

| <p>Rannsachadh Com-pàirteachaidh Poblach Pàrlamaid na h-Alba Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig 09 Gearran 2023</p> | <p>Scottish Parliament Public Participation Inquiry Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig 09 February 2023</p> |
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| <p>RÈITEACHADH A’ CHOIMHEARSNACHD</p> <p>THOIR AIR FALABH CNAPAN-STARRA RO CHOM-PÀIRTEACHADH GUS AM BI COTHROM CO-IONNAN AIG A H-UILE DUINE PÀIRT A GHABHAIL ANN AN OBAIR A’ PHÀRLAMAID.</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>Chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 aontachadh le Pàrlamaid na h-Alba le sùil ri inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tèarainte mar chànan oifigeil na h-Alba aig a bheil spèis co-ionnan ris a’ Bheurla.</p> <p>’S e amas a’ Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid “a’ Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine ann am barrachd shuidheachaidhean”. Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a’ fòcasadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig. <p>Tha Gàidhlig na cànan nàiseanta a tha air a bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh Alba air fad. Ann an Cunntas-</p> | <p>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>REMOVE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION SO THAT EVERYONE HAS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT.</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 Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.</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"> • Increasing the use of Gaelic. • Increasing the learning of Gaelic. • Promoting a positive image of Gaelic. <p>Gaelic is a national language which is spoken across Scotland. About 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of Scotland. At the 2011</p> |

sluaigh 2011 bha comas air choreigin sa Ghàidhlig aig 87,100 neach ann an Alba (mu 1.7% den t-sluaigh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh sin nan luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig.

Tha iarrtas a' sior fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.

Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo air a bheil 1.5 millean daoine air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh 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'inbich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh, le còrr air 430,000 sealladh iomlan thairis air BBC iPlayer, BBC Sounds agus na meadhanan sòisealta agus còrr air 14,300 luchd-cleachdaidh clàraichte air an làrach-lìn.

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%.

Leis na tha gu h-àrd, agus na puingeann a leanas, tha sinn den bheachd gum bu chòir iomradh sònraichte air luchd-cleachdaidh agus luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a bhith anns na molaidhean a bhios a' Chomataidh a' leasachadh. Cuidichidh sin gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil taobhan-seallaidh agus beachdan gach neach ann an Alba air an gabhail a-steach ann an obair na Pàrlamaid.

Tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil an fhreagairt againn cuideachail agus taiceil.

Dè na gnìomhan a dh'fheumas sinn a ghabhail gus am moladh seo a libhrigeadh?

Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers.

There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic, and social benefits.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website in which 1.5 million people have started 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 with over 430,000 total views across BBC iPlayer, BBC Sounds and social media and over 14,300 registered users on the website.

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%.

Given the above, and the following points, we believe that the recommendations to be developed by the Committee should include specific references to Gaelic users and learners. That will help to make sure that the views and opinions of everyone in Scotland are included in the work of the Parliament.

We hope that our response is helpful and constructive.

What action do we need to take to deliver this recommendation?



Tha e coltach nach deach beachdachadh sam bith gu ruige seo san rannsachadh air cùisean a tha a’ bualadh air luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a dh’fhaodadh adhbharachadh nach biodh iad cho dualtach a dhol an sàs ann an obair na Pàrlamaid na tha cuid de bhuidhnean eile. Tha e coltach nach deach fiosrachadh no follaiseachd mun rannsachadh air làrach-lìn Pàrlamaid na h-Alba a thoirt seachad sa Ghàidhlig. Dh’fhaodadh gum biodh e comasach: An teansa a shealltainn anns a’ Ghàidhlig ri taobh na Beurla.

A’ gabhail a-steach co-chomhairleachadh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig mar aon de na buidhnean nach biodh cho dualtach a dhol an sàs ann an obair na Pàrlamaid.

’S e aon de na Prìomh Teachdaireachdan ann an Aithisg an Rannsachadh Com-pàirteachaidh Poblach gum feum “Pàrlamaid na h-Alba barrachd a dhèanamh gus innse do dhaoine mun obair chosnachaidh agus chom-pàirteachaidh aice”. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag aithneachadh sàr obair Oifigear na Gàidhlig aig a’ Phàrlamaid ach dh’fhaodadh barrachd a bhith a bhith air a dhèanamh gus co-ionannachd com-pàirteachaidh a dhèanamh cinnteach do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig. Bhiodh e a’ gabhail a-steach a bhith a’ cur cuideam air comas Gàidhlig a chleachdadh ann a bhith a’ freagairt ris na Pàrlamaid ann an sgrìobhadh no a’ toirt seachad fianais beòil. Bhiodh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an cosnachadh a’ meudachadh ùidh agus com-pàirteachas le luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig - an dà chuid am measg buidhnean agus luchd-fa-leth.

B’ e fear eile de Phrìomh Theachdaireachdan na h-Aithisg: “Le bith a’ briseadh sìos nan cnapan-starra ro chom-pàirteachas, thèid iomadachd com-pàirteachaidh agus bheachdan ann an obair Pàrlamaid na h-Alba a leasachadh”. A-rithist, bidh barrachd cleachdadh den Ghàidhlig ann a bhith ag adhartachadh obair na Pàrlamaid agus a’ cur cuideam air gu bheil fàilte air freagairtean sa Ghàidhlig a’ leantainn gu barrachd cosnachaidh le luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig a leasaicheas iomadachd com-pàirteachaidh agus bheachdan a gheibhear. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag aithneachadh gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig air a cleachdadh air pàrtean de làrach-lìn na Pàrlamaid agus ann an sanasachd ach gum faodadh barrachd

There appears to have been no consideration to date in the inquiry of issues affecting Gaelic speakers that could lead to them to be less likely to get involved in the Parliament's work than some other groups. It appears that none of the information and publicity about the inquiry shown on the Scottish Parliament website has been in Gaelic. It could have been possible to have:

Shown the text in Gaelic alongside that in English.

Included consulting Gaelic speakers as one of the groups who might be less likely to get involved in the Parliament's work.

One of the Key Messages in the Public Participation Summary Report was that “The Scottish Parliament needs to do more to tell people about its engagement and participation work”. Bòrd na Gàidhlig recognises the excellent work of the Gaelic Officer at the Parliament but more could be done to ensure equity of engagement and participation for Gaelic speakers. It would include emphasising the ability to use Gaelic in responding to the Parliament whether in writing or giving evidence orally. Use of Gaelic in engagement would increase interest and participation by Gaelic users - among both organisations and individuals.

Another of the Report’s Key Messages was: “Breaking down barriers to participation will improve the diversity of participation and opinions in the work of the Scottish Parliament”. Again, greater use of Gaelic in the promotion of the Parliament’s work and emphasising that responses in Gaelic are welcome will lead to greater engagement with Gaelic users which will improve the diversity of participation and opinions received. Bòrd na Gàidhlig recognises that Gaelic is used on parts of the Parliament website and in advertising but that more texts could be made available and that Gaelic content could be better advertised.



theacsaidhean a bhith rim faighinn agus gum faodadh susbaint Ghàidhlig a bhith air a shanasachadh nas fheàrr.

Mar a tha an Aithisg a' dol air adhart ag ràdh: "Gu bunaiteach, airson daoine a ruigsinn feumaidh sinn a bhith ag obair sa chànan aca". Tha e cuideachd ag ràdh "Bu chòir dhaibhsan a tha a' dèanamh obair cosnachaidh is com-pàirteachaidh a bhith air an trèanadh agus air an oideachadh mu fheumalachdan bhuidhnean sònraichte". Tha sinn den bheachd gum faod luchd-labhairt agus luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a bhith aon de na bhuidhnean seo.

Bhiodh gabhail ris na gnìomhan sin a' nochdadh amasan Plana Gàidhlig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba 2018-2023. Gu sònraichte:

- Dìon, àrach agus ùraich àite na Gàidhlig ann am beatha làitheil an latha an-diugh.
- A' cleachdadh Gàidhlig gus coimhearsnachdan a ruigsinn air feadh na h-Alba agus a' dèanamh cinnteach gum faod coimhearsnachdan ar ruigsinn
- Ag amalachadh Gàidhlig ann an dlùth is inneach an dòigh-smaoineachaidh na Pàrlamaid.

Tha am Plana cuideachd ag ràdh gu bheil "com-pàirteachadh agus sunnd air àrdachadh le bhith a' conaltradh le coimhearsnachdan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus a' brosnachadh cosnachadh leis a' Ghàidhlig thar iomadachd choimhearsnachdan".

THOIR A' PHÀRLAMAID DO NA DAOINE

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte mhòr air a' mholadh seo - gu sònraichte cosnachadh sgìreil. Bha e math a' Chomataidh Ceartas Sòisealta agus Tèarainteachd Shòisealta fhaicinn a' tadhal air Uibhist san Fhaoilleach 2023 agus bhitheamaid a' brosnachadh barrachd chomataidhean agus luchd-pàrlamaid tadhal air agus a dhol an sàs le ar coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.

Dè na gnìomhan a dh'fheumas sinn a ghabhail gus am moladh seo a libhrigeadh?

Bu chòir don seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach conaltradh sònraichte le luchd-labhairt agus luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig. 'S e sin, an dà chuid air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus

As the Report goes on to state: "Essentially, to reach people we have to work in their language". It also notes that "Those carrying out engagement and participation work should be trained and educated on the needs of specific groups". We believe that Gaelic speakers and learners could be one of those groups.

Adopting these actions would reflect the ambitions of the Scottish Parliament's Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023. In particular:

- Safeguard, nurture and renew the place of Gaelic in everyday, modern life.
- Using Gaelic to reach out to communities across Scotland and ensure communities can reach out to us in Gaelic.
- Integrating Gaelic into the fabric of the Parliament's thinking.

The Plan also states that "participation and wellbeing are enhanced by engaging with communities through the medium of Gaelic and promoting engagement with the Gaelic language across a diversity of communities".

BRING THE PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE

We very much welcome this recommendation - in particular regional engagement. It was good to see the Social Justice and Social Security Committee visit Uist in January 2023 and we would encourage more committees and parliamentarians to visit and engage with our Gaelic speaking communities.

What action do we need to take to deliver this recommendation?

This should include specific engagement with Gaelic speakers and users. That is, in both the Highlands and Islands - notably the areas where



anns na h-Eileanan – gu sònraichte na sgìrean far a bheil an cànan air a bhith nas làidire fhathast – m.e. Innse Gall, agus na sgìrean bailteil ann an àiteachan eile air an dùthaich.

the language has remained strongest - e.g. Outer Hebrides, and the urban areas elsewhere in the country.



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