

<p>Meòrachan Ionmhais Bile nan Cànan Albannach</p> <p>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>01 Màrt 2024</p>	<p>Financial Memorandum of the Scottish Languages Bill</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response</p> <p>01 March 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><u>Freagairt</u></p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' chothrom freagairt a chur dhan cho-chomhairle air Meòrachan Ionmhais Bile nan Cànan Albannach.</p> <p>Tha am Meòrachan Ionmhais a' mìneachadh, ann am paragraf 6, "Is e Bile a tha seo gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil structar an sàs air feadh an riaghaltais agus Rianachd na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd gus feumalachdan choimhearsnachdan na Gàidhlig agus na Scots, agus feumalachdan na Gàidhlig is na Scots fhèin a choileanadh san àm ri teachd." Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' mhiann seo ach tha sinn teagmhach a bheil e comasach seo a choileanadh tron mhodail ionmhais làithreach.</p> <p>Tha na faclan a leanas ann am paragraf 8 sa Mheòrachan Ionmhais: "Tha caiteachas Riaghaltas na h-Alba airson na Gàidhlig agus na Scots air a bhith an ìre mhath seasmhach bho 2010/11."</p> <p>Tha cleachdadh an fhacail <i>seasmhach</i> sa cho-theacsa seo a' cur an inntinn dhaoine gun deach maoineachadh gu leòr a thoirt seachad gus amasan an Riaghaltais a choileanadh. Tha am maoineachadh a tha ri fhaighinn, agus dleastanas agus adhbhar Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, mar thoradh air Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005. Choimisean an Riaghaltas a bh' ann aig an àm sin comhairle agus</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><u>Response</u></p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome the opportunity to respond to the Financial Memorandum of the Scottish Languages Bill.</p> <p>The Financial Memorandum outlines, at paragraph 6, that "This is a Bill to ensure that there is a structure in place across government and the wider Scottish Administration to meet the needs of Gaelic and Scots communities and languages for the future." Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome this aspiration, however, we have concerns that this is achievable under the current financial model.</p> <p>At paragraph 8 in the Financial Memorandum it states that: "Scottish Government expenditure for Gaelic and Scots has remained relatively stable since 2010/11."</p> <p>The use of the word stable in this context implies that sufficient funding has been provided to achieve the aims of Government. The funding made available, and the role and purpose of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, are a result of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Government at the time commissioned advice that recommended that to deliver the requirements</p>

a rèir seo, bhiodh feum air riarachadh maoinachaidh bliadhnail de £10M do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig gus riatanasan Achd 2005 a libhrigeadh. Ann an 2007 b' e £5M am maoinachadh a chaidh a riarachadh, agus is e am maoinachadh seo a tha air fuireach aig an aon ìre bhon àm sin, le àrdachadh beag sealach aig diofar amannan gus cur ris a' phrìomh-shuim seo. Nam biodh an ìre maoinachaidh seo air a bhith air a chumail suas, airson a bhith a' gabhail a-steach àrdachaidheanri linn na h-atmhorachd, bhiodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' faighinn buidseit de £10M ann an 2024-25: dìreach a' coileanadh na h-ìre maoinachaidh tùsail a chaidh a mholadh às dèidh mu 20 bliadhna. Ged a bhiodh suidheachadh mar sin na bhriseadh dùil do na comhairlichean tùsail, bhiodh an suidheachadh an dà-rìribh na chùis eagail. Is e £5.125M am buidseat a chaidh a riarachadh do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig airson 2024-25, mu £5M goirid air a' mhaoineachadh a bhiodh ann nan deidheadh ìre maoinachaidh 2007 a chumail suas ris an atmhorachd. Nan robh am buidseat air atharrachadh a rèir na h-ìre as ìsle de dh'atmhorachd, gun a bhith a' faighinn tasgadh sam bith a bharrachd, bhiodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' faighinn timcheall air £8.5 millean sa bhliadhna, mar sin a h-uile bliadhna far a bheilear a' libhrigeadh buidseat gun atharrachadh, tha seo a' fàgail gum bi gearradh anns na goireasan a tha rim faotainn, rud a bheir buaidh shoilleir air feadh nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig. Gu sìmplidh, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' faighinn gearradh airgid nuair a thathar a' gabhail a-steach buaidh na h-atmhorachd.

A rèir earrann 13 den Mheòrachan Ionmhais "Is e a' phrìomh bhuaidh aig ullachaidhean a' Bhìle gluasad adhbharachadh ann an gnìomhachd, ath-riarachadh goireasan a thaobh obair agus aire. Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba den bheachd nach eil na h-ullachaidhean a' cruthachadh chosgaisean gu tur ùr no riatanas airson caitheamh gu tur ùr."

Thogadh Bòrd na Gàidhlig ceist an gabh reachdas sam bith a choileanadh gun mhaoineachadh ùr, gu h-àraidh reachdas a dh'atharraicheas gnìomhan bhuidhnean, anns an eisimpleir seo, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, agus a chuireas riatanasan ùra air buidhnean poblach, mar eisimpleir, a' stèidheachadh Sgìrean Cànan Sònraichte, agus a' stèidheachadh mhodhan sgrùdaidh airson a bhith

of the 2005 Act would require an annual funding allocation of £10M to Bòrd na Gàidhlig. In 2007 the funding allocated was £5M, and it is this funding that has remained static since that time, with minor one-off increases at various points to supplement this core amount. If this funding level had been maintained, to take account of increases in costs, Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be in line for a budget of £10M in 2024-25: only achieving the initial recommended level of funding after a period of some 20 years. While such a scenario would be disappointing enough to the initial advisers, the actual position currently faced by BnG would be frankly alarming. The budget allocated to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for 2024-25, at £5.125M, is some £5M short of the funding that would be available had the 2007 level of funding been maintained. Adjusting the budget for the lowest calculation of inflation as opposed to any additional investment, Bòrd na Gàidhlig should be receiving in the region of £8.5 million a year, therefore every year where a standstill budget is delivered reflects a real-terms cut in available resources, the impact of which is felt across Gaelic speaking communities. Simply, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is receiving a real-terms cut in funding.

The Financial Memorandum in section 13 states, "The main impact of the Bill provisions is a shift in activity, a repurposing of resources in terms of effort and attention. The Scottish Government considers that provisions do not create wholly new costs or a requirement for wholly new spend."

Bòrd na Gàidhlig would question whether any legislation can be achieved without new spend, particularly legislation which changes the functions of organisations, in this instance Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and places new requirements on public bodies, for example by introducing Areas of Linguistic Significance, and establishing monitoring procedures for enforcement of language standards and the proposed National Gaelic Language Strategy. Any resource requirement for implementing the Bill would



a' cur an gnìomh inbhean cànan agus Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a thathar a' moladh. Dh'fheumadh goireasan sam bith a tha a dhìth gus am Bile a chur an gnìomh a bhith air a thoirt seachad leis an Riaghaltas leis nach eil sùbailteachd ann am buidseatan leasachaidh a tha gu math cuingealaichte mar-thà. Tha obair-leasachadh na Gàidhlig a' lùghdachadh aig an àm seo, le fìor dhroch bhuaidh air ar coimhearsnachdan, mar thoradh air lùghdachadh ann am maoinachadh do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig.

Gus am feum as fheàrr a dhèanamh den tasgadh ann an iomairtean leasachaidh Gàidhlig le Bòrd na Gàidhlig tha sinn air a bhith ag obair le Coimhearsnachdan agus Prìomh Bhuidhnean Lìbhrigidh gus dòigh-obrach nas ro-innleachdaile a chruthachadh a thaobh cleachdadh nan stòrasan a tha ri fhaighinn. Tha fòcas aig seo air sgìrean far a bheilear an dùil gun tèid an comharrachadh mar Sgìrean Cànan Sònraichte. Tha an obair seo air deagh adhartas a dhèanamh agus mar thoradh air seo chaidh fianais a chruthachadh a thaobh na h-ìre de thasgadh a dh'fheumar gus leasachadh a thoirt air adhart ann an dòigh ro-innleachdail èifeachdach. Am measg nam prìomh leasachaidhean a rinneadh, chaidh aontaidhean maoinachaidh ioma-bliadhna a thoirt a-steach airson Prìomh Bhuidhnean Lìbhrigidh stèidhichte air planaichean gnìomhachais, tabhartasan coimhearsnachd beaga gan libhrigeadh thar 2 bhliadhna gus buaidh àrdachadh agus ath-sgrùdadh air Oifigearan Leasachaidh Gàidhlig stèidhichte sa Choimhearsnachd ann an coimhearsnachdan air am maoinachadh san dà 2 bhliadhna mu dheireadh le maoinachadh a bharrachd ri fhaighinn leis an Riaghaltas. Ged a dh'fheumas buidseatan leasachaidh airson 2024-25 a bhith air an cumail ris an £3.491M anns an Tabhartas-gus-Cuideachadh a thathar a' toirt dhan Bhòrd, tha e soilleir bhon iarrtas aithnichte gum biodh feum air £3M a bharrachd ann an 2024-25 gus na feumalachdan a chaidh a chomharrachadh airson na bliadhna a tha romhainn a choileanadh.

Tha am Bile a' moladh a bhith a' sònrachadh Sgìrean Cànan Sònraichte agus thathar a' cur fàilte air seo. Bidh feum air tasgadh a bharrachd anns na sgìrean sin, ge-tà, ma tha an iomairt seo gu bhith susbainteach, seach dìreach a bhith na ainm. Tha an iomairt seo a' dol gu math leis an

have to be provided from the Government as there is no flexibility in currently heavily constrained development budgets. Gaelic development is currently declining with a significant negative impact on our communities, due to reductions in funding to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

To maximise the effectiveness of the investment in Gaelic Development initiatives by Bòrd na Gàidhlig we have been working with Communities and Key Delivery Bodies to develop a more strategic approach to the utilisation of the investment funding available. The focus of this has been within areas which would be expected to be designated as Areas of Linguistic Significance. This work has progressed well and has resulted in the provision of evidence to support the level of investment required to progress development in an effective strategic manner. Key developments undertaken include the introduction of multi-year funding agreements for Key Delivery Bodies based on business plans, small community grants being delivered over a 2-year period to increase impact and a review of the Community based Gaelic Development Officers in communities funded over the past 2 years with additional funding made available by Government. While development budgets to be allocated for 2024-25 have had to be limited to the £3.491M available in the Grant in Aid being provided, the known demand makes it clear that an additional £3M would be required in 2024-25 to meet the needs that have been identified for the year ahead.

The Bill proposes the designation of Areas of Linguistic Significance, and this is welcomed. There will however be a need for additional investment in these areas if this initiative is to be anything other than a descriptive label. The initiative links well with the work already underway to develop Community based Gaelic Language Plans. This has also been identified as a priority in the National Gaelic Language Plan. The Plans themselves will also require investment funding to be put into effect.



obair a tha a' dol air adhart mar-thà gus Planaichean Gàidhlig stèidhichte sa Choimhearsnachd a chruthachadh. Chaidh seo a chomharrachadh mar phrìomhachas ann am Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig cuideachd. Bidh na Planaichean fhèin cuideachd feumach air maoinachadh tasgaidh gus an cur an gnìomh.

Tha Ionadan/Co-ionadan Gàidhlig a' sìor fhàs nas cudromaiche ann an Coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig cuideachd agus tha seo na eileamaid bhuntainneach de bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil Sgìrean Cànan Sònraichte buadh-mhor. Bidh feum air tasgadh leantainneach a bharrachd anns na h-Ionadan/co-ionadan sin, a bharrachd air a' mhaoinachadh a th' aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig aig an àm seo. Feumar an tasgadh anns na h-ìomairtean a thoirt air adhart ann an dòigh bhrioghmhor bho 2025-26 agus ghabhadh a' bheàrn a tha air fhàgail de £2M a thasgadh gus na feumalachdan a bharrachd a chaidh a chomharrachadh le coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig a thoirt air adhart bho sin a-mach.

Bu toil le Bòrd na Gàidhlig a ràdh a-rithist gur e stòras sòisealta, coimhearsnachd, cultarail agus eaconamach a th' anns a' Ghàidhlig a tha na bhuannachd do dh'Alba air fad. Tha tasgadh sa Ghàidhlig a' cur ri targaidhean poileasaidh nas fharsainge ris a bheil an Riaghaltas airson dèiligeadh, leithid crìonadh-sluaigh air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus sna Eileanan agus fàs eaconamach ann an coimhearsnachdan cugallach, a bharrachd air raon farsaing de thargaidhean foghlaim, sòisealta, eaconamach agus cultarail. Gus a làn bhuidh a choileanadh, feumaidh taic a bhith aig a' Ghàidhlig air feadh an Riaghaltais le maoinachadh cothromach a tha a rèir dleastanasan reachdail Bhòrd na Gàidhlig.

The growing significance of Gaelic Centres/hubs within Gaelic Communities is also a relevant element in making areas of linguistic significance impactful. Additional ongoing investment will be required in these Centres/hubs, beyond the funding which is currently available to Bòrd na Gàidhlig. These initiatives will require investment from 2025-26 to be progressed in a meaningful way and the remaining shortfall of £2M per annum could be usefully deployed to meet the additional identified needs of Gaelic communities from that point.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig would like to reiterate that Gaelic is a social, community, cultural and economic asset that benefits all of Scotland. Investment in Gaelic contributes to the wider policy targets which Government are seeking to address, such as depopulation in the Highlands and Islands and economic growth in fragile communities, as well as a wide range of education, social, economic and cultural targets. In order to achieve its potential impact it must be supported across Government with fair and equitable funding and commensurate with the statutory responsibilities of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

