Gaelic Language Plan

The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023 and the draft National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 state clearly that different approaches are required to support different types of Gaelic communities. The current Plan states that there are three broad types of community – the traditional communities in island and rural areas; the growing communities in towns and cities; and an increasing online community:

“A particular emphasis must be given to maintaining and strengthening Gaelic in the island and rural communities where it remains relatively strong and is the first language for a sizeable proportion of the people.

One of the main challenges facing these communities is retaining an economically active population....This will require innovation solutions from a range of partners in relation to employment, affordable homes in the right places, the provision of quality child and health care, access to affordable and reliable transport links and connection to high speed broadband and mobile services.”

The needs of the island and rural communities regarding maintenance of population and linguistic strength is consistently emphasised by Bòrd na Gàidhlig through responses to national and regional consultations, as well as participation in inter-agency fora (Appendix I).

The Plan also contains a clear message that Gaelic belongs to the whole of Scotland and this is important in emphasising the national value of the Gaelic language and its related culture. In developing any structures which demarcate or afford particular protections to areas or communities, these need to be balanced with the needs and aspirations of the other communities or networks of Gaelic speakers and learners across Scotland.

The National Islands Plan

The first National Islands Plan²⁹ consistently recognises the importance of Gaelic language and culture across its thirteen strategic objectives. The recently revised Island Community Impact Assessment Guidance has significantly increased the focus on Gaelic in assessments to be carried out for the development or renewal of strategies and policies relating to islands.

Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Language Plans

The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic language plans³⁰ includes this generic advice:

“The Bòrd’s general expectation is that in those geographical locations in which the percentages or numbers of Gaelic speakers is greater, the scope of the Gaelic Language Plan of the public authority will be wider and the level of commitments in it will be stronger.”

The status of such expectations is expanded upon in 3.3.c).

²⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2019/12/national-plan-scotlands-islands/documents/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean/govscot%3Adocument/national-islands-plan-plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean.pdf>

³⁰ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guidance-on-the-Development-of-a-Gaelic-Language-Plan-2007-English.pdf>

- 5.1 It is recommended in that section that this part of the Statutory Guidance should be incorporated into the new or revised legislation, creating a clear duty on public authorities to address this in the development of their Gaelic language plans.

There are opportunities arising from recognising geographical areas as Gàidhealtachd areas which include:

- 5.2 The potential for there to be a strengthening of the link between Gaelic and the community – forging a closer link between the identity of the local community and the Gaelic aspect which is a marker of the special identity of people.
- 5.3 It may facilitate the creation of an inter-agency Gaelic language plan focused on a geographic area to co-ordinate and implement Gaelic developments within a restricted and defined area. This would enable delivery of a very wide range of functions relating to Gaelic without building additional bureaucratic structures. Further information on this is in the section on Bòrd na Gàidhlig functions and structures.
- 5.4 There may be opportunities to focus more closely on localised factors, such as housing, economy, transport, and demographic change, impacting on Gaelic in more isolated communities.

In creating geographic or other boundaries, a number of challenges arise, such as:

- 5.5 Boundaries based on language-use are often contentious, potentially divisive and particularly complex in Scotland where parts of islands might form part of a demographic leading to recognition as a Gàidhealtachd area whilst other parts of islands would not.
- 5.6 Infrastructural issues are common to island and rural communities – transport, housing, economic opportunities, and connectivity. This may be potentially divisive between islands, mainland areas and parts of islands.
- 5.7 Growth in urban Gaelic communities is manifest. These communities should also be afforded support and resources, and be able to be included in any Gàidhealtachd definition.
- 5.8 National and local service delivery in Gaelic by public agencies within a Gàidhealtachd will be more complex and still require commitment at a national or local level outwith the Gàidhealtachd boundaries.
- 5.9 There is a concern that national agencies might reduce their commitments to wider development for the language and focus primarily on a restricted and relatively small population base, leading to the language being isolated and further removed from national discourse.

Recognising the different needs and ambitions of the various communities or networks could be taken forward through affording Bòrd na Gàidhlig additional statutory responsibilities.

- 5.10 These may include requiring public authorities to collaborate in the development and implementation of Gaelic language plans on a geographical basis, through a vehicle such as a Community Planning Partnership. The review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) 2015 which is underway may be an appropriate opportunity to implement this change.

Other mechanisms that we would recommend include:

- 5.11 Community Plans in other countries such as in Wales may assist in creating community based initiatives that are both community-led and consistent with the National Gaelic Language Plan. Such community inter-agency plans could be formulated in both rural and urban environments.
- 5.12 The initiative underway for a co-ordinated development of a community Gaelic language plan in Skye and Raasay could form the basis for achieving the benefits of a community-based cohesive plan, drawing in the public agencies operating within that area.
- 5.13 Bòrd na Gàidhlig should carry out an initial external assessment of the impact of the proposed Skye and Raasay Community GLP according to a specified timetable to inform further developments.
- 5.14 Taking into account evidenced findings from this initial review of the Skye and Raasay initiative Bòrd na Gàidhlig will lead the development of two other similar initiatives in areas where 20% or more of the population are recorded as Gaelic-speaking in the 2021 census.

6 Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Bòrd na Gàidhlig was established by the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act in 2005. It is now some 17 years since the Act was passed and it is evident that there is demand for a stronger legislative framework and increased impact to sustain and grow the numbers of people speaking and learning Gaelic in Scotland.

Approval ratings from stakeholders and staff and our external auditors' recognition of the significantly improved organisation all demonstrate that the organisation is achieving its purpose under the existing framework. However, it is also clear that the limits of that framework and resourcing levels constrain further development, nationally and regionally, and this section sets out recommendations to address these constraints.

3.3 Bòrd na Gàidhlig should continue as an Non-Departmental Public Body and the national agency for the Gaelic language.

The organisation provides professional advice and support on all issues relating to Gaelic for Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Government, national and regional agencies as well as support for communities and individuals.

- e) Its arms-length relationship with Scottish Ministers enables BnG to provide professional, independent advice and carry out its regulatory functions in terms of the Gaelic Language Act.³¹
- f) The organisation is governed by representatives drawn from a range of Gaelic communities; has Gaelic language at its core, both in policy development and operational matters; and as a national agency, its staff are based across island, rural and urban communities.
- g) The level of resourcing and the nature of annual funding create challenges for the organisation. The recent (21/22 and 22/23) uplifts in funding have been welcomed. However, the short-term nature of these uplifts prevent an increase in permanent staffing. Therefore the additional work delivered recently will be difficult to maintain. Longer-term funding at the levels requested in the Medium-term Financial Plan submitted to Scottish Government would enable greater impact across language planning, Gaelic education advice, community developments, promotion of Gaelic and all other functions. It would also be important to note that there are challenges around succession and contingency planning for staffing and the annual funding basis exacerbate these challenges.
- h) Longer-term and increased funding would enable more effective delivery of advice to national and regional agencies and Local Authorities which should be required to consult Bòrd na Gàidhlig on all issues impacting on the Gaelic Language (using the National Plan for Gaelic as the core context) (see note on Education Agencies at 1.1.b).

3.4 The National Gaelic Language Plan should continue as the main mechanism for Scotland's strategic planning for Gaelic development.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has the responsibility under Section 2 of the Act to prepare and submit to Scottish Ministers for approval a national Gaelic language plan every five years. BnG has recently submitted to Scottish Ministers for their approval the fourth such Gaelic language plan. BnG is of the view that a national plan remains critical to the development of Gaelic in Scotland and to the Scottish Government's strong commitment to Gaelic as outlined in this consultation.

³¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-bodies-in-scotland-guide/>

- c) The impact of the National Plan would benefit from greater clarity of ownership of responsibilities for delivering the range of actions and targets contained within the Plan. There has been increased understanding of the roles of BnG and Scottish Government and other bodies in the delivery of Gaelic development and this is to be welcomed. Further clarity would be provided through outward-facing links between the diverse national funding streams relating to Gaelic and the Plan's implementation. Currently Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the recipient of around one-fifth of the annual national budget for Gaelic. It is important that the expertise within BnG is more fully utilised to evidence how all national funding contributes to the aims of the National Gaelic Language Plan.
- d) The establishment of the Ministerial initiative, Faster Rate of Progress, has provided greater impetus for Gaelic development. The leadership from the Cabinet Secretary, displaying support at the highest level of government, has had significant impact on progress. Hence the recommendation at Section 1.1 that the new national education strategy has Ministerial leadership. The inter-agency working in Faster Rate of Progress could be further enhanced by the development of sector-specific Gaelic plans (see 3.3.e for further information).

3.3 The statutory framework for Gaelic Language Plans should be strengthened

Currently almost 70 public agencies have Gaelic language plans which they are implementing to deliver growth for Gaelic. These agencies range across local authorities, health and emergency services to cultural, environmental and development agencies. Each agency has its own individual plan and they are required on request to submit annual monitoring reports to Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The process for initiating, assessing and monitoring plans is set out in the Act. The Act also specifies that Bòrd na Gàidhlig will develop and publish, once approved by Scottish Ministers, statutory guidance for Gaelic language plans.

- k) Bòrd na Gàidhlig should be required as one of its core functions to provide all national agencies with support and professional advice relating to the Gaelic Language.
- l) Bòrd na Gàidhlig should retain the responsibility for the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Language Planning.
- m) The legislative framework should be strengthened by transferring, from the Statutory Guidance on Plans into legislation, the following: "In those geographical locations in which the percentages or numbers of Gaelic speakers is greater, the scope of the Gaelic Language Plan of the public authority will be wider and the level of commitments in it will be stronger". This would support the mechanisms which recognise the importance of communities with higher percentages of Gaelic speakers (see 2.1).
- n) Requiring there to be Inter-agency Gaelic Language Plans within defined geographical boundaries should be included within the statutory powers of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This could be linked to community planning partnerships and the current review of Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015³² could include developments to support Gaelic communities. (See 2.10.)
- o) A similar statutory power for BnG should be the ability to require public authorities to create collaborative sector-specific Gaelic language plans, thereby increasing effective use of resources and creating greater efficiencies of scale. Where these are created, there would not be a requirement to develop and implement a GLP on an individual authority basis.

³² [https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/#:~:text=Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Act%202015%20Review&text=The%20review%20will%20have%20a,the%20second%20half%20of%202023.](https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/#:~:text=Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Act%202015%20Review&text=The%20review%20will%20have%20a,the%20second%20half%20of%202023.)

- p) The legislation currently does not set a minimum timeframe for a GLP. We would recommend that all plans have a five-year timeframe,
- q) A GLP should be renewed before the expiry of its current edition and therefore there would a seamless transition between editions of an authority's plan.
- r) The legislation allows for Bòrd na Gàidhlig to propose modifications to GLPs when submitted for approval. However, both the legislation and the guidance do not enable BnG to require authorities to make those amendments and the decision-making process on any disagreement or non-compliance with the Act lies with Scottish Ministers.
- s) Instead of proposed modifications, BnG should be able to require the authority to make amendments. These requirements should be in line with the National Gaelic Language Plan.
- t) The timescale currently allowed for resolution of disagreement between BnG and an authority is two months which is extremely challenging. This should be amended to four months.
- f) Where an authority continues to disagree with a requirement, there should be the option that the authority can seek a review of the disagreement. This would be through the authority making a referral of their draft plan to Scottish Ministers, citing their evidence for continuing disagreement. The Scottish Ministers would remain the final authority for decision-making as currently takes place.
- g) Similarly on receipt of a Gaelic Language Plan Monitoring Report, where Bòrd na Gàidhlig considers insufficient progress has been made, a requirement for improvement should be able to be issued by BnG. Current legislation only allows BnG to refer the matter to Scottish Ministers. As at d) should an authority contest a requirement issued in response to a GLP monitoring report, they may refer their GLP and Monitoring Report to Scottish Ministers who will make a decision on the requirement issued by BnG.

7 Other matters relating to Gaelic

4.1 Status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland

BnG recommends that the Gaelic language is recognised as an official language of Scotland in the proposed Scottish Language Bill. This would progress the wording in the introduction to the Act which sets out the functions of Bòrd na Gàidhlig *“An Act of the Scottish Parliament to establish a body having functions exercisable with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language”* and ensure that the Gaelic language is more appropriately embedded with Scottish civic life.

4.2 Other legislative framework

While this consultation is specifically seeking views on Gaelic and Scots in relation to the development of a Scottish languages bill, it is important to highlight the opportunities to strengthen the normalisation of Gaelic in Scotland through other proposed legislative reform in the life of this Parliament. Some of these changes have already been highlighted and there follows a brief summary of these and others.

4.2.7 Education Reform Bill

There have been references throughout this paper to the ongoing work in this critically-important development for Gaelic. It is essential that there is recognition in the development of the bill of the needs and aspirations for GME and GLE.

Appendix I has much greater detail on BnG’s advice on this.

4.2.8 Human Rights Bill

Ensuring the human rights in relation to minority indigenous languages should be included within the proposed Human Rights Bill. To date, discussions have centred on cultural and social rights and this needs to be extended to ensure that the rights of minority indigenous language speakers are articulated in the Bill.

4.2.9 Community Empowerment Act Review

As referenced above (2.10 and 3.3.d) there are opportunities in this review of legislation to ensure that Gaelic language planning is normalised within the community planning partnership approach established by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. A regional approach to language planning could be one of the approaches which supports the concept of creating Gàidhealtachdan in Scotland.

4.2.10 Land Reform Bill

As per BnG’s response to the consultation³³, the link between land, language and people has been recognised as important over centuries. The opportunities for ensuring Gaelic and re-peopling are taken forward in this important piece of legislation are significant and if enacted, would strengthen the position of Gaelic in future land reform implementation.

4.2.11 Remote, Rural and Island Housing Action Plan

The challenges facing traditional Gaelic communities have been highlighted by BnG and a wide range of public and community organisations particularly in the last five years, with increasing evidence of a growing impact of the lack of available and affordable housing on island and rural communities. The inclusion of the needs of Gaelic language communities within solutions to address these challenges is critical to the maintenance and growth of Gaelic as a community language in Scotland.

³³ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/land-reform-net-zero-nation-consultation-BNG-response-FINAL-eng-gd.pdf>

4.2.12 National Care Service Bill

BnG responded to the consultation on the proposed Bill³⁴, recommending that the Bill should contain a commitment that the new National Care Service will provide a service a service for Gaelic speakers of any age through appropriate staffing, visibility and use of the language in locations which are appropriate and accessible to families.

³⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/National-Care-Service-BNG-Response-FINAL-en-gd.pdf>

Appendix 1

Consultation Responses relating to Gaelic Education

33. Education National Improvement Framework Data collection, July 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Education-National-Improvement-Framework-Data-Collection-BNG-FINAL-GD-ENG.pdf>
34. Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill Consultation, July 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Schools-Outdoor-Education-Bill-BNG-Response-FINAL-GD-EN.pdf>
35. University of Strathclyde Further Education Teaching Programme, May 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Uni-of-Strathclyde-Further-Ed-Teaching-Prog-Response-BNG-FINAL.pdf>
36. Scottish Government's Impact Assessments on Back to School arrangements for March 2022, Mar 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Scot-Gov-Impact-Assessments-on-Back-to-School-arrangements-for-March-2022-BNG-FINAL-gd-en.docx>
37. The Scottish Attainment Challenge, February 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Scottish-Attainment-Challenge-Freagairt-BNG-FINAL-GD-ENG.pdf>
38. Scottish Government Assessment on Back to School arrangements, January 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Measaidhean-Buaidh-RnA-mu-ullachaidhean-tilleadh-dhan-Sgoil-Fhaoilleach-2022-BNG-FINAL.pdf>
39. Education Reform Consultation, December 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Education-Reform-Consultation-FINAL.pdf>
40. General Teaching Council of Scotland Registration Rules Consultation, December 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Consultation-Response-BNG-FINAL.pdf>
Reform of the Scottish Qualifications Authority and Education Scotland, July 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BnG-ReformofSQAES-GD-28072021.pdf>
41. UHI Further Education Teaching Programme, Jun 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/UHI-FE-Teaching-Programme-Consultation-BNG-FINAL.pdf>
42. OECD Curriculum Review, Dec 2020 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/OECD-Curriculum-Review-2020.pdf>
43. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, Oct 2020 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BnG-UNCRC-Freagairt.pdf>

GME Catchment Areas and Responses to Assessment of Provision of Gaelic-Medium Primary Education

44. Establishment of a Gaelic Medium Primary Education at Thornliebank Primary School, Sept 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Freagairt-Co-Chomhairle-Rinn-Friu-An-Ear-FINAL-gd-eng.pdf>
45. Response to Full Assessment on Provision of Gaelic-medium Primary Education in Glasgow City Council, May 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220503-Freagairt-BnG-Glaschu.pdf>
46. Gaelic-medium Catchment area for Plockton Associated School Group, April 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Freagairt-Am-Ploc-Eng-Gd-BnG-FINAL.pdf>
47. Gaelic medium Catchment area for Glenurquhart GM School, Feb 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Freagairt-Gleann-Urchadain.pdf>
48. Response to Full Assessment on Provision of Gaelic-medium Primary Education in East Renfrewshire, Jan 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Measadh-Slan-airson-Solarachadh-FMG-Rinn-Friu-Freagairt-BNG-FINAL.pdf>

49. Gaelic medium Catchment area for Acharacle, Oct 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Freagairt-Ath-Tharracail1.pdf>
50. Proposed Catchment Zones for Gaelic medium Provision in Aberdeen City, Oct 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/20211007-ObarDheathain-GB-Deireannach.pdf>
51. Gaelic medium Catchment area for Newtonmore, Aug 2021 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Co-chomhairle-Baile-Ur-an-t-Sleibh-FINAL.pdf>
52. Uig (Isle of Skye) Primary School, Aug 2019 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Co-chomhairleachadh-aig-Comhairle-na-G%C3%A0idhealtachd-Bun-sgoil-%C3%99ige.pdf>
53. Gaelic medium Catchment area for Mount Pleasant Primary School, Aug 2019 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Freagairt-Bh%C3%B2rd-na-G%C3%A0idhlig-airson-Co-chomhairleachadh-air-Sg%C3%ACre-sgoile-airson-Foghlam-tron-Gh%C3%A0idhlig-ann-an-Inbhir-The%C3%B2rsa-.pdf>

Responses relating to Island and Rural Communities

54. UHI Rural and Islands College Merger, Oct 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/UHI-College-Merger-BNG-Response-FINAL-eng-gd.pdf>
55. Crofting Commission Policy Plan, Sept 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Litir-bho-BnG-gu-CC-mu-phlana-poileasaidh-ur-FINAL-GD-eng.pdf>
56. A Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland, Aug 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/20220826-Freagairt-Aithisgean-ParlamaidnahAlba.pdf>
57. Communities Strategy for Scotland's National Forest and Land, Aug 2022 - <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Forestry-and-Land-Scotland-Consultation-BNG-FINAL-GDEng.pdf>
58. Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities, Jan 2022 - https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Scottish-Land-Rights-and-Responsibilities-BNG-Response-FINAL_gla-eng.pdf
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