

<p>Co-chomhairle air Bile Sunnd is Leasachadh Seasmhach (Alba)</p> <p>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>14 Gearran 2024</p>	<p>Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill Consultation</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response</p> <p>14 February 2024</p>
<p><u>Ro-ràdh</u></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.</p> <p>Tha Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 ag iarraidh air Bòrd na Gàidhlig Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig ullachadh agus a chur a-steach. Bu chòir molaidhean a bhith ann a thaobh cleachdadh agus adhartachadh na Gàidhlig le fòcas air feumalachdan agus prìomhachasan na Gàidhlig airson luchd-labhairt, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taic na Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Ged a tha an Achd ag iarraidh air Bòrd na Gàidhlig am Plana ullachadh, tha an t-uallach airson adhartas a dhèanamh leis na h-amasan is targaidean a th’ ann air grunn ùghdarrasan, bhuidhnean agus choimhearsnachdan.</p> <p>Is e Lèirsinn Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2023-28¹ “Àrdachadh a ghabhas tomhas anns na h-àireamhan de dhaoine a’ bruidhinn, ag ionnsachadh, a’ cleachdadh agus a’ toirt taic don Ghàidhlig”. Tha prìomhachasan agus targaidean ann a bhuineas ris an dachaigh, a’ choimhearsnachd, na gnìomhachasan cruthachail, gnothach agus an eaconamaidh, foghlam, ionnsachadh às dèidh na sgoile agus beatha phoblach na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd.</p>	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome 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.</p> <p>The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare and submit a National Gaelic Language Plan. That should contain proposals relating to the use and promotion of Gaelic with a focus on the needs and priorities of the Gaelic language for its speakers, learners, and supporters.</p> <p>While the Act requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare the Plan, the responsibility for making progress with its aims and targets sits with a number of authorities, organisations, and communities.</p> <p>The Vision of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28⁸ is “A measurable increase in the numbers of people speaking, learning, using and supporting Gaelic”. The Plan includes priorities and targets relating to home, community, creative industries, business and economy, education, post-school learning and Scottish public life generally.</p>

¹ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FINAL_BnG_National_Gaelic_Language_Plan_ENGLISH.pdf

⁸ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FINAL_BnG_National_Gaelic_Language_Plan_ENGLISH.pdf



Chaidh dreachd Bhile nan Cànanan Albannach² fhoillseachadh san t-Samhain 2023. Tha e ag ràdh gu bheil “inbhe oifigeil aig a’ Ghàidhlig ann an Alba”. Bu chòir na gnìomhan a tha an dreachd Bhile a’ toirt do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig “a choileanadh le sùil ri dèanamh cinnteach gum faigh a’ Ghàidhlig an aon spèis ris a’ Bheurla”.

Bheir an dreachd Bhile “a-steach comas Sgìrean Cudromach a thaobh Cànan a stèidheachadh gus libhrigeadh iomchaidh a thoirt gu buil”³. Seo sgìrean far a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig aig co-dhiù 20% den t-sluagh, no sgìrean far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig ga cleachdadh ann an dòigh shònraichte eile.

Tha a’ Ghàidhlig na cànan nàiseanta a tha ga bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba. 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 timcheall air 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach air a’ Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan agus càch sa chòrr de dh’Alba. 'S iad na h-Eileanan Siar, a’ Ghàidhealtachd agus Earra-Ghàidheal is Bòd na pàirtean de dh’Alba far as treasa a’ Ghàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig a’ leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an dàrna leth nan 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 Bun-sgoile agus Àrd-sgoile.

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

Mar a tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig ag ràdh “Tha gnìomhachd na Gàidhlig ri lorg a-nis ann an iomadh roinn leithid foghlam sgoile, foghlam adhartach is àrd-ìre, anns na meadhanan agus craoladh, ann an turasachd, ann

The draft Scottish Languages Bill⁹ was published in November 2023. It states that “the Gaelic language has official status within Scotland”. The functions conferred on Bòrd na Gàidhlig by the draft Bill “are to be exercised with a view to ensuring that the Gaelic language is treated with equal respect to the English language”.

The draft Bill will “introduce the possibility of Areas of Linguistic Significance to allow for proportionate delivery”¹⁰. These are areas where at least 20% of its population has Gaelic language skills, or ones where there are other specific uses of Gaelic.

Gaelic is a national language which is spoken across 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.

Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of Scotland. The Outer Hebrides, Highland and Argyll & Bute are the parts of Scotland where Gaelic retains the greatest community presence.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in half of Scotland’s 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now around 5,600 pupils in the sector across Primary and Secondary education.

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

As the National Gaelic Language Plan states “Gaelic activity can now be found in many sectors such as school education, further and higher education, in media and broadcasting, in

² <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-languages-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-languages-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>

⁹ <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-languages-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-languages-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>



am foillseachadh, ann an dualchas, anns na h-ealain agus ann an ionnsachadh inbheach is coimhearsnachd. Tha iad sin deatamach don chànan agus a' cruthachadh chothroman airson Gàidhlig a chleachdadh".

Tha an t-**iarrrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh** follaiseach anns na h-àireamhan anabarrach mòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.8 millean neach air tòiseachadh ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig bho chaidh an cùrsa a chur air bhog o chionn ceithir bliadhna, le 500,000 ag obair air an-dràsta. Tha sin a' riochdachadh fàs de 17% sa bhliadhna a dh'fhalbh, às dèidh fàs 12% sa bhliadhna ro sin.

Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do inbhich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus a h-ionnsachadh. Tha timcheall air 400,000 neach-ionnsachaidh air a chleachdadh bho chaidh a chur air bhog.

Lorg "Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan a' Phobail a thaobh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba"⁴ gu bheil:

- Gàidhlig a' cur ri sunnd, le 70% de dh'inbhich ag ràdh gu bheil ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a' toirt dhaibh faireachdainn gu bheil iad air rudeigin a choileanadh.
- Dhùblaich an àireamh de dh'Albannaich as urrainn beagan Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn anns na deich bliadhna a dh'fhalbh.
- Tha 79% de dhaoine den bheachd gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig glè chudromach no meadhanach cudromach do dhualchas cultarail na h-Alba.

Freagairt

Tha a' cho-chomhairle seo a' tighinn aig àm cudromach don Ghàidhlig le foillseachadh Plana Cànan Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig ùr agus Bile Chànanan na h-Alba o chionn ghoirid.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' freagairt na co-chomhairle seo oir tha sinn airson gum bi na tha cànan is cultar

tourism, in publishing, in heritage, in arts and in adult and community learning. These are vital for the language and create opportunities for the use of Gaelic".

The **demand for learning Gaelic** is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app. Some 1.8 million people have started learning Gaelic since the course launched four years ago, with 500,000 people working on it at the present time. That represents growth in numbers of 17% in the last year, following 12% growth in the previous year.

The launch of SpeakGaelic in September 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"¹¹ found that:

- Gaelic contributes to wellbeing, with 70% of adults stating that learning Gaelic gives someone a sense of achievement.
- The number of Scots who can speak some Gaelic doubled in the past decade.
- Some 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.

Response

This consultation comes at an important time for Gaelic with the recent publication of the new National Gaelic Language Plan and of the Scottish Languages Bill.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig are responding to this consultation because we wish to see the

⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/news/SSAS/>

¹¹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/news/SSAS/>



<p>sònraichte Gàidhlig na h-Alba a’ cur ri sunnd air aithneachadh ann am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mìneachadh reachdail sam bith air 'sunnd'. • Mìneachadh reachdail sam bith air 'leasachadh seasmhach'. • Builean Nàiseanta <p>Bidh cànan is cultar a’ cruthachadh fèin-spèis, ag àrach fèin-mhisneachd, a’ mìneachadh dearbh-aithne agus a’ leasachadh càileachd beatha. Tha e na phrionnsapal air leth cudromach do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig gur e còir dhaonna le bunait chànanaich a th’ anns a’ chòir an cànan a chleachdadh seach dìreach còir chultarail.</p> <p>Tha a’ Ghàidhlig na pàirt gun samhail de dhualchas na h-Alba. Bidh i a’ cur ri sunnd luchd-cleachdaidh, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taic na Gàidhlig. Tha Gàidhlig a’ cur gu math ris na tha na daoine sin a’ smaoinneachadh agus a’ faireachdainn mu am beatha.</p> <p>1) A bheil feum air mìneachadh reachdail air ‘sunnd’?</p> <p>Tha</p> <p>2. A bheil beachdan sam bith agaibh air mar a dh’fhaodte ‘sunnd’ a mhìneachadh gu soilleir ann an reachdas?</p> <p>Bu chòir don mhìneachadh air sunnd iomradh a thoirt air mar a tha cànan agus cultar sònraichte na Gàidhlig a’ cur ri sunnd dhaoine is choimhearsnachdan.</p> <p>Tha bunait fianais a’ sìor fhàs mun cheangal eadar Gàidhlig agus sunnd. Bha suirbhidh san aithisg <i>Gaelic Economy in Glasgow</i>⁵ a’ faighneachd mun Ghàidhlig agus mu shunnd.</p>	<p>contribution of Scotland’s unique Gaelic language and culture to wellbeing recognised in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any statutory definition of 'wellbeing'. • Any statutory definition of 'sustainable development'. • The National Outcomes. <p>Language and culture create self-esteem, nurture self-confidence, define identity and improve quality of life. It is an extremely important principle for Gaelic speakers that the right to use the language is a human right with a linguistic basis rather than simply a cultural one.</p> <p>Gaelic is a unique part of the heritage of Scotland. It increases wellbeing for Gaelic users, learners, and supporters. Gaelic contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.</p> <p>1) Is a statutory definition of 'wellbeing' required?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>2. Do you have any views on how ‘wellbeing’ can be clearly defined in legislation?</p> <p>The definition of wellbeing should include a reference to the contribution of the unique Gaelic language and culture to individuals’ and communities’ wellbeing.</p> <p>There is a growing evidence base of the link between Gaelic and wellbeing. The <i>Gaelic Economy in Glasgow</i> report¹² included a survey of individuals about Gaelic and wellbeing.</p>
---	---

5

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=57782&p=0#:~:text=The%20scope%20of%20the%20Gaelic,contribution%20of%20Gaelic%20to%20wellbeing.>

12

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=57782&p=0#:~:text=The%20scope%20of%20the%20Gaelic,contribution%20of%20Gaelic%20to%20wellbeing.>



Bòrd na Gàidhlig,
Taigh a’ Ghlinne Mhòir, Rathad na Leacainn,
Inbhir Nis, IV3 8NW

Bòrd na Gàidhlig,
Great Glen House, Leachkin Road,
Inverness, IV3 8NW

+44 [0] 1463 225454
oifis@gaidhlig.scot
www.gaidhlig.scot



<p>Chaidh iarraidh air luchd-fhreagairt measadh a dhèanamh air an ìre a tha a’ Ghàidhlig a’ cur rin sunnd fhèin is sunnd an teaghlach. B’ iad na cùisean far an robh an ceudad a bu mhotha de luchd-fhreagairt a’ nochdadh gun tug a’ Ghàidhlig buaidh <i>mhòr</i> air an sunnd: Barrachd mothachaidh air fèin-aithne phearsanta (58%); Barrachd ùidh ann an Alba agus/no barrachd pròis ann an Alba (56%); Barrachd pròis sa choimhearsnachd ionadail (50%); Barrachd toileachais (48%).</p> <p>Thuirt còrr is trì cairteal den luchd-fhreagairt gu robh buaidh na Gàidhlig <i>mòr no meadhanach mòr</i> a thaobh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrachd ùidh ann an Alba agus/no barrachd pròis ann an Alba. • Barrachd mothachaidh air fèin-aithne phearsanta. • Barrachd pròis sa choimhearsnachd ionadail. • Slàinte inntinn is sunnd nas fheàrr. • Barrachd toileachais. <p>Tha fios gum faod comas bruidhinn sa chànan a thaghas neach (m.e. Gàidhlig) cur gu mòr ri sunnd aig amannan tinneis no èiginn. Nì seo cuideachd cinnteach à làimhseachadh co-ionann.</p> <p>A thuilleadh air sin, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air maoinachadh a thoirt do sheiseanan <i>Còmhradhean Gàidhlig</i> a bhios daoine le Alzheimer’s a’ frithealadh. Bidh iad a’ cleachdadh cànan is òrain Ghàidhlig gus cuimhneachan a bhrosnachadh agus gus com-pàirtichean a chumail a’ bruidhinn, rud a chuireas ri sunnd⁶.</p> <p>3. A bheil feum air mìneachadh reachdail air ‘leasachadh seasmhach’?</p> <p>Tha</p>	<p>Respondents were asked to assess the scale of contribution that Gaelic has to their, and their family’s wellbeing. The aspects where the greatest percentage of respondents indicated that Gaelic had a <i>major</i> impact on their wellbeing were: Greater sense of own identity (58%); Increased interest in Scotland and/or increased pride in Scotland (56%); Greater pride in your local community (50%); Increased happiness (48%).</p> <p>More than three-quarters of respondents reported the impact of Gaelic as being either <i>major or moderate</i> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased interest in Scotland and/or increased pride in Scotland. • Greater sense of own identity. • Greater pride in your local community. • Improved mental health and wellbeing. • Increased happiness. <p>It is generally recognised that being able to converse in one’s chosen language (e.g. Gaelic) can be a great contributor to wellbeing at times of illness or distress. This also ensures equality of treatment.</p> <p>In addition, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has funded <i>Gaelic Conversations</i> sessions attended by people with Alzheimer’s. They use Gaelic language and song to prompt reminiscence and keep participants talking, enhancing their wellbeing¹³.</p> <p>3. Is a statutory definition of ‘sustainable development’ required?</p> <p>Yes</p>
--	--

⁶ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/National-conversation-dementia-strategy-BNG-Response-FINAL-ENG_GD.pdf

¹³ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/National-conversation-dementia-strategy-BNG-Response-FINAL-ENG_GD.pdf



5. A bheil beachdan eile bith agaibh air mar a dh'fhaodte 'leasachadh seasmhach' a mhìneachadh gu soilleir ann an reachdas?

Bu chòir don mhìneachadh air "leasachadh seasmhach" iomradh a thoirt air seasmhachd na Gàidhlig agus coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.

Tha seasmhachd agus fàs choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ag iarraidh gum bi iad ann an àiteachan soirbheachail far a bheil daoine airson fuireach: le taic, gu sònraichte, bho chosnadh air deagh phàigheadh, taigheadas aig prìs reusanta, còmhail mhath agus bun-structair math eile. Mar a tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig ag ràdh, tha "adhartas riatanach air tachairt a thaobh aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha cùisean eaconamach agus bun-structair don Ghàidhlig".

10. Dè na cùisean, ma tha gin ann, a dh'fhaodadh èirigh bho bhith a' neartachadh an fheum air aire a thoirt do na Builean Nàiseanta?

Nochdaidh e nach eil luaidh an-dràsta air cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig mar eileamaid de shunnd dhaoine fa-leth agus choimhearsnachdan anns na Builean Nàiseanta. Tha feum air iomradh mar seo a chur a-steach còmhla ri comharra iomchaidh. Shealladh seo spèis cho-ionann don Ghàidhlig agus don Bheurla, mar a tha ga iarraidh ann an dreachd Bhile nan Cànanan Albannach.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag obair a rèir Frèam-obrach Coileanadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba mar a' bhuidheann phoblach le uallach airson leasachadh cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig. Tha ar n-obair a' co-thaobhadh ris an Fhrèam-obrach Coileanadh Nàiseanta (NPF). Tha seo ri fhaicinn nar freagairt⁷ do cho-chomhairle Riaghaltas na h-Alba *National Performance Framework: Ambitions into Action*. Gach bliadhna bidh sinn ag aithris nar Aithisg Bhliadhnail agus Cunntasan, a tha gan cur air beulaibh na Pàrlamaid, air mar a bhios Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur ris an NPF.

5. Do you have other views on how 'sustainable development' can be clearly defined in legislation?

The definition of "sustainable development" should include a reference to the sustainability of the Gaelic language and Gaelic speaking communities.

The sustainability and growth of Gaelic communities requires them to be in thriving locations where people want to live: underpinned, in particular, by well-paid employment, affordable housing, good transport and other infrastructure. As the National Gaelic Language Plan notes there has been "essential progress in recognising the importance of economic and infrastructural factors for Gaelic".

10. What issues, if any, may result from strengthening the requirement to have regard to the National Outcomes?

It will highlight the current omission of Gaelic language and culture as an element of individual and community wellbeing within the National Outcomes. There is a need to include such a reference along with an appropriate indicator. This would demonstrate equal respect for Gaelic and the English language, as per the draft Scottish Languages Bill.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig operates within the Scottish Government Performance Framework as the public body responsible for the development of Gaelic language and culture. Our work is aligned to the National Performance Framework (NPF). This is shown in our response¹⁴ to Scottish Government's *National Performance Framework: Ambitions into Action* consultation. Each year we report in our Annual Report and Accounts, which are laid before Parliament, on how Bòrd na Gàidhlig contributes to the NPF.

⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Nat-Perform-FW-Ambitions-into-Action-Response-BNG-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Nat-Perform-FW-Ambitions-into-Action-Response-BNG-FINAL.pdf>



Ach, chan eil iomradh sònraichte sam bith air a' Ghàidhlig anns na Builean Nàiseanta gnàthach no anns na comharran airson gach tè dhiubh. Agus, tha dreachd Bhile nan Cànanan Albannach ag ràdh:

- “Tha inbhe oifigeil aig a’ Ghàidhlig ann an Alba”.
- Is e aon de dhleastanasan Bhòrd na Gàidhlig “dèanamh cinnteach gum faigh a’ Ghàidhlig an aon spèis ris a’ Bheurla”.

However, there are no specific references to the Gaelic language in either the current National Outcomes nor in the indicators for each one. However, the draft Scottish Languages Bill states that:

- “The Gaelic language has official status within Scotland”.
- One of the functions of Bòrd na Gàidhlig is “ensuring that the Gaelic language is treated with equal respect to the English language”.

