

<p><u>Bile Seilbh Fearainn agus Ùidh Poblach (Alba)</u></p> <p>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>04 Sultain 2023</p>	<p><u>Proposed Land Ownership and Public Interest (Scotland) Bill</u></p> <p>Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>04 September 2022</p>
<p>6. A bheil beachdan sam bith agaibh air na slatan-tomhais deuchainn ùidh phoblaich a thathar a’ moladh (air an cur sìos ann am pàipear-taice na sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh)?</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 dleastanas gus leasachadh Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus gus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba mu chùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>'S e amas a’ Phlana Cànain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23¹ gun tèid “a’ Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsainge de shuidheachaidhean”. Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a’ cuimseachadh 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>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-mhaoine 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>6. Do you have any comments on the proposed public interest test criteria (set out in the annex of the consultation document)?</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> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23⁷ 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>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.</p> <p>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</p>

¹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>



<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Fhuair “Suirbhìdh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a' Ghàidhlig”², gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%. <p>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.</p> <p>Lorg suirbhìdh de dhaoine òga (iadsan eadar 11 agus 26 bliadhna a dh'aois)³ gun robh trian (33%) den luchd-fhreagairt</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 majority (71%) are from outside the UK, with 36% in the United States alone.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland”⁸ found that since 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%. <p>Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.</p>
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² <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

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

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



ag ràdh gu robh iad ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an dòigh air choreigin. Thuirt tuilleadh air leth (59%) den luchd-fhreagairt aig *nach robh a'* Gàidhlig gun robh ùidh aca ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh a' chàin. Cuideachd, 72% den luchd-fhreagairt gu lèir a' meas cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig mar rud luachmhor no fìor-luachmhor.

Sealbh Fearainn agus a' Ghàidhlig

Mar a tha Plana Gàidhlig Coimisean Fearainn na h-Alba⁴ ag ràdh:

"Tha ceangal seasmhach ann eadar ath-leasachadh fearainn, fearann agus na daoine. Bha 'An Tìr, an Cànan, 's na Daoine' na shluagh-ghairm aig Lìog Fearainn na Gàidhealtachd, buidheann san 19mh linn a rinn iomairt airson ath-leasachadh fearainn. Tha an abairt seo a thagh iad mar shluagh-ghairm a' sealltainn cho dlùth cheangailte 's a tha na trì eileamaidean. Tha dualchas a' cheangail eadar cànan, daoine agus fearann a' leantainn an-diugh". Tha e cuideachd a-mach air "ceangal eachdraidheil eadar muinntir na h-Alba, an dlùth dhàimh aca ris an tìr air a bheil iad a' fuireach is ag obair, agus a' Ghàidhlig".

Tha an Aithris air Còraichean is Dleastanasan Fearainn aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba⁵ ag ràdh:

"Bu chòir don fhrèam-obrach iomlan de chòraichean fearainn, uallaichean agus phoileasaidhean poblach adhartachadh, coileanadh agus spèis a thoirt do chòraichean daonna buntainneach a thaobh fearann, cur ri math agus sunnd a' phobaill, agus cothromachadh a dhèanamh eadar ùidhean poblach is prìobhaideach".

A survey of young people (those aged between 11 and 26 years)⁹ found that one third (33%) of respondents stated that 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.

Land Ownership and the Gaelic Language

As the Scottish Land Commission's Gaelic Language Plan¹⁰ states:

"There is a longstanding connection between land reform, land, and people. 'An Tìr, an Cànan, 's na Daoine' - which translates as 'the land, the language and the people' - was the motto of the Highland Land League, a 19th century land reform association. Their choice of this phrase as their motto reflects how the three elements are so closely interlinked This heritage of the connection between language, people and land continues today". It also notes "a time-honoured interconnection between the people of Scotland, their close connection to living on and working the land, and the Gaelic language".

Scottish Government's Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement¹¹ states that:

"The overall framework of land rights, responsibilities and public policies should promote, fulfil and respect relevant human rights in relation to land, contribute to public interest and wellbeing, and balance public and private interests".

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https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/623b0c33c777b_Scottish%20Land%20Commission%20Gaelic%20Plan%202022-27_FINAL.pdf

⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/09/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/documents/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/govscot%3Adocument/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022.pdf>

⁹ <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>

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https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/623b0c33c777b_Scottish%20Land%20Commission%20Gaelic%20Plan%202022-27_FINAL.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/09/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/documents/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/govscot%3Adocument/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022.pdf>



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Bu chòir beachdachadh air taic don Ghàidhlig mar phàirt de dh'uallach sealbh fearainn. Tha seo a' sealltainn gu bheil bunait cànan aig còraichean daonna seach dìreach cultar.

Tha an Aithris cuideachd ag ràdh “Bu chòir sealbh, riaghladh agus cleachdadh fearainn a bhith a’ libhrigeadh raon farsaing de bhuannachdan sòisealta, àrainneachdail, eaconamach agus cultarail”. **Bu chòir do na buannachdan sin gabhail a-steach cumail suas agus fàs cleachdadh na Gàidhlig agus a cultar.**

Leis na puingeann a tha gam mìneachadh gu h-àrd tha sinn gu sònraichte a’ toirt taic do na nithean a leanas mar phàirt de riaghladh fearainn airson math a’ phobaill san àm ri teachd:

- Libhrigeadh taigheadas aig prìs ruigsinneach.
- Leasachadh fàs in-ghabhalach agus seasmhach.
- Toirt air adhart buileachadh chòraichean daonna eaconamach, sòisealta, cultarail agus àrainneachd.
- Toirt cumhachd do choimhearsnachdan.
- Toirt fàs sluaigh gu buil

C9. Dè dhe na leanas a tha a’ mìneachadh bhur beachdan mu bhith a’ sònrachadh gum feumadh reic no a’ gluasad seilbh de dh’eilean no a’ chuid as motha dheth (no, ’s dòcha, rubha iomallach) a bhith fo ùmhachd do dheuchainn ùidh a’ phobaill

Làn thaiceil
Gu ìre thaiceil
Chan eil beachd agam taobh seach taobh
Gu ìre na aghaidh
Gu tur na aghaidh
Mì-chinnteach

Mìnichibh na h-adhbharan airson bhur freagairt

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ freagairt na co-chomhairle seo air sgàth cho cudromach ’s a tha sealbh fearainn do spionnadh choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig agus mar sin a’ Ghàidhlig fhèin.

Ma tha a’ Ghàidhlig gu bhith beò, agus a’ soirbheachadh, anns na coimhearsnachdan traidiseanta aice feumaidh na coimhearsnachdan fhèin soirbheachadh. Tha seo air aithneachadh ann am Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean aig Riaghaltas

Support for the Gaelic language should be considered as part of the responsibility in land ownership. This reflects that human rights have a linguistic basis rather than simply a cultural one.

The Statement also states that “Land ownership, management and use should deliver a wide range of social, environmental, economic and cultural benefits”. **These benefits should include the maintenance and growth of use of the Gaelic language and culture.**

Given the points set out above we particularly support the inclusion of the following considerations as part of the future regulation of land in the public interest:

- Delivering affordable housing.
- Developing inclusive and sustainable growth.
- Furthering the realisation of economic, social, cultural, and environmental human rights.
- Empowering communities.
- Causing repopulation.

Q9. Which of the following best describes your views on making any sale or transfer of the whole or greater part of an island (or, possibly, a remote peninsula) subject to the public interest test

Fully supportive
Partially supportive
Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
Partially opposed
Fully opposed
Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Bòrd na Gàidhlig are responding to this consultation because of the vital importance of land ownership to the vitality of Gaelic speaking communities and thus the Gaelic language.

If Gàidhlig is to survive, and thrive, then the communities themselves need to thrive. This is recognised in Scottish Government’s National Islands



na h-Alba⁶: "tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig do dh'iomadh coimhearsnachd eileanach, agus cho cudromach 's a tha na coimhearsnachdan eileanach far a bheil Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn do sheasmhachd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba." Tha prìomh phàirt aig fearann, agus luchd-seilbh an fhearainn ann an seo.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt taic do bharrachd iomadachd ann an sealbh fearainn. Gu sònraichte, sealbh coimhearsnachd – a chuidicheas gus coinneachadh nas fheàrr ri miannan ionadail agus feuman comharraichte coimhearsnachd. Thèid an ceangal bunaiteach eadar fearann agus coimhearsnachd – agus mar sin a' Ghàidhlig – a neartachadh tro leasachaidhean fearann coimhearsnachd.

Tha mu 80% de thalamh anns na h-Eileanan Siar ann an sealbh coimhearsnachd. Seo an sgìre far a bheil na coimhearsnachdan leis na h-ìrean as àirde de chleachdadh na Gàidhlig – cridhe na Gàidhlig ann an Alba. Sheall Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 gun robh a' chuibhreann a bu mhotha de dhaoine aois 3 agus nas sine le sgilean Gàidhlig ann (61% - fada nas motha na cuibheasachd na h-Alba aig 1.7%). Mar sin, tha a' Ghàidhlig gu h-àraidh na pàirt bhunaiteach de chòraichean agus dleastanasan fearainn ann an coimhearsnachdan nan Eilean Siar.

Tha sinn a' toirt taic do leasachaidhean poileasaidh a chuidicheas le ceannach fearann coimhearsnachd gu sònraichte ann an sgìrean far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre mhath làidir. Tha Plana Cànan Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a' toirt fa-near "gun toir ath-leasachaidhean, leithid sealbh fearann coimhearsnachd...buaidh air mòran de na coimhearsnachdan aig a bheil Gàidhlig agus air an adhbhar sin tha iad cudromach do... adhartas na Gàidhlig ann an Alba". Tha e cuideachd ag ràdh gu bheil fàs ann an sealbh fearann coimhearsnachd a' toirt chothroman airson Gàidhlig a chleachdadh agus airson luach a' chànan a chur am meud do luchd-labhairt.

Tha cothrom iomchaidh air fearann agus air fearann a leasachadh na mheadhan airson amasan nas fharsaingeacha choileanadh. Gu sònraichte, faodar a chleachdadh gus taigheadas ùr air a bheil cruaidh fheum a sholarachadh ann an sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail. Cuidichidh seo le bhith a'

Plan¹²: "Scottish Government recognises the importance of the Gaelic language to many island communities, and the importance of the Gaelic speaking island communities to the survival and sustainability of Gaelic in Scotland". Land, and the owners of the land, have a key part to play in this.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig support greater diversity of land ownership. In particular, community ownership, which can help to better meet local aspirations and identified community need. The intrinsic connection between land and community - and thus the Gaelic language - will be strengthened through community land developments.

Around 80% of land in the Western Isles is in community ownership. The area contains communities with the highest levels of Gaelic usage - it is the heartland of Gaelic in Scotland. The 2011 Census showed that it had by far the greatest proportion of people aged 3 and over with Gaelic skills (61% - compared to the Scottish average of 1.7%). Thus, the Gaelic language is an especially intrinsic part of land rights and responsibilities in Western Isles communities.

We support policy developments that will assist community land purchases particularly in areas where Gaelic remains relatively strong. The National Gaelic Language Plan notes that "reforms, such as community land ownership...will...have an impact on many of the communities with Gaelic speakers and so are important to... the progress of Gaelic in Scotland". It also notes that growth in community land ownership can also provide opportunities for using Gaelic and for increasing the value of the language to speakers.

Adequate availability of land and its development is a catalyst for achieving wider objectives. In particular, it can be used to provide much needed new housing in remote and rural areas. This will help to retain

⁶ <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>

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>



<p>cumail luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachdan ionadail agus a’ tàladh luchd-còmhnaidh ùr.</p> <p>Mar eisimpleir, chomharraich Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Cheann a Deas na Hearadh o chionn ghoirid gu robh taighean ùra – aig prìs reusanta agus gu leòr ann dhiubh – deatamach gus togail a thoirt air àireamhan cloinne sna sgoiltean agus luchd-obrach do ghnìomhachasan.</p> <p>Tha cothrom air fearann airson taigheadas, còmhla ri bun-structar eile leithid còmhdhail, ceangal didseatach, agus seirbheis slàinte, deatamach gus coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig a dhèanamh seasmhach le bhith gan cuideachadh a’ gleidheadh dhaoine agus a’ tàladh dhaoine a dh’fhalbh air ais.</p>	<p>existing Gaelic speakers in local communities and attract new residents.</p> <p>As an example, South Harris Community Council recently highlighted new housing - both affordable and adequate in number - as crucial to help boost a falling school roll and assisting numerous businesses with staffing.</p> <p>Availability of land for housing, along with other infrastructure such as transport, digital connectivity, and health service provision, is vital to making Gaelic speaking communities sustainable by enabling the retention and return of people.</p>
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