

<p>Beatha ionadail agus nàbachdan 20 mionaid: dreachd stiùireadh dealbhaidh – Co-chomhairle</p> <p>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>17 An t-Iuchair 2023</p>	<p>Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: draft planning guidance – Consultation</p> <p>Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>17 July 2023</p>
<p>Ceist 9 A’ toirt sùil air an aithisg ùrachaidh air measadh buaidh: a bheil beachdan sam bith agaibh mu na co-dhùnaidhean tùsail san aithisg ùrachadh measadh buaidh a tha an cois agus a bheir fiosrachadh don stiùireadh seo?</p> <p>Tha</p> <p>Chan eil e soilleir ciamar a chaidh, ma chaidh idir, am mion-sgrùdadh tùsail san ICIA a leudachadh gus a’ bhuidheann a dh’fhaodadh a bhith aige air a’ Ghàidhlig a ghabhail a-steach. Feumaidh Riaghaltas na h-Alba beachdachadh air na buaidhean seo a rèir Measaidhean Buaidh air Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach: Stiùireadh agus Seata Innealan¹. Bhitheamaid an dùil gun rachadh seo a dhèanamh mar phàirt de chrìochnachadh an ICIA.</p> <p>Ceist 10 Feuchaidh an toir sibh seachad beachdan sam bith eile air an dreachd sgrìobhainn stiùiridh sa bhogsa gu h-ìosal.</p> <p>Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, 's e buidheann poblach neo-roinneil de Riaghaltas na h-Alba a th' ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Is e a' phrìomh bhuidheann ann an Alba air a bheil dleasan gus leasachadh Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus gus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba mu chùisean Gàidhlig.</p>	<p>Question 9 Looking at the impact assessment update report: do you have any views about the initial conclusions of the impact assessment update report that accompany and inform this guidance?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>It is not clear how, if at all, the original analysis in the ICIA has been extended to include the potential impacts on the Gaelic language. Consideration of these impacts is required by Scottish Government as per <i>Island Communities Impact Assessments: Guidance and Toolkit</i>⁵. We would expect this to be done as part of the finalisation of the ICIA.</p> <p>Question 10 Please provide any further comments on the draft guidance document in the box below.</p> <p>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.</p>

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/07/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit-2/documents/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit/govscot%3Adocument/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/07/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit-2/documents/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit/govscot%3Adocument/island-communities-impact-assessments-guidance-toolkit.pdf>

'S e amas a' Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23² 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:

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

Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bhith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt am buil nam buannachdan eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Tachraidh sin tro bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach. '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 nàiseanta.

Thathar a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig 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 na dùthcha. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus 57,600 dhiubh a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Tha iarrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtMG) a' leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth nan 32 ùghdarrasan ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan sa bhun-sgoil. A-nis tha còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlaim Thràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile is Àrd-sgoile. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas bidh feum air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.

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. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba

The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 (2) 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.

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

² <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>



ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha a' mhòr-chuid (71%) bho thaobh a-muigh na RA, le 36% anns na Stàitean Aonaichte a-mhàin.

Tha cur air bhog goireas craolaidh agus teagaisg air-loidhne 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.

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.

Lorg suirbhidh de dhaoine òga (iadsan eadar 11 agus 26 bliadhna a dh'aois)³ gun robh trian (33%) den luchd-fhreagairt ag ràdh gu robh iad ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an dòigh air choreigin. Thuir tuilleadh air leth (59%) den luchd-fhreagairt aig *nach robh* a' Ghàidhlig gun robh ùidh aca ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh a' chàinain. Cuideachd, 72% den luchd-fhreagairt gu lèir a' meas cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig mar rud luachmhor no fìor-luachmhor.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig 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.

course launched over three years ago. The majority (71%) are from outside the UK, with 36% in the United States alone.

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”⁶ 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.

A survey of young people (those aged between 11 and 26 years)⁷ found that one third (33%) of respondents stated that they were learning Gaelic in some form. More than half (59%) of the respondents who could *not* speak Gaelic stated that they were interested in learning the language. Also, 72% of all respondents rated Gaelic culture and heritage as quite or very valuable.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig are responding to this consultation because *the viability of the Gaelic language rests on viable Gaelic-speaking communities: particularly those in island and remote rural areas in the Highlands and Islands.*

³ <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>

⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

⁷ <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>



Thathas a’ toirt iomradh air an aithisg *Beò gu Math gu h-Ionadail: Coimhearsnachdan 20 Mionaidean air a’ Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan*⁴ anns a’ phàipear co-chomhairleachaidh. Tha e a’ toirt fa-near draghan gum faodadh bun-bheachd nàbachd 20-mionaid “leantainn gu barrachd meadhanachadh sheirbheisean” agus gum biodh a’ bhuidh aige “a’ daingneachadh bochdainn, ne-ionannachd agus às-imrich”.

Ma dh’fhàgas luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig an coimhearsnachd an uair sin a dh’fhuireach ann an àite eile faodaidh dà bhuidh a bhith ann. 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’ chàin gu cunbhalach tuilleadh – no dh’fhaodadh iad a call gu tur.

Is e an toradh a tha ann lùghdachadh ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san fharsaingeachd. Tha sin a’ dol an aghaidh amas a’ Phlana Càin Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig gun tèid an càin a chleachdadh na bu trice, le barrachd dhaoine.

Tha feum air ceumannan dealbhaidh iomchaidh is sùbailte airson ion-obrachadh nan coimhearsnachdan sin. Mar sin tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air an dòigh-obrach a tha air a mhìneachadh san ICIA agus san dreachd stiùiridh: gu sònraichte, na puingean a leanas a chaidh a dhèanamh anns na sgrìobhainnean seo.

Aithneachadh gum faodadh am poileasaidh air nàbachdan 20-mionaid (far am faodar coinneachadh ris a’ mhòrchuid de fheumalachdan làitheil taobh a-staigh cuairt 10-mionaid bhon dachaigh) a bhith nas duilghe a libhrigeadh ann an cuid de dh’àiteachan eileanach no dùthchail.

Tha seo a’ nochdadh nàdar choimhearsnachdan iomallach dùthchail agus eileanach. Tha e a’ gabhail a-steach nàdar sgapte bhailtean, comas an ìre mhath cuibhrichte

The report *Living Well Locally 20 Minute Communities in the Highlands and Islands*⁸ is referenced in the consultation document. It notes concerns that the 20-minute neighbourhood concept “could lead to further centralisation of services” the impact of which “would be to reinforce poverty, inequality and outmigration”.

If Gaelic users then leave their community to live elsewhere this can 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 is a reduction in the use of Gaelic. That runs counter to the National Gaelic Language Plan’s aim that the language is used more often, by more people.

The viability of these communities requires appropriate and flexible planning measures. We therefore welcome the approach set out in the ICIA and the draft guidance: in particular, the following points made in these documents.

Recognition that the policy on 20-minute neighbourhoods (where the majority of daily needs can be met within a 10-minute walk of home) may be more problematic to deliver in some island or rural locations.

This reflects the nature of remote rural and island communities. It includes the dispersed nature of settlements, relatively limited ability to

⁴ https://www.nickwrightplanning.co.uk/my_uploads/20MNs_highlands_islands_2022.pdf

⁸ https://www.nickwrightplanning.co.uk/my_uploads/20MNs_highlands_islands_2022.pdf



<p>seirbheisean a chumail suas, agus cunnart meadhanachadh sheirbheisean.</p> <p>“Bidh feum aig coimhearsnachdan eileanach agus cladaich air dòigh-obrach a dh’aona-ghnothach gus lìonraidhean de nàbachdan 20-mionaid a thogail gus am neart agus am fèin-earbsa san fhad-ùine a neartachadh”.</p> <p>Am feum air sùbailteachd: “a’ gabhail a-steach, far a bheil e iomchaidh, nàbachdan 20-mionaid”, agus “gur e bun-bheachd sùbailte a th’ ann am beatha ionadail agus bu chòir atharrachadh gus taic a thoirt do cho-theacsa, feumalachdan ionadail agus miannan choimhearsnachdan”.</p> <p>Nach bu chòir “20 mionaid a bhith air a mheas mar adhbhar mìneachaidh no cuibhreachaidh airson beatha ionadail ann an co-theacs sam bith ach mar shlat-tomhais feumail den mhiann a thaobh ruigsinneachd”.</p> <p>Bu chòir don dòigh-obrach “gabhail a-steach a’ cho-theacsa ionadail....gus iomadachd àiteachan na h-Alba aithneachadh, a’ gabhail a-steach.... coimhearsnachdan eileanach”.</p> <p>Gum bi “a bhith a’ dol an sàs gu dìreach le coimhearsnachdan ionadail gus cuideaman is cothroman a thuigsinn a’ cuideachadh gus dòighean-obrach a leasachadh a thaobh beatha ionadail a tha iomchaidh”. A bharrachd air an sin, “is e na daoine a tha a’ fuireach ann an suidheachadh as fheàrr airson innse mar a dh’fhaodadh tuineachaidhean obrachadh”.</p> <p>Bhithreamaid an dùil gun leanar ris an dòigh-obrach gu h-àrd.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>sustain services, and a risk of centralisation of services.</p> <p>That “island and coastal communities will need a bespoke approach to building networks of 20-minute neighbourhoods to further strengthen their long-term resilience and self-reliance”.</p> <p>The need for flexibility: “including, <i>where relevant</i>, 20-minute neighbourhoods”, and that “local living is a flexible concept and should be adapted to support the context, local needs and aspirations of communities”.</p> <p>That “20 minutes should not be considered as the defining or limiting factor for local living in any context but as a useful gauge of the aspiration around access”.</p> <p>That the approach should “take into account the local context....to recognise the diversity of Scotland’s places, including... island communities”.</p> <p>That “engaging directly with local communities to understand pressures and opportunities can help develop approaches to local living that are appropriate”. In addition, “the people living there are best placed to inform how settlements might work”.</p> <p>We would expect the above approach to be adhered to.</p> <p>We hope that our response is helpful and constructive. Please get in touch if you have any questions or wish to seek clarification.</p>
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