

**Co-chomhairle air Sgìrean Mara Fìor Ghlèidhte
(HPMA)****Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig****14 An Giblean 2023****Scottish Highly Protected Marine Areas
(HPMAs) Consultation****Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig****14 April 2023****Prìomh Chùisean**

Tha sinn a' cur beachd a-steach dhan cho-chomhairle seo a chionn 's gu bheil seasmhachd na Gàidhlig an crochadh air seasmhachd nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig: gu sònraichte an fheadhainn ann an sgìrean eileanach agus dùthchail air a' Ghàidhealtachd is anns na h-Eileanan. Tha na coimhearsnachdan seo cuideachd a' giùlan traidiseanan a' chànan agus bhiodh an call a' toirt droch bhuaidh nach gabhadh a leasachadh air a' chultar dùthchasach a tha air mairsinn ceudan de bhliadhnaichean.

Tha dàta airson 2021¹ a' sealltainn gu bheil ann an sgìre Steòrnabhagh – a tha a' gabhail a-steach na h-Eileanan Siar gu lèir - 215 soitheach iasgaich Albannach clàraichte, a tha a' fastadh 290 duine. Tha an àireamh sin a' dèanamh suas 2.2% den chosnadh iomlan anns na h-Eileanan an Iar. Sin an treas roinn cosnadh as àirde am measg ùghdarrasan ionadail na h-Alba.

Ann an sgìre Phort Rìgh – a tha a' gabhail a-steach an t-Eilean Sgitheanach agus an tìr-mòr ri thaobh – tha 110 soitheach Albannach clàraichte a tha a' fastadh 149 duine.

Fhuair rannsachadh air roinn tuathanas-uisge na h-Alba³ gu bheil “mòran de na h-obraichean fìor sgìleil seo, gu h-àraidh ann an cinneasachadh èisg, air am pàigheadh gu math nas àirde na obraichean eile ann an coimhearsnachdan dùthchail na h-Alba far a bheil a' ghnìomhachd seo a' tachairt agus tha àite cudromach aig na h-obraichean sin ann a bhith a' tàladh dhaoine....gu eaconamaidhean dùthchail cugallach”.

Key Issues

We are responding to this consultation because the viability of the Gaelic language rests on viable Gaelic-speaking communities: particularly those in island and rural areas in the Highlands and Islands. These communities are also tradition bearers for the language and their loss would have irreversible negative effect on the indigenous culture which has survived for hundreds of years.

Data for 2021² show that the Stornoway district - which covers the whole of the Outer Hebrides - has 215 active Scottish registered fishing vessels which employ 290 people. The number employed constitute 2.2% of total employment in the Outer Hebrides. That is the third highest employment share among Scottish local authorities.

The Portree district - which covers Skye and adjacent mainland areas - has 110 active Scottish registered vessels which employ 149 people.

Research into Scotland's aquaculture sector⁴ found that “Many of these highly skilled jobs, particularly those in finfish production, are markedly higher paid than other employment opportunities in the rural communities of Scotland where this activity occurs and these jobs play an important role in attracting people....to some fragile rural economies”.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-sea-fisheries-statistics-2021/documents/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-sea-fisheries-statistics-2021/documents/>

³ <https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/estimation-wider-economic-impacts-aquaculture-sector-scotland.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/estimation-wider-economic-impacts-aquaculture-sector-scotland.pdf>



Fhuair e cuideachd gu bheil “cinneasachadh èisg agus maoraich a’ tachairt ann an eaconamaidhean dùthchail le àireamhan-sluaigh a tha a’ crìonadh agus a tha nas sine an coimeas ri àiteachan eile”. A bharrachd air sin, “tha a’ mhòr-chuid den chosnadh làn-ùine agus tha timcheall air 97% den luchd-obrach...ann an obraichean maireannach”. Bidh cuid de na h-obraichean sin ann an coimhearsnachdan far a bheil mòran obraichean eile ràitheil agus/no pàirt-ùine.

Tha fìor dhragh oirnn gun adhbhraicheadh HPMA an call cosnadh mòr ann an sgìrean le àireamh sa cheud àrd de luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig. Mar a chaidh a mhìneachadh na bu tràithe, tha na h-àiteachan seo glè chudromach airson seasmhachd a’ chàinain san fharsaingeachd.

Tha an Aithisg air Modh-eòlas – Measadh Buaidh Shòisio-eaconamach a’ toirt fa-near gum faod call cosnadh sam bith buaidh mhòr a thoirt air cùisean sòisealta (m.e., air slàinte, eucoir). Ach, chan eil coltas ann gu bheil am modh-eòlas a thathar a’ moladh a’ toirt a-steach **an call sluaigh a dh’fhaodadh tachairt sna coimhearsnachdan air a bheil buaidh. Is e dearmad mòr a tha seo oir dh’fhaodadh call sluaigh ann an sgìrean far a bheil àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig an ìre mhath àrd droch bhuaidh a thoirt air a’ chàinain agus a’ chultar.**

Co-theacsa

Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig na bhuidheann phoblach neo-roinneil aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Is e a’ phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba a tha an urra ri leasachadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig.

‘S e amas a’ Phlana Càinain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig làithreach⁵ gun tèid “a’ Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine ann am barrachd shuidheachaidhean”. Nithear seo le bhith a’ cuimseachadh air:

- Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.
- Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.
- Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.

It also found that “the production of finfish and shellfish takes place in rural economies with a declining and relatively older population”. Further, “most of the employment in the sector is full-time and around 97% of the workforce...in permanent jobs”. Some of these jobs will be in communities where many other jobs are seasonal and/or part-time.

We are seriously concerned that the introduction of HPMA would cause a significant loss of employment in areas with a high percentage of Gaelic users. As explained earlier, these areas are very important to the overall sustainability of the language.

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment – Methodology Report notes that any significant loss of employment can have significant social impacts (e.g., on health, crime). However, the proposed methodology does not appear to include the potential consequent **loss of population from affected communities. This is a significant omission as loss of population in areas with relatively high numbers of Gaelic users could have a significant negative impact on the language and culture.**

Context

Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.

The aim of the current National Gaelic Language Plan⁶ is “that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations”. This will be achieved by focusing on:

- Increasing the use of Gaelic.
- Increasing the learning of Gaelic.
- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

⁵ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>



Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt gu buil na buannachdan sòisealta agus eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. 'S e amas a' Bhùird 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 nàiseanta.

Tha Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na dùthcha. Ann an Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 bha comas air choreigin sa Ghàidhlig aig 87,100 neach ann an Alba (mu 1.7% den t-sluagh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh sin nan luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig. Tha iarrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FMG) a' leudachadh air feadh na dùthcha. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth de na 32 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich FMG ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan bun-sgoile. Tha a-nis còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlam Tràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile agus Àrd-sgoile. Bidh tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan a dhìth gus coinneachadh ris an iarrtas fàs leantainneach seo.

Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach anns an àrdachadh anabarrach mòr a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna.

Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san Dàmhair 2021 air chur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'inbhidh a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa chànan agus a h-ionnsachadh. Tha timcheall air 400,000 neach-ionnsachaidh air a chleachdadh bho chaidh a chuir air bhog.

Fhuair "Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan a' Phobail a thaobh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba"⁷ gu bheil bho 2012:

- A' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gur urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.

This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through fully realising the social and economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. 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 asset.

Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. 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. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic and social benefits.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago.

The launch of SpeakGaelic in October 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language. It has seen around 400,000 learners since its launch.

The "Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland"⁸ found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.

⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>



- A' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gur urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig a thuigsinn air dhol an-àirde bho 25% gu 41%.

A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine den bheachd gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig glè chudromach no meadhanach cudromach do dhualchas cultarail na h-Alba.

Mar a tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig ag ràdh, "tha eaconamaidh làidir, gu h-àraidh ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig sna h-eileanan is sna sgìrean dùthchail, fìor chudromach don Ghàidhlig". Feumaidh cànan soirbheachail coimhearsnachdan a tha soirbheachail.

Tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig cuideachd ag ràdh gum "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".

Sa Chunntas-sluaigh 2011 bha beagan sgìlean Gàidhlig aig mu 61% de dhaoine aois 3 no nas sine anns na h-Eileanan Siar. Tha sin an coimeas ri dìreach 1.7% airson sluagh na h-Alba air fad. Ann an cuid de na sgìrean as iomallaiche bha na h-àireamhan mòran na b' àirde. Mar eisimpleir, 82% ann an Èirisgeigh agus mu 80% ann an Sgalpaigh. Bha na h-àireamhan cuideachd an ìre mhath àrd ann am pàirtean eile den Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan. Mar eisimpleir, mu 45% ann an Tìriodh agus 37% san Eilean Sgitheanach.

Tha dùbhlain mhòra sòisio-eaconamach mu choinneamh mòran sgìrean far a bheil co-chuid àrd de luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig mar-thà. Mar eisimpleir:

Cosgais bith-beò a tha àrd an coimeas ri sgìrean eile. Tha rannsachadh air ⁹sealltainn gum feum daoine ann an sgìrean dùthchail iomallach na h-Alba mar as trice eadar an deicheamh agus an treas cuid a bharrachd a chaitheamh air cosgaisean dachaigh airson ìre bith-beò, aig an ìre as ìsle ris am faodar gabhail, na ann am pàirtean bailteil den RA.

- 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.

As the National Gaelic Language Plan states "a healthy economy, particularly in island and rural Gaelic-speaking communities, is vital to the future of Gaelic". A thriving Gaelic language requires thriving communities.

The National Gaelic Language Plan also states that "a particular emphasis must be given to maintaining and strengthening Gaelic" in those communities "where it remains relatively strong and is the first language for a sizeable proportion of the people".

At the 2011 Census some 61% of those aged 3 or above in Eilean Siar (Outer Hebrides) had some skills in Gaelic. That compares to just 1.7% for the Scottish population. In some of the more remote areas the figures were much higher. For example, 82% in Eriskay and around 80% in Scalpay. The figures were also relatively high in some other parts of the Highlands and Islands. For example, around 45% in Tìree and 37% in the Isle of Skye.

Many areas with high proportions of Gaelic users already face significant socio-economic challenges. For example:

Relatively high cost of living. Research¹⁰ has shown that a minimum acceptable standard of living in remote rural Scotland typically requires between a tenth and a third more household spending than in urban parts of the UK.

⁹ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6441/aplusminimumplusincomeplusstandardplusforplusremotepusruralpluscotlandplus-plusapuspolicyplusupdateplus2016.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/6441/aplusminimumplusincomeplusstandardplusforplusremotepusruralpluscotlandplus-plusapuspolicyplusupdateplus2016.pdf>



Glusadan sluaigh àicheil. Mar eisimpleir, tha staitistigean bho Chlàran Nàiseanta na h-Alba a' sealltainn crìonadh ann an àireamhan-sluaigh gach cuid anns na Hearadh agus ann an Uibhist, agus sluaigh a tha sean an coimeas ri sgìrean eile agus a tha a' fàs sean aig ìre nas luaithe na chithear air a' Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan agus ann an Alba air fad.

Tuarastal ìosal. Tha Suirbhìdh Bhliadhna 2022 air Uairean is Tuarastail a' sealltainn gu bheil an tuarastal cuibheasach seachdaineach làn-ùine anns na h-Eileanan Siar aig 88% den ìre chuibheasach airson na h-Alba.

Bhiodh call sluaigh sna coimhearsnachdan seo a' toirt buaidh air inbhich aig aois obrach is clann. Bheireadh call sluaigh lùghdachadh air meud nan coimhearsnachdan air an robh buaidh. Cha bhiodh iad cho seasmhach, le droch bhuaidh air misneachd na coimhearsnachd.

Ma dh'fhàgas luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig airson obair fhaighinn ann an àiteachan eile bhiodh dà bhuaidh. An toiseach, lùghdachadh san àireimh de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig anns an sgìre air a bheil buaidh.

San dàrna àite, faodaidh teaghlaichean air a bheil buaidh gluasad gu sgìre far nach eil a' Ghàidhlig air a cleachdadh mòran agus thar ùine, is dòcha nach bi iad a' cleachdadh a' chànan gu cunbhalach tuilleadh – no dh'fhaodadh iad a call gu lèir.

Bhiodh lùghdachadh ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig mar thoradh air. Bhiodh sin a' dol an aghaidh amas a' Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig gun tèid an cànan a chleachdadh na bu trice, le barrachd dhaoine.

Tha cuid de na coimhearsnachdan anns a bheil co-chuid àrd de luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig mar-thà a' fulang le crìonadh ann an àireamhan-sluaigh agus deamografach a tha a' fàs nas sine. Tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean¹¹ ag ràdh "Tha lùghdachadh ann an àireamh an t-sluaigh na fhìor chunnart airson seasmhachd don mhòr-chuid de choimhearsnachdan eileanach na h-Alba, ged nach eil e na chunnart airson a h-uile coimhearsnachd. Sna 10 bliadhna a

Negative population trends. For example, statistics from the National Records of Scotland show falling populations in both Harris and Uist, and ones that are relatively old and aging at a faster rate than in the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.

Low wages. The 2022 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings shows the average full-time weekly wage in Eilean Siar as 88% of the Scottish average.

Loss of population in these communities would impact households with working age adults and children. The loss of population would reduce the size of the affected communities. They would become less sustainable, with a detrimental effect on community confidence.

If Gaelic users leave to access employment elsewhere this would have two impacts. First, a reduction in the number of Gaelic speakers in the affected area.

Second, affected households may move to an area where Gaelic is much less used and over time, they may no longer regularly use the language - or may lose it altogether.

The result would be a reduction in the use of Gaelic. That would run counter to the National Gaelic Language Plan's aim that the language is used more often, by more people.

Some communities with a high proportion of Gaelic users already suffer from population decline and an aging demographic. The National Islands Plan¹² states that "Population decline is a real threat to the sustainability of many, although not all, of Scotland's Island communities. Over the last 10 years, almost twice as many islands have lost populations as have

¹¹ <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/plana-naiseanta-nan-eilean.pdf>

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>



dh'fhalbh, tha dà uiread de dh'eileanan air sluaigh a chall na tha air àrdachadh sluaigh fhaicinn. Tha ro-sheallaidhean a' sealltainn gu bheil cunnart ann gum bi barrachd dì-dhaoineachadh ri thighinn,".

Tha e cuideachd a' toirt fa-near na buaidhean nas fharsainghe air an seo: "Tha droch bhuidhean aig dì-dhaoineachadh air misneachd coimhearsnachd agus seasmhachd sheirbheisean, a' dèanamh coimhearsnachdan nas so-leònte a tha mu thràth a' faireachdainn cosgaisean nas àirde airson solarachadh sheirbheisean agus cothrom air a' mhargaidh".

Tha sinn toilichte gu bheil an Aithisg air Modh-eòlas – Measadh Buaidh Shòisio-eaconamach ag ràdh "Airson sgìrean a chaidh a chomharrachadh mar nas buailtiche buaidh na bu mhotha fhulang, thèid fiosrachadh co-theacsail a bharrachd a chur ri chèile mu phròifil sòisealta is eaconamach na sgìre". Feumaidh anailis deamografach a bhith an lùib seo. Bu chòir gum bi e a' gabhail a-steach gluasadan ann an àireamh-sluaigh san fharsaingeachd – a' gabhail a-steach a rèir buidheann aoise – agus ro-mheasaidhean far a bheil iad rim faighinn. Gu cudromach, dè an ìre aig a bheil call sluaigh agus deamografach a tha a' fàs nas sine a' tachairt mar-thà ann an sgìre far a bheil HPMA air a mholadh?

Tha Earrann 2 den Aithisg air Modh-eòlas – Measadh Buaidh Shòisio-eaconamach a' libhrigeadh cùl-fhiosrachadh air HMPAan agus an co-theacs poileasaidh. Ach, chan eil iomradh sam bith air measadh a dhèanamh air a' bhuidhean a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig HPMA a thaobh amasan eile a tha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Mar eisimpleir, tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean a' toirt a-steach grunn phrìomh ghniomhan a nì Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus a bhuidhnean-gniomha gus dèiligeadh ri crìonadh ann an àireamhan-sluaigh agus dèanamh cinnteach à pròifil sluaigh fallain, cothromaichte. Bu chòir am mapadh seo a bhith air a ghabhail a-steach sa mhodh-eòlas a chaidh a chleachdadh airson measadh.

Measadh Buaidh air Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach – Aithisg Sgrìonaidh Pàirtich

Tha stiùireadh ICIA Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag iarraidh gum bi buaidh poileasaidh air a' Ghàidhlig air a ghabhail a-steach sa mheasadh. Tha e cuideachd a' toirt iomradh air na tha ri fhaighinn de dhàta air an àireimh sa cheud de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach. Tha am fiosrachadh seo ri fhaighinn bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2011 agus bidh e ri fhaighinn bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2022 an ceann ùine. Bu chòir dha a bhith mar aon de na stòran-dàta airson an ICIA.

gained. Future population projections suggest that islands are at further risk of depopulation".

It also notes the wider effects of this: "Depopulation has an adverse effect on community confidence and service sustainability, increasing the vulnerability of communities already experiencing higher costs of service provision and market access".

We welcome the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment – Methodology Report stating that "For areas identified to be likely to experience greater impacts, additional contextual information on the social and economic profile of the area will be compiled". This needs to include demographic analysis. It should include overall population trends - including by age group - and future projections where available. Importantly, to what extent is loss of population and an aging demographic already happening in an area where an HPMA is proposed?

Section 2 of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment – Methodology Report provides information on the background to HPMAs and their policy context. However, there is no reference to assessing the impacts of an HPMA against other Scottish Government's objectives. For example, the National Islands Plan contains a number of key actions Scottish Government, and its agencies will undertake to address population decline and ensure a healthy, balanced population profile. This mapping should be included in the assessment methodology.

Island Communities Impact Assessment – Partial Screening Report

Scottish Government's ICIA guidance requires that a policy's impact on the Gaelic language is included in the assessment. It also refers to the availability of data on the percentage of Gaelic speakers in island communities. This information is available from the 2011 Census and will be available from the 2022 Census in due course. It should be one of the datasets for the ICIA.



Chan eil an Aithisg a' comharrachadh buaidh air seasmhachd na Gàidhlig mar bhuidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann. Bu chòir seo a ghabhail a-steach ann an leasachadh an ICIA às dèidh seo.

Tha a' bhuidh air a' chànan ann an coimhearsnachdan far a bheil àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig àrd an coimeas ri sgìrean eile dualtach a bhith gu math eadar-dhealaichte bhon bhuidh a gheibhear ann an:

- *Coimhearsnachdan air tìr-mòr* le mòran nas lugha de luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig.
- *Eileanan eile* far nach eil Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh idir no air a cleachdadh glè bheag.

Tha an Aithisg cuideachd a' toirt iomradh air co-chomhairle le luchd-ùidh iomchaidh. A bharrachd air riochdairean eileanach bu chòir seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach buidhnean nàiseanta iomchaidh, Bòrd na Gàidhlig nam measg.

The Report does not identify the effect on the sustainability of the Gaelic language as a potential impact. This should be included as such in the subsequent development of the ICIA.

The impact on the language in communities with relatively high numbers of Gaelic users is likely to be significantly different from the impact in both:

- *Mainland communities* with much fewer numbers of Gaelic users.
- *Other islands* where there is very little or no use of Gaelic at all.

The Report also refers to consulting appropriate stakeholders. As well as island representatives this should include relevant national organisations, including Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

