

<p><b>Co-chomhairle air Ro-innleachd Ùr na h-Alba air an Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil</b></p> <p><b>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>08 Gearran 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Consultation for Scotland's New Historic Environment Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>08 February 2022</b></p>
<p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' chothrom freagairt a thoirt don cho-chomhairle seo. 'S e Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba le uallach airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart, a' gabhail a-steach comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig. 'S e ar n-amas gum faicear is gun cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras cultarach is eaconamach.</p> <p>'S e amas a' Phlana Cànain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid "a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsaing de shuidheachaidhean". Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a' cuimseachadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tha Gàidhlig na cànan nàiseanta a tha air a bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba.</b> Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na h-Alba air fad. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 duine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn.</p> <p><b>Tha fèill a' fàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig</b> agus nam buannachdan foghlaim, eacanomaigeach is sòisealta a bhuineas dhaibh.</p> <p>Tha <b>an t-iartras airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh</b> follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànain Duolingo air a bheil ceudan de mhiltean de dhaoine ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba agus air feadh na cruinne. Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'ìnbhich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.</p>	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development, including providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national cultural and economic asset.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is "that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations". This will be achieved by focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the use of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Increasing the learning of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gaelic is a national language which is spoken across Scotland.</b> About 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of Scotland. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers.</p> <p><b>There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture</b> with related educational, economic, and social benefits.</p> <p>The <b>demand for learning Gaelic</b> is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website which has hundreds of thousands of people learning Gaelic in Scotland and across the globe. The launch of SpeakGaelic in September 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language.</p>

Fhuair Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a' Ghàidhlig", gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012,

- a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.
- Gu bheil a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun tuig iad co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig air a dhol am meud bho 25% gu 41%.

A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine a' smaointinn gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dàrna cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.

**Mar thoradh air na puingeana a dh'ainmicheadh gu h-àrd, agus na puingeana a leanas, bu chòir gu bheil an Ro-innleachd Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil airson na h-Alba a' gabhail a-steach luaidh sònraichte air a' Ghàidhlig.**

**Chan eil iomradh sam bith air cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig san Dreachd Ro-innleachd.** Tha an dearmad seo air a dhèanamh nas follaisich leis gu bheil *tìotalan earrainnean* sa Ghàidhlig agus sa Bheurla sa phàipear. Tha seo na chomharradh air cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig – agus tha cuideachd mar a tha Plana Gàidhlig aig HES fhèin, rud a bu chòir aithneachadh san Ro-innleachd.

#### **Mun Ro-innleachd seo**

Tha an teansa ag ràdh "Tron Ro-innleachd seo obraichidh sinn le Ro-innleachd Cultair na h-Alba, Ro-innleachd Thaighean-tasgaidh na h-Alba, agus le planaichean nàiseanta eile leithid na Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta airson Cruth-atharrachadh Eaconamach, am Plana Tasgadh Bun-structair, am Frèam-obrach Dealbhaidh Nàiseanta, Plana-gnìomha Obair Shaor-thoileach dha na h-Uile".

**Tha sinn gu làidir den bheachd gum bu chòir am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig a bhith air an liosta seo cuideachd gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid aithne cheart a thoirt don Ghàidhlig taobh a-staigh na Ro-innleachd.**

#### **Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil na h-Alba**

Tha aithris ann a tha ag ràdh "Tha an ro-innleachd seo a' gabhail a-steach agus a' comharrachadh an iomadh seòrsa dualchais a tha a' toirt beothalachd agus iomadachd do dh'Alba an latha an-diugh". Ach, chan eil fianais no aithrisean taiceil ann a thaobh seo. **Bhiodh e feumail a thaobh seo nam biodh iomraidhean air àite cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig ann an**

The "Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland" found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.
- The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.

Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.

**Given the above, and the following points, the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland should include specific references to Gaelic.**

**There are no references to Gaelic within the Draft Strategy.** This omission is highlighted by the document's inclusion of *section headings* in Gaelic as well as English. This is an acknowledgement of the importance of Gaelic - as is HES having its own Gaelic Language Plan which should be acknowledged in the Strategy.

#### **About this Strategy**

The text states that "Through this Strategy we will work with and alongside the Culture Strategy for Scotland, Scotland's Museums Strategy, and with other nation-wide plans such as the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the Infrastructure Investment Plan, the National Planning Framework, the Volunteering for All Action Plan".

**We strongly believe that this list should also include the National Gaelic Language Plan in order to ensure that Gaelic is given proper recognition within the Strategy.**

#### **Scotland's Historic Environment**

There is a statement that "This strategy embraces and celebrates the many types of heritage that bring colour and diversity to modern Scotland". However, there is no supporting evidence or statements in this regard. **These could usefully include references to the role of Gaelic language and culture within**



**dualchas na h-Alba.** Nam biodh HES a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd dhèanadh iad cinnteach gun robh iad in-ghabhalach, a' nochdadh co-ionannachd spèis don Ghàidhlig ri taobh na Beurla.

### Prionnsabalan

**San fharsaingeachd tha sinn a' toirt taic do na prionnsabalan a tha air am mìneachadh san Dreachd Ro-innleachd.** Ach, feumar barrachd aithne a thoirt don Ghàidhlig san dreachd dheireannach.

Nam biodh **HES a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd lùghdaicheadh iad na cnapan-starra a thaobh ceangal ri dualchas** a tha mu choinneamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus an uiread a tha a' sìor fhàs de luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-tadhail bho thall thairis aig a bheil ùidh sa chànan. Cuidichidh seo a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil a h-uile duine aig cridhe na Ro-innleachd.

Is e ar dualchas – so-bheantainn no do-bheantainn, cultarail no nàdarra – an goireas a leigeas leinn buannachdan a chruthachadh agus ar cinn-uidhe a ruigsinn". **Bu chòir don Ro-innleachd a ràdh gu bheil dualchas do-bheantainn a' gabhail a-steach cànan, agus an cultar co-cheangailte ris: a' ciallachadh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig, mar eisimpleir, na maoin dualchais do-bheantainn nàiseanta.**

Mar sin, tha a' Ghàidhlig "a' cuideachadh le bhith ag innse sgeulachd na h-Alba don t-saoghal". **Tha i deatamach airson gun tuig sinn an cruth-tìre, an cultar, agus an comann-sòisealta co-cheangailte ri mòran sgìrean ann an Alba, a' gabhail a-steach ainmean-àite agus feartan topografach.**

Tha seo air aithneachadh ann an Aithris Poileasaidh Dualchas Cultarach Do-bheantainn HES. Tha seo ag ràdh gu bheil "cànanan deatamach gus an cultar às an tàinig iad a thuigsinn" - agus gu sònraichte: "Tha sinn ag aithneachadh àite cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig mar phàirt shònraichte agus gun samhail de dh'eachdraidh is cultar beò na h-Alba" agus "leanaidh sinn oirnn a' brosnachadh tuigse nas fheàrr air àite na Gàidhlig nar n-àrainneachd eachdraidheil".

Mar sin tha sinn a' cur fàilte air moladh na Dreachd Ro-innleachd gum biodh HES "ag obair gus tuigse cho-roinnte air dualchas cultarail do-bheantainn (ICH) a bhrosnachadh thar bhuidhnean poblach agus gus taic a cho-thaobhadh do choimhearsnachdan a tha ag obair le ICH

**Scotland's heritage.** Increasing use of Gaelic by HES will ensure that it is inclusive, demonstrating equal respect for Gaelic alongside English.

### Principles

**We generally support the principles set out in the Draft Strategy.** However, there needs to more recognition of Gaelic in the final version.

**An increase in HES's use of Gaelic would reduce the barriers to engaging with heritage** by Gaelic speakers and the increasing number of learners and overseas visitors with an interest in the language. This will help ensure that all people are at the heart of the Strategy.

"Our heritage - whether tangible or intangible, cultural or natural - is the resource that allows us to create benefits and realise our outcomes". **The Strategy should state that intangible heritage includes language and associated culture:** meaning that Gaelic, for example, is a national intangible heritage asset.

As such, Gaelic "helps to tell Scotland's story to the world". **It is vital to understanding the landscape, culture, and society associated with many areas of Scotland,** including place names and topographic features.

This is acknowledged in HES's Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy Statement. This states that "languages are vital to understanding the culture from which they spring" - and more specifically: "We acknowledge the place of Gaelic language and culture as a distinct and unique part of Scotland's history and living culture" and "we will continue to encourage a greater understanding of the role of Gaelic within our historic environment".

We therefore welcome the Draft Strategy's proposal that HES "work to promote shared understanding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) across public bodies, and to align support for communities working with ICH".



Tha sinn ag aontachadh gu bheil am misean agus na gnìomhan a thathar a' moladh "ag iarraidh air a h-uile duine am pàirt fhèin a chluich". Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus feadhainn eile a tha an sàs ann an leasachadh na Gàidhlig deònach taic a chur ri oidhirpean gus cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a nochdadh ann an dòigh nas coileanta san àrainneachd eachdraidheil (m.e. cleachdadh teacsa Gàidhlig mar phàirt de mhìneachadh).

"Feumaidh sinn cuideachd aithneachadh gu bheil a h-uile coimhearsnachd eadar-dhealaichte, agus gum feum sinn ar n-obair agus ar dàimhean atharrachadh mar thoradh air sin". Shaoileadh sinn gum biodh seo a' gabhail a-steach cleachdadh stuthan agus sanasachd Ghàidhlig gus conaltradh le luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig ann an sgìrean far a bheil an cànan fhathast an ìre mhath làidir – m.e. Na h-Eileanan an Iar, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach. Dh'fhaodadh e cuideachd mìneachadh nas mionaidiche a thoirt air àite cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig do luchd-tadhail do na sgìrean sin.

#### Prìomhachasan

Tha sinn gu mòr a' toirt taic don phrìomhachas "Togail eaconamaidh sunnd". Bu chòir iomradh sònraichte a thoirt air a' Ghàidhlig a thaobh seo.

Tha am fàs ann an àireamhan luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig agus ann an turasachd co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig na chothrom air leth airson HES. Tha Ro-innleachd Turasachd na Gàidhlig<sup>1</sup> airson na h-Alba aig VisitAlba ag amas air "Taic a thoirt do mar a thèid eaconamaidh turasachd na h-Alba a chur am meud tro bhith a' toirt cothrom do bharrachd luchd-tadhail gus eòlas a chur air agus a dhol an sàs ann an Gàidhlig agus a cultar".

Tha oifigich HES nam buill ghnìomhach de *Bhuidhinn-stiùiridh Ro-innleachd Turasachd, Cultar is Dualchas na Gàidhlig*, a chaidh a stèidheachadh taobh a-staigh iomairt Riaghaltas na h-Alba *Adhartas nas Luaithe*, airson leasachadh cànan na Gàidhlig le buidhnean poblach. 'S e Misean na Buidhne: Gus taic a thoirt do mar a thèid eaconamaidh turasachd na h-Alba a chur am meud tro bhith a' toirt cothrom do bharrachd luchd-tadhail gus eòlas a chur air agus a dhol an sàs ann an Gàidhlig agus a cultar. 'S e an Lèirsinn aca: "Gu bheil gnìomhachas na turasachd ann an Alba a' gabhail ealla ris agus a' dèanamh feum den Ghàidhlig mar stòras a ghabhas a mhargaidheachd do luchd-tadhail".

We agree that the proposed mission and actions "requires everyone to play their part". Bòrd na Gàidhlig and others involved in Gaelic development are willing to support efforts to more fully reflect Gaelic language and culture within the historic environment (e.g. use of Gaelic text as part of interpretation).

"We also need to recognise that every community is different, and that we need to adapt our work and relationships as a result". We would expect this to include use of Gaelic language materials and publicity to engage with Gaelic speakers in areas where the language remains relatively strong - e.g. Outer Hebrides, Skye. It could also include providing more detailed explanation of the role of Gaelic language and culture to visitors to these areas.

#### Priorities

We very much support the priority of "Building a wellbeing economy". Gaelic should be specifically mentioned in this regard.

The growth in Gaelic learner numbers and in Gaelic-related tourism represents a tremendous opportunity for HES. VisitScotland's Gaelic Tourism Strategy<sup>2</sup> for Scotland aims "To support the growth of the Scottish tourism economy through engaging more visitors in discovering and experiencing the unique Gaelic language and its associated culture".

HES officers are active members of the *Tourism, Culture and Heritage Gaelic Strategy Group* which sits within the Scottish Government's *Faster Rate of Progress* initiative for Gaelic language development by public bodies. The Mission of the group is: "To support the growth of the Scottish tourism economy through engaging more visitors in discovering and experiencing the unique Gaelic language and its associated culture". Its Vision is: "The tourism industry in Scotland recognises and uses Gaelic as an asset to be marketed to visitors".

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.visitscotland.org/about-us/what-we-do/working-in-partnership/gaelic-tourism-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.visitscotland.org/about-us/what-we-do/working-in-partnership/gaelic-tourism-strategy>



Dh'aithris *The Herald* air 21mh Màrt 2022 mar a bhathar a' comharrachadh ciad Sheachdain Ghàidhlig an t-Saoghail. Dh'innis e cuideachd gun robh an àireamh de luchd-tadhail a' sireadh susbaint Ghàidhlig air làrach-lìn VisitAlba air a dhol suas 72% thairis air na ceithir bliadhna mu dheireadh.

**Bidh cànan agus cultar a' cruthachadh fèin-mhiadh, a' brosnachadh fèin-mhisneachd, a' mìneachadh fèin-aithne agus a' leasachadh maitheas beatha. Bidh seo a' meudachadh sunnd luchd-cleachdaidh, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taice na Gàidhlig** – aig a bheil moit mhòr às a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar. Tha a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ri, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a' smaointinn agus a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beatha.

**Le bhith a' brosnachadh leasachadh a' chànan, bithear a' neartachadh dearbh-aithne na sgìre agus mothachadh air àite** – gach cuid airson luchd-còmhnaidh agus airson luchd-tadhail. Tha seo a' cuideachadh dhaoine gus ceangal a dhèanamh le, agus tuigse fhaighinn air, àitichean agus traidiseanan an àite far a bheil iad a' fuireach no a' tadhal.

Fhuair Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021 gu bheil mu thrìan (31%) ag ràdh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dara cuid glè chudromach no gu math cudromach don dualchas chultarach aca fhèin. Mar sin, bhiodh iad a' cur fàilte air a' Ghàidhlig ga cleachdadh barrachd ann an raon de shuidheachaidhean, a' gabhail a-steach dualchas.

#### **Measadh Buaidh Coimhearsnachd Eileanach – Ciad Sgrùdadh**

**Chan eil iomradh sam bith air a' Ghàidhlig san Dreachd Ro-innleachd no ann an Ciad Sgrùdadh ICIA. Chan eil e soilleir ciamar a bheachdaicheadh, no an deach beachdachadh idir, air a' bhuidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig an Ro-innleachd ùr air a' Ghàidhlig. Mar sin, chan eil e soilleir ciamar a chaidh a' chiad cho-dhùnadh nach eil feum air ICIA slàn a ruighinn.**

Tha *Measadh Buaidh air Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach: Stiùireadh is Innealan* aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag iarraidh air ICIA beachdachadh air an dàta a tha ri fhaighinn mun t-suidheachadh anns na h-eileanan an-dràsta. Ach, chan eil am fiosrachadh a tha ri fhaighinn air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig le muinntir nan eilean ann an Ciad Sgrùdadh an ICIA. Chaidh am fiosrachadh seo a chruinneachadh le Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 agus bidh àireamhan ùraichte airson Cunntas 2022 rim faighinn an ceann ùine.

*The Herald* of 21st March 2022 referred to the celebration of the first ever World Gaelic Week. It also noted that VisitScotland has seen a 72 per cent rise in website visitors seeking out Gaelic content over the last four years.

**Language and culture create self-esteem, nurture self-confidence, define identity and improve quality of life. This increases wellbeing for Gaelic users, learners, and supporters** - who have great pride in the language and culture. Gaelic contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.

Further, **encouraging the development of the language strengthens an area's identity and sense of place** - for both residents and visitors. This helps people connect with and understand the places and traditions of where they live or visit.

The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021 found that around a third (31%) say Gaelic is either very or fairly important to their own cultural heritage. Thus, they would welcome its greater use in a range of settings including heritage.

#### **Island Community Impact Assessment - Initial Screening**

**There are no references to the Gaelic language in the Draft Strategy or the ICIA Initial Screening. It is not clear how - or if - the potential impacts on Gaelic from the new Strategy have been considered. Thus, it is unclear how the initial conclusion that a full ICIA is not required has been reached.**

Scottish Government's *Island Communities Impact Assessments: Guidance and Toolkit* requires an ICIA to review available data on the current situation in the islands. However, the ICIA Initial Screening does not contain available information on the use of Gaelic by island residents. This information was collected by the 2011 Census and updated figures for the 2022 Census will be available in due course.



Tha seo cudromach oir tha an *Stiùireadh agus Innealan* ag iarraidh air ICIA measadh:

- “dè a’ bhuaidh a dh’fhaodadh a bhith aig poileasaidh, ro-innleachd no seirbheisean air na cànanan agus an dualchas chultarail a bhuineas don choimhearsnachd eileanach sin”; agus
- “dè a’ bhuaidh a dh’fhaodadh a bhith aig an ro-innleachd agaibh air a’ Ghàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach, ma tha buaidh idir, an taca ri sgìrean eile (a’ gabhail a-steach coimhearsnachdan eileanach eile)”.

Tha a’ Chiad Sgrùdadh ICIA a’ co-dhùnadh bho na co-chomhairlean a chaidh a ghabhail os làimh “Anns an fharsaingeachd bha na cuspairean agus na prìomhachasan a bha a’ tighinn am bàrr ionann air feadh na h-Alba”. Ach, chan eil an ICIA ag innse na h-àireimh de bhuidhnean eileanach:

- A ghabh pàirt sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh as t-samhradh 2022.
- Aig an robh ùidh agus/no pàirt ann am brosnachadh is leasachadh na Gàidhlig.
- A tha stèidhichte air eileanan far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre mhath làidir.
- A thug iomradh air agus/no a chaidh fhaighneachd gu sònraichte mu àite agus cudromachd cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig.

Bu chòir am fiosrachadh seo a libhrigeadh gus an tuigear dè am pròiseas a chaidh a leantainn.

Aig an àm seo, chan eil e soilleir ciamar a chaidh beachdachadh ceart a dhèanamh air cùisean a tha a’ bualadh air buidhnean aig a bheil ùidh agus/no a tha an sàs sa Ghàidhlig ann a bhith a’ tighinn gu co-dhùnadh tùsail an ICIA.

**Mar sin tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air aithris na sgrìobhainn gun tèid “sùil eile a thoirt air an fheum air ICIA slàn às dèidh a’ phrògram co-chomhairleachaidh, ma nochdas tuilleadh dhraghan a thaobh Eileanan”.**

Gus an *Stiùireadh agus Innealan* a nochdadh bu chòir earrann shònraichte a bhith anns an ICIA dheireannach air a’ bhuaidh a dh’fhaodadh a bhith aig an ro-innleachd ùr air a’ Ghàidhlig, le fianais thaiceil na chois.

**Tuilleadh Com-pàirt aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig ann an Leasachadh na Ro-innleachd**

This matters because the *Guidance and Toolkit* requires an ICIA to assess:

- “what impact the policy, strategy or services may have on the languages and the cultural heritage relevant to that island community”; and
- “what the impact of your strategy is on the Gaelic language in island communities, if any, compared to other areas (including other island communities)”.

The ICIA Initial Screening concludes from the consultations that were undertaken that “In general the emerging themes and priorities were similar across Scotland”. However, the ICIA does not state the number of islands organisations which:

- Took part in the consultation process during summer 2022.
- Were ones with an interest and/or role in promotion and development of Gaelic.
- Are based on islands where the Gaelic language remains relatively strong.
- Referred to and/or were specifically asked about the role and importance of Gaelic language and culture.

This information should be made available to provide transparency on the process followed.

At this time, it is unclear how the issues affecting organisations with an interest and/or involvement in Gaelic have been properly considered in reaching the ICIA’s initial conclusion.

**We therefore welcome the document’s statement that “The need for a full ICIA will be revisited following the consultation programme, should further Islands concerns become apparent”.**

To reflect the *Guidance and Toolkit* the final ICIA should contain a specific section on the potential impacts of the new strategy on Gaelic, accompanied by supporting evidence.

**Further Involvement of Bòrd na Gàidhlig In Developing the Strategy**





Tha sinn toilichte gum bi HES a' cumail sreath de choinneamhan le luchd-ùidh gus cothrom a thoirt don h-uile duine am beachdan a thoirt seachad. Bhiodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig air leth toilichte pàirt a ghabhail anns a' phròiseas seo.

Tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil an fhreagairt againn cuideachail agus taiceil. Feuch gun cuir sibh fios thugainn ma tha ceist sam bith agaibh no ma tha sibh a' sireadh soilleireachadh.

We welcome that HES will host a series of stakeholder meetings to give everyone the opportunity to feed in their views and ideas. Bòrd na Gàidhlig would very much welcome the opportunity to take part.

We hope that our response is helpful and constructive. Please get in touch if you have any questions or wish to seek clarification.

