

Sgrùdadh air tràth-ionnsachadh agus cùram-chloinne agus seirbheisean cùram-chloinne aois sgoile ann an Alba

Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

26 Dàmhair 2022

Inspection of early learning and childcare and school age childcare services in Scotland

Response from Bord na Gàidhlig

26 October 2022

Background

Our Vision – the Guiding Principles of Inspection

1.1 To what extent do you support, or not support, the Scottish government's overall proposed vision for the purpose and aim of inspection of ELC and school age childcare services?

Partially support

Can you tell us why you think this?:

Tha sinn gu math iomagaineach nach eil an lèirsinn a thathar a' moladh ag aithneachadh taobh bhunaiteach de dh'fhoghlam na h-Alba – gum bi lìbhrigeadh foghlaim ann an Alba a' tachairt tro mheadhan na Beurla no tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha an dearmad bunaiteach seo a' toirt buaidh air gach taobh den cho-chomhairle seo agus mar thoradh air seo, tha grunn bheàrnan anns na molaidhean.

Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near do na h-iomraidhean air Putting Children at the Centre, rud air a bheil sinn a' cur fàilte mhòr, ach tha sinn diombach nach eil na beachdan agus na molaidhean a thaobh Gàidhlig agus FtG ann an aithisg an Àrd-ollaimh Muir, a rèir coltais, air buaidh a thoirt air na dreachd mholaidhean airson sgrùdadh air Tràthionnsachadh agus Cùram-chloinne.

Background

Our Vision – the Guiding Principles of Inspection

1.1 To what extent do you support, or not support, the Scottish government's overall proposed vision for the purpose and aim of inspection of ELC and school age childcare services?

Partially support

Can you tell us why you think this?:

We are very concerned that the proposed vision does not recognise a fundamental aspect of Scottish Education - that the delivery of education in Scotland takes place through the medium of English or through the medium of Gaelic. This crucial omission impacts on all aspects of this consultation and has led to there being a number of gaps in the proposals.

We note references to Putting Children at the Centre, which is very welcome, but we are disappointed that the comments and recommendations concerning Gaelic and GME contained in Professor Muir's report do not appear to have influenced the draft proposals for ELC inspection.





Tha grunn bheàrnan cudromach san fhiosrachadh a chaidh a thoirt seachad mar cho-theacs airson a' cho-chomhairleachaidh. Tha iad seo a' gabhail a-steach na leanas:

- a) Tha an Aithisg Adhartais a' fàgail a-mach prìomh theachdaireachd sam bith mu Fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG) agus Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Beurla (FtB). Chan eil amasan ann airson FtG agus FtB nas motha agus chan eil cùl-fhiosrachadh ann.
- b) chan eil dàta ann air solar FtG no FtB, dàta luchdobrach FtG/FtB no solar pròiseict SFC.
- c) Chan eil co-dhùnaidhean sam bith ann cocheangailte ri FtG no FtB.

Chan eil fiosrachadh sam bith anns an fhiosrachadh mun t-suidheachadh sgrùdaidh is riaghlaidh làithreach, no iomradh air, an dà dhòigh lìbhrigidh ann an Alba. Chan eilear a' toirt iomradh air prìomh phàipearan leithid Comhairle air Foghlam Gàidhlig agus an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig.

Chan eil am Beag-fhaclair a' gabhail a-steach FtG agus FtB a tha nam pàirt riatanach de structar foghlaim nàiseanta sam bith.

1.2 Do you think the proposed vision is missing anything or contains something that you think does not reflect the purpose and aim of inspection of ELC and school age childcare services?

Yes

If yes, can you tell us what that is?:

Bheir sinn iomradh tron fhreagairt againn air a' cheist bhunaiteach a tha air èirigh — dìth aithne gu bheil Foghlam na h-Alba, a' gabhail a-steach Tràth-ionnsachadh agus Cùram-chloinne air a lìbhrigeadh ann an dà chànan, an dàrna cuid tron Ghàidhlig no tron Bheurla. Tha am bun-phrionnsabal seo a' toirt buaidh air gach taobh den cho-chomhairle.

Tha Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig agus gu dearbh Plana Gàidhlig Riaghaltas na h-Alba nan co-theacsan deatamach airson gach leasachadh ùr ann am Foghlam na h-Alba ach

There are a range of important gaps in the information provided as a context for the consultation. These include the following:

- a) The Progress Report omits any key messages around Gaelic-medium Education (GME) and English-medium Education (EME). There are also no objectives for GME and EME and no background information.
- b) there is no data on GME or EME provision, GME /EME workforce data or SFC project provision.
- c) There are no conclusions relating to GME or EME.

The information on the current inspection and regulatory landscape has no information on, or reference to, the two modes of delivery in Scotland. Key documents such as the Advice on Gaelic Education and the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education are not referenced.

The Glossary of Terms does not include GME and EME which are essential elements in any national educational structure.

1.2 Do you think the proposed vision is missing anything or contains something that you think does not reflect the purpose and aim of inspection of ELC and school age childcare services?

Yes

If yes, can you tell us what that is?:

We will reference throughout our response the fundamental issue that has arisen - the absence of a recognition that Scottish Education, including Early Learning and Childcare is delivered in two languages, either through Gaelic or English. This core principle impacts on all areas of the consultation.

The National Plan for Gaelic and indeed the Gaelic Language Plan of the Scottish Government are crucial contexts for all new





tha gainnead fianais ann gun tug na sgrìobhainnean poileasaidh cudromach seo buaidh air a' cho-chomhairleachadh san fharsaingeachd.

Bu chòir an lèirsinn atharrachadh gus iomradh soilleir a thoirt air amasan is cinn-uidhe Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig agus riatanasan an Stiùiridh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig.

1.3 To what extent do you support, or not support, the Scottish government's draft guiding principles for inspection of ELC and school age childcare services?

Partially support

Can you tell us why you think this?:

Gu mì-fhortanach, chan eil na Dreachd Phrionnsapalan Stiùiridh a' nochdadh mothachadh gu leòr air co-theacsan sònraichte solar FtG agus FtB. Bidh feum air beachdachadh sònraichte air grunn raointean a thaobh lìbhrigeadh FtG, a' gabhail a-steach na leanas:

- a) soilleireachd mu na h-ìrean ris am biodh dùil
- b) taic airson co-obrachadh agus conaltradh proifeiseanta eadar solaraichean
- c) ag èisteachd ri, agus a' toirt aire do bheachdan agus eòlasan chloinne is theaghlaichean

A bharrachd air sin, feumar cudrom sònraichte a bhith air roinn FtG a thaobh cunbhalachd solair. Tha sinn a' moladh gun tèid na dreachd phrionnsabalan ath-sgrùdadh, agus gun iarrar comhairle phroifeiseanta agus taic bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta agus Foghlam Alba gus am bi na prionnsapalan stiùiridh air an cur ri chèile gu h-iomchaidh gus feumalachdan an dà chuid roinnean FtG agus FtB a choileanadh.

1.4. If you answered 'partially support', please can you tell us more about which principles you do and don't support?:

developments in Scottish Education however there is a lack of evidence that these important policy documents have impacted on the consultation as a whole.

The vision should be revised to include clear reference to the aims and objectives of the National Plan for Gaelic and the requirements of the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education.

1.3 To what extent do you support, or not support, the Scottish government's draft guiding principles for inspection of ELC and school age childcare services?

Partially support

Can you tell us why you think this?:

Unfortunately, the Draft Guiding Principles do not adequately demonstrate an awareness of the particular contexts of GME and EME provision. A range of areas will require particular consideration in relation to GME delivery, including the following:

- a) clarity around expected standards
- b) support for collaboration and professional dialogue between providers
- c) listening to and taking account of the views and experiences of children and families

In addition, consistency of provision will require there to be a particular focus on the GME sector. We recommend that the draft principles are revised, and that professional advice and support is sought from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta and Foghlam Alba so that the guiding principles can be appropriately formulated to meet the needs of both the GME and EME sectors.

1.4. If you answered 'partially support', please can you tell us more about which principles you do and don't support?:





Tha sinn air phrìomh raointean a chomharrachadh air am bu chòir beachdachadh nar freagairt do 1.3 agus tha sinn air moladh gun sirear barrachd comhairle proifeiseanta agus taic bho na buidhnean a tha air an ainmeachadh san earrainn sin.

1.5 Do you think the draft guiding principles are missing anything?

Yes

If yes, please can you tell us what you think we have missed?:

Uile gu lèir, mar a chaidh a chomharrachadh gu h-àrd, tha sinn a' moladh gun tèid an lèirsinn agus na prionnsapalan stiùiridh ath-sgrùdadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil cùisean co-cheangailte ri lìbhrigeadh FtG agus FtB air an comharrachadh gu h-iomchaidh.

Tha cleachdadh agus measadh bogaidh nam feartan sònraichte de sheirbheis FtG air am feumar beachdachadh barrachd. Bidh feum air barrachd meòrachaidh cuideachd air trèanadh do luchdcleachdaidh agus solar is cleachdadh ghoireasan, gus an tèid feumalachdan sònraichte foghlam bogaidh taobh astaigh roinn FtG a lìbhrigeadh. Chan eil Gàidhlig mar chànan dachaigh aig a' mhòr-chuid de phàrantan is teaghlaichean a tha a' cleachdadh roinn FtG agus mar sin tha seo na cheist a bharrachd dhan roinn a bu chòir aithneachadh gu h-iomchaidh anns an lèirsinn agus anns na prionnsapalan.

The current inspection and scrutiny landscape

2.1 Some settings in Scotland currently receive inspections from both the Care Inspectorate and HMIE, visiting either separately or jointly. If you are an ELC and/or school age childcare setting (including childminders, practitioners, teachers and staff working within those settings), from which organisations has your setting or service previously received inspections? (please tick all that apply)

We have identified some key areas for consideration in our response to 1.3 and have recommended that further professional advice and support is sought from the agencies noted in that section.

1.5 Do you think the draft guiding principles are missing anything?

Yes

If yes, please can you tell us what you think we have missed?:

Overall, as indicated, we recommend that the vision and guiding principles are reviewed to ensure that issues relating to GME and EME delivery are appropriately identified.

Immersion practice and assessment will be particular features of a GME service which will require additional consideration. Training for practitioners and resource provision and deployment will also require further reflection, so that the particular needs of immersion education within the GME sector are delivered. The majority of parents and families using the GME sector do not have Gaelic as the home language and consequently this is an additional complexity for the sector which should be appropriately recognized in the vision and principles.

The current inspection and scrutiny landscape

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Neither/ not applicable

2.2 If you are an ELC setting providing funded ELC (or a childminder, practitioner, teacher or staff member working within that setting), when did your setting or service last receive an inspection from HMIE?

Not Answered

2.3 If you are an ELC and/or school age childcare setting (or a childminder, practitioner, teacher or staff member working within that setting), when did your setting or service last receive an inspection from the Care Inspectorate?

Not Answered

2.4 Discounting periods of disruption over the COVID-19 pandemic, what is your experience of the current inspection approach?

Not Answered

2.5 Discounting periods of disruption over the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you consider are the benefits of the current inspection approach?

Please give us your views:

Do you have examples of positive experiences to share?:

2.6 Discounting periods of disruption over COVID-19 pandemic, what do you consider are the challenges of the current inspection approach?

Please give us your views:

Do you have examples of challenging experiences to share?:

Neither/ not applicable

2.2 If you are an ELC setting providing funded ELC (or a childminder, practitioner, teacher or staff member working within that setting), when did your setting or service last receive an inspection from HMIE?

Not Answered

2.3 If you are an ELC and/or school age childcare setting (or a childminder, practitioner, teacher or staff member working within that setting), when did your setting or service last receive an inspection from the Care Inspectorate?

Not Answered

2.4 Discounting periods of disruption over the COVID-19 pandemic, what is your experience of the current inspection approach?

Not Answered

2.5 Discounting periods of disruption over the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you consider are the benefits of the current inspection approach?

Please give us your views:

Do you have examples of positive experiences to share?:

2.6 Discounting periods of disruption over COVID-19 pandemic, what do you consider are the challenges of the current inspection approach?

Please give us your views:

Do you have examples of challenging experiences to share?:





2.7 Under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, HMIE and the Care Inspectorate are under a duty to 'cooperate and coordinate' their inspection activity. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the two inspectorate bodies cooperate with one another and coordinate inspection activity effectively?

2.7 Under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, HMIE and the Care Inspectorate are under a duty to 'cooperate and coordinate' their inspection activity. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the two inspectorate bodies cooperate with one another and coordinate inspection activity effectively?

Neutral

Neutral

Can you tell us why you think this?:

Can you tell us why you think this?:

Chuireamaid fàilte air fianais a bharrachd mun dà bhuidhinn air mar a bhios iad a' co-obrachadh agus a' co-òrdanachadh eadar-theachdan ann an roinn FtG, agus bhiodh e feumail cuideachd fiosrachadh soilleir a bhith ann air na pròtacalan a tha an sàs gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil co-obrachadh agus co-òrdanachadh a rèir feumalachdan roinn FtG.

We would welcome further evidence from the two agencies on how they cooperate and coordinate interventions in the GME sector and it would also be useful to have clear information on the protocols in place to ensure that cooperation and coordination meet the needs of the GME sector.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi soilleireachd mu chleachdadh bogaidh agus mar a tha gach buidheann a' cleachdadh dòigh-obrach choitcheann na raon sònraichte airson barrachd beachdachaidh.

Clarity around immersion practice and how each agency demonstrates a common approach might be a particular area for further consideration.

2.8 Do you think any change is required to the current duty to 'cooperate and coordinate' inspection activity to provide opportunities to improve cooperation and coordination between the inspectorate bodies in the short and medium term?

2.8 Do you think any change is required to the current duty to 'cooperate and coordinate' inspection activity to provide opportunities to improve cooperation and coordination between the inspectorate bodies in the short and medium term?

Yes, more could be done

Yes, more could be done

If you answered 'Yes', what more could be done?:

If you answered 'Yes', what more could be done?:

Tha e cudromach san àm ri teachd gum bi soilleireachd iomlan ann a thaobh mar a tha co-obrachadh agus co-òrdanachadh ag obair a thaobh roinne FtG. Tha e cudromach gum bi fiosrachadh poblach ri fhaighinn air mar a bheir an dleastanas seo buaidh air solar FtG.

It would be important as we go forward that there is absolute clarity around how cooperation and coordination work in relation to the GME sector. It will be important that there is public information is available on how this duty impacts on GME provision.

2.9 What are your views on how local authorities carry out their role in monitoring and supporting quality improvement in ELC and school age childcare provision (where appropriate), and how this aligns with the inspection functions carried out by the Care Inspectorate and HMIE?

Please give us your views:

Tha feum air obair nach beag le Ùghdarrasan Ionadail gus piseach a thoirt air mar a tha iad a' toirt seachad taic leasachadh càileachd iomchaidh, tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig airson solar FtG. Dh'fhaodadh taic a bharrachd a bhith a dhìth gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil trèanadh iomchaidh ann airson oifigearan a bhios a' cumail sùil air agus a' toirt taic do sholar FtG agus is dòcha airson co-obrachadh eadar ùghdarrasan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann gus an tèid barrachd èifeachdais a lìbhrigeadh nas luaithe.

2.10 Please provide any further comments on how you think the current inspection approach could be improved.

Please give us your views:

Bu chòir dhan dòigh sgrùdaidh ELC làn thuigse a nochdadh air lìbhrigeadh tron Ghàidhlig no tron Bheurla. Bu chòir dealas a bhith aig cridhe obair a h-uile buidheann nàiseanta a tha a' toirt taic do dh'Fhoghlam na h-Alba gus seirbheisean a lìbhrigeadh airson solar FtG agus FtB. Bidh seo gu sònraichte cudromach leis gu bheil buidhnean nàiseanta ùra gan cruthachadh mar thoradh air aithisg Putting Learners at the Centre.

A shared quality framework

3.1 Do you support the proposal to develop a shared quality framework between HMIE and the Care Inspectorate?

Unsure

2.9 What are your views on how local authorities carry out their role in monitoring and supporting quality improvement in ELC and school age childcare provision (where appropriate), and how this aligns with the inspection functions carried out by the Care Inspectorate and HMIE?

Please give us your views:

Considerable work is required by Local Authorities to improve how they provide appropriate quality improvement support, through the medium of Gaelic for GME provision. This may require additional input to ensure that appropriate training is in place for officers who monitor and support GME provision and potentially inter-authority cooperation so that greater effectiveness can be delivered more quickly.

2.10 Please provide any further comments on how you think the current inspection approach could be improved.

Please give us your views:

The ELC inspection approach should demonstrate a full understanding of delivery through Gaelic or English. All national agencies supporting Scottish Education should have at the core of their practice, a commitment to deliver services for both GME and EME provision. This will of course be particularly important as new national agencies are created as a consequence of Putting Learners at the Centre.

A shared quality framework

3.1 Do you support the proposal to develop a shared quality framework between HMIE and the Care Inspectorate?

Unsure





Can you tell us why you think this?:

Tha sinn a' toirt taic dhan phrìonnsapal gum bu chòir frèam co-roinnte a bhith ann, ach chan eil ach glè bheag de dh'fhianais anns na stuthan co-chomhairleachaidh no anns na molaidhean gu bheil tuigse iomchaidh air na roinnean FtG agus FtB aig an àm seo. Mholamaid gun tèid barrachd stiùiridh agus taic phroifeiseanta a shireadh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig mar phàirt den leasachadh co-obrachail a chaidh ainmeachadh ann am puing a ceithir.

Bu chòir na leanas a bhith anns a' mholadh:

- Iomradh soilleir air solar FtG agus FtB
- Comharran càileachd co-cheangailte Chomhairle air Foghlam Gàidhlig, an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig agus an Stiùireadh air Tràthionnsachadh is Cùram-chloinne tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig.
- A bharrachd air na cùisean a chaidh ainmeachadh ann am puing a còig, bu chòir iomradh sònraichte a thoirt air co-theacs FtG (a thaobh, mar eisimpleir, bogadh).
- 3.2 What do you consider are the benefits to implementation of a shared quality framework?

Please give us your views:

Uile gu lèir, bidh frèam càileachd coitcheann iomchaidh a' gabhail a-steach an dà chuid co-theacsan FtG agus FtB buannachdail do sholarachadh Tràth-bhliadhnaichean agus Cùram-chloinne. Tha àite fìor chudromach aig Tràthionnsachadh agus Cùram-chloinne tron Ghàidhlig ann a bhith lìbhrigeadh fàs ann an roinn na bun-sgoil tron Ghàidhlig agus mar sin tha e na eileamaid chudromach ann a bhith a' coileanadh àrd-amasan Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

3.3 What do you consider are the challenges to implementation of a shared quality framework?

Please give us your views:

Can you tell us why you think this?:

We support the principle of there being a shared framework, however there is very little evidence in the consultation materials or proposals that an appropriate understanding of the GME and EME sectors currently exists. We would recommend that further guidance and professional support is sought from Bord na Gàidhlig as part of the collaborative development noted in point four.

The proposal should include the following:

- A clear reference to GME and EME provision
- Aligned quality indicators synchronised with the Advice on Gaelic Education, the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and the Gaelic Medium Early Learning and Childcare Guidance.
- In addition to the issues noted in point five specific reference should be made to the GME context (regarding, for example, immersion)
- What do you consider are the benefits to implementation of a shared quality framework?

Please give us your views:

Overall, an appropriate shared quality framework inclusive of both the GME and EME contexts will be beneficial to ELC provision. GME Early Learning and Childcare has a very important role in delivering growth in the GME Primary sector and is therefore an important element in realising the ambitions of the National Plan for Gaelic.

What do you consider are the challenges to implementation of a shared quality framework?

Please give us your views:





Tha e soilleir gu bheil barrachd obrach a dhìth gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil na molaidhean air a bheilear a' beachdachadh sa cho-chomhairle seo a' coinneachadh gu h-iomlan ri feumalachdan roinn ELC na h-Alba a tha a' toirt seachad foghlam ann an dà chànan, an dàrna cuid Gàidhlig no Beurla. Ged a bhios dùbhlan fhathast ann le bhith ag ath-sgrìobhadh cuid de na raointean, tha sinn làn chinnteach gun gabh seo a dhèanamh le taic bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus buidhnean nàiseanta eile.

3.4 Do you think that the development of a shared quality framework will meet the needs of the sector to simplify the inspection landscape and reduce the inspectorate burden?

Unsure

Why do you think this?:

Leis gum bi feum air barrachd cnuasachaidh agus athsgrìobhaidh, chan eil sinn cinnteach an gabh am moladh deireannach a mheas iomchaidh gus feumalachdan solar FtG is FtB a choileanadh.

3.5 Do you think that the shared framework should apply to all ELC services, including funded and unfunded nursery and childminder provision for 0-5 year olds, and to childcare provision for children of school age (over 5 years old)?

Yes

Why do you think this?:

'S e am beachd aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig gum bu chòir am frèam-obrach co-roinnte buntainn an dà chuid ri seirbheisean FtG agus FtB, às dèidh ath-sgrìobhadh, mar a tha air a mhìneachadh san fhreagairt seo.

Additional comments

It is clear that further work is required to ensure that the proposals under consideration in this consultation fully meet the needs of Scotland's ELC sector which provides education in two languages, either Gaelic or English. Whilst there remains a challenge in revising some areas, we are fully confident that with support from Bord na Gàidhlig and other national agencies this can be achieved.

3.4 Do you think that the development of a shared quality framework will meet the needs of the sector to simplify the inspection landscape and reduce the inspectorate burden?

Unsure

Why do you think this?:

As further reflection and revision will be necessary, we are unsure that the final proposal can at present be assessed as meeting the needs of GME and EME provision.

3.5 Do you think that the shared framework should apply to all ELC services, including funded and unfunded nursery and childminder provision for 0-5 year olds, and to childcare provision for children of school age (over 5 years old)?

Yes

Why do you think this?:

It is the view of Bord na Gaidhlig that the shared framework should apply to both GME and EME services, following revision, as outlined across this response

Additional comments





4.1 Do you have any additional comments in relation to improving inspection of early learning and childcare and school age childcare services in Scotland?

4.1 Do you have any additional comments in relation to improving inspection of early learning and childcare and school age childcare services in Scotland?

Please give us your views:

Tha sinn air freagairtean mionaideach a thoirt seachad thar nan earrannan uile. Bhiodh geàrr-chunntas air na beachdan againn mar a leanas:

Bu chòir tuigse shoilleir a bhith ann gum bi Alba a' lìbhrigeadh foghlam ann an dà chànan, an dara cuid sa Ghàidhlig no sa Bheurla, mar bhunait air gach leasachadh. Bidh feum air grunn atharrachaidhean gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil molaidhean a rèir feumalachdan an dà chuid roinnean FtG agus FtB.

Bhiodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig glè dheònach comhairle agus taic phroifeiseanta a thoirt seachad gun dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid seata de mholaidhean ath-leasaichte a chruthachadh a tha a rèir feumalachdan FtG agus FtB.

Please give us your views:

We have provided detailed responses across the sections. In summation our view would be as follows:

A clear understanding that Scotland delivers education in two languages, either Gaelic or English, should underpin all development. A range of revisions will be necessary to ensure proposals meet the needs of both the GME and EME sectors.

Bord na Gaidhlig will be very willing to provide professional advice and support to ensure that a redrafted set of proposals reflects the needs of both GME and EME.