

<p>Co-chomhairleachadh Riaghaltas na Rìoghachd Aonaichte air Cunradh air Barantachadh Dualchais Chultaraich Neo-stuthaich 2003</p> <p>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>29 Gearran 2024</p>	<p>UK Government Consultation on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>29 February 2024</p>
<p>Ro-ràdh</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</p>	<p>Introduction</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 2023-28⁷ 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,</p>

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

⁷ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FINAL_BnG_National_Gaelic_Language_Plan_ENGLISH.pdf

dèidh na sgoile agus beatha phoblach na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd.

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, no àite far a bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, no àite far a bheil gnìomhachd cudromach co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig neo cultar na Gàidhlig.

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.

education, post-school learning and Scottish public life generally.

The draft Scottish Languages Bill⁸ 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”⁹. These are areas where at least 20% of its population has Gaelic language skills, or is an area historically connected with the use of Gaelic, or is one where there is Gaelic-medium education, or is one where there is significant activity relating to Gaelic language or Gaelic culture.

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.

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/>

⁸ <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-languages-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-languages-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>



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 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 a’ Ghàidhlig na maoin chultarach sònraichte agus na prìomh phàirt de dhearbh-aithne chultarach na h-Alba. Bidh iomadh cruth traidiseanta agus ealain Albannach a’ tarraing air cultar na Gàidhlig, ged nach bi iad uile air an cur an cèill sa Ghàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir, bidh iomadh còmhlan pìoba, còmhlan-ciùil folk, buidhnean dannsa Gàidhealach, Geamaichean Gàidhealach agus cèilidhean a’ tarraing air cultar agus dualchas na Gàidhlig.

Tha an t-**iarrtas 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 Alba⁴ gu bheil:

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 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”.

Gaelic is a unique cultural asset and a major part of Scottish cultural identity. Many traditional and new forms of Scottish arts draw upon Gaelic culture, although not all will be expressed in the Gaelic language. For example, many pipe bands, folk bands, Highland dancing groups, Highland Games and cèilidhs will draw upon Gaelic culture and heritage.

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, a multi-media course for Gaelic learners, 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 research report ‘Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland’,¹⁰ found that:

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

¹⁰ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/news/SSAS/>



- Gàidhlig a’ cur ri sunnd, le 70% de dh’inbich 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.

- 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 previous decade.
- Some 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland’s cultural heritage.

Freagairt

1. Airson gach slat-tomhais, innis a bheil sibh

a. **Tha feum ann gu bheilear a’ cleachdadh an Dualchais Chultaraich Neo-stuthaich an-dràsta**

Ag aontachadh gu làidir

b. **Faodaidh an Dualchas Cultarach Neo-stuthach tighinn bho àm sam bith**

Ag aontachadh gu làidir

c. **Faodaidh an Dualchas Cultarach Neo-stuthach tighinn bho àite sam bith o thùs**

Ag aontachadh gu làidir

d. **Feumaidh an Dualchas Cultarach Neo-stuthach a bhith na chleachdadh beò agus chan urrainn dha a bhith na bhathar no na oibseact**

Ag aontachadh

Beachdan sam bith eile

Tha feum ann air barrachd soilleireachd a thaobh an t-suidheachaidh aig cànanan mar phàirt de Dhualchas Cultarach Neo-stuthach. Gu sònraichte, thathar ag ràdh “Chan eil dleastanas poileasaidh aig DCMS” airson chànanan. Tha Comataidh DCMS aig Pàrlamaid na Rìoghachd Aonaichte “a’ gabhail os làimh rannsachaidhean air cùisean a tha taobh a-staigh an raon-ùghdarras aca”.⁵ Tha sin a’

Response

1. For each of the criteria, please indicate whether you:

a. **The Intangible Cultural Heritage must be currently practised Strongly**

Agree

b. **The Intangible Cultural Heritage can be from any time Strongly Agree**

c. **The Intangible Cultural Heritage can originate from anywhere Strongly Agree**

d. **The Intangible Cultural Heritage must be a living practice and can not be a material product or object**

Agree

Additional comments

There is a need for greater clarity regarding the position of language vis a vis Intangible Cultural Heritage. In particular, it is stated that “DCMS does not hold policy responsibility” for language. The UK Parliament’s DCMS Committee “conducts inquiries into areas of current interest within its remit”¹¹.

⁵ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/378/culture-media-and-sport-committee/role/>

¹¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/378/culture-media-and-sport-committee/role/>



gabhaill a-steach an rannsachadh làithrich aca air Mion-chànanan, a tha a’ dèiligeadh ri “An t-àm ri teachd airson mion-chànanan ann an Eileanan Bhreatainn agus dreuchd an Riaghaltais ann a bhith a’ toirt taic dhaibh agus gan leasachadh”⁶ (a’ gabhaill a-steach Gàidhlig agus Albais). Chan eil e soilleir carson a tha a’ Chomataidh a’ gabhaill os làimh leithid a rannsachadh ma tha dleastanas airson chànanan aig pàirt eile de Riaghaltas na Rìoghachd Aonaichte. A bharrachd air sin, tha an Rìoghachd Aonaichte na soidhniche do chùmhnanntan leithid Cairt Eòrpach airson Cànanan Roinneil agus Mion-chànanan aig Comhairle na h-Eòrpa, a tha a’ cur dleastanas air an Rìoghachd Aonaichte (agus chan ann dìreach air na rianachdan tiomnaichte) a thaobh mion-chànanan tùsanach na Rìoghachd Aonaichte. Cuideachd, ’s ann air Pàrlamaid na Rìoghachd Aonaichte a-mhàin a tha an t-uallach airson chùisean leithid craoladh, agus mar sin airson craoladh ann an cànanan leithid Gàidhlig, Gaeilge agus Cuimris.

Ach, tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air gu bheil an sgrìobhainn a’ dèanamh iomraidhean eile air an dreuchd chudromaich a tha aig cànan a thaobh dualchas cultarach neo-stuthach, a’ gabhaill a-steach Gàidhlig.

2. A bheil slatan-tomhais sam bith eile ann a bu chòir, nur beachd-sa, a bhith air an cur ris?

Gun fhreagairt

3. A bheil sibh a’ toirt taic do riochdachadh choimhearsnachdan mar bhun-bheachd?

Ag aontachadh gu làidir

Beachdan sam bith eile

That includes the current Minority Languages Inquiry which covers “The future of minority languages in the British Isles and the Government’s role in supporting and developing them”¹² (including Scots Gaelic). It is unclear why the Committee is conducting such an inquiry if responsibility for language rests with a different part of the UK Government. Furthermore, the UK is a party to treaties such as the Council of Europe’s European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and its Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which create obligations for the UK (and not just the devolved administrations) in relation to the UK’s autochthonous minority languages. Also, the UK Parliament has sole responsibility for matters such as broadcasting, and therefore for minority language broadcasting in languages such as Scottish Gaelic, Irish and Welsh.

However, we welcome the other references in the document to the important role of language vis a vis Intangible Cultural Heritage including Scottish Gaelic.

2. Are there any criteria in addition to the above that should be added in your view?

No response

3. Are you supportive of the concept of community representation?

Strongly Agree

Additional comments

⁶ <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7208/minority-languages/>

¹² <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7208/minority-languages/>



Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air na còig roinnean-seòrsa/àrainnean agus gu bheilear a' dèanamh iomradh air "traidiseanan beòil agus gnàthasan-cainnte, a' gabhail a-steach cànan mar inneal-giùlain airson dualchas cultarach neo-stuthach".

Tha eisimpleirean de dhualchas cultarach Gàidhlig a' gabhail a-steach:

- Na h-ealain thaisbeanail – dannsa ceum traidiseanta na h-Alba, seanchas traidiseanta Gàidhlig, seinn, ceòl.
- Cleachdaidhean sòisealta, deas-ghnàthan, agus tachartasan fèiseil - fèisean (*tachartasan ealain is cultar traidiseanta na Gàidhlig*), am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail, Ceòlas, Seachdain na Gàidhlig.
- Ciùird thraidiseanta - dèanamh a' Chlò Hearaich.

Is dòcha gun deach na sgilean agus ealantas seo ionnsachadh bho chuideigin eile sa choimhearsnachd ionadail, nì a tha a' ciallachadh gu bheil a' ghnìomhachd neo-stuthach.

4. Dè ur beachd air na còig roinnean-seòrsa?

- **traidiseanan beòil agus gnàthasan-cainnte, a' gabhail a-steach cànan mar inneal-giùlain airson dualchas cultarach neo-stuthach**
Ag aontachadh gu làidir
- **na h-ealain thaisbeanail**
Ag aontachadh gu làidir
- **cleachdaidhean sòisealta, deas-ghnàthan, agus tachartasan fèiseil**
Ag aontachadh gu làidir
- **eòlas agus cleachdaidhean a thaobh nàdar agus an domhain**
Ag aontachadh gu làidir

We welcome the five categories/"domains" and the reference to "oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage".

Examples of Gaelic-based cultural heritage include:

- Performing arts – Scottish traditional step dancing, traditional Gaelic storytelling, singing, music.
- Social practices, rituals, and festive events - fèisean (*traditional Gaelic arts and culture festivals*), Royal National Mòd, Ceòlas, Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week).
- Traditional craftsmanship - Harris Tweed making.

These are skills and know-how which will probably have been learned from someone else in the local community, which makes the activity intangible.

4. What are your views on the 5 categories?

- **oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage** Strongly Agree
- **performing arts** Strongly Agree
- **social practices, rituals and festive events** Strongly Agree
- **knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe** Strongly Agree



- **ciùird thraidiseanta**
Ag aontachadh gu làidir

5. Dè ur beachd air Geamaichean is spòrs traidiseanta mar roinn-sheòrsa a bharrachd?

Ag aontachadh gu làidir

Beachdan sam bith eile:

Tha camanachd na deagh eisimpleir de spòrs Gàidhlig. Tha am fiosrachadh a leanas ga thoirt bho <https://cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/heritage/the-story-of-shinty/>

Tha camanachd na spòrs beòthail traidiseanta far a bheilear a' cleachdadh caman agus ball, agus thathar ga cluiche air feadh na h-Alba ach is dòcha gu sònraichte air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus Costa an Iar. Tha freumhan coitcheann aig camanachd agus iomain Èireannach, agus thathar a' smaointinn gun tugadh an spòrs a dh'Alba à Èirinn sa chiad mhìle bliadhna leis na Gàidheil a thug leotha a' Ghàidhlig fhèin. Dh'fhaodte gur e camanachd aon de na spòrsan as sine a thathar fhathast a' cluiche ann an Alba an-diugh.

Mar ghnìomhachd chultarail, tha camanachd ga ceangal gu làidir ri iomadh taobh eile de chultar na Gàidhealtachd, leithid ceòl, bàrdachd agus òrain. 'S i a' Ghàidhlig cànan na camanachd gun teagamh, agus gu h-eachdraidheil b' ann à coimhearsnachdan na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean a bha an dà chuid na cluicheadairean agus an luchd-coimhid, agus tha mòran den bhriathrachas a tha co-cheangailte ris a' ghèama, agus a tha gan cleachdadh fhathast an-diugh, ann an Gàidhlig.

6. Dè ur beachd air Traidiseanan còcaireachd mar roinn-sheòrsa a bharrachd?

Gun fhreagairt

- **traditional craftsmanship**
Strongly Agree

5. What are your views on the additional category of Traditional games and sports?

Strongly Agree

Additional comments:

A good Gaelic example of this would be the sport of shinty. The following information is taken from <https://cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/heritage/the-story-of-shinty/>

Shinty is a spirited traditional sport utilising a curved stick and ball which is played all across Scotland but, perhaps most prominently, in the Highlands and West Coast. It has common roots with the Irish Gaelic sport of hurling, and is thought to have been brought to Scotland from Ireland in the first millennium by the Gaels who brought the Gaelic language itself. It may well be one of the oldest sports still being played in Scotland today.

As a cultural activity, shinty is strongly linked with many other aspects of traditional Highland culture such as music, poetry, and song. Gaelic is undoubtedly the language of shinty, where historically both players and spectators alike were native speakers from Highland and Island communities, and many of the terms now associated with the game, and which are still used today, are in the language.

6. What are your views on the additional category of Culinary traditions / knowledge?

No response



7. Nur beachd-sa, am bu chòir barrachd roinnean-seòrsa a bhith ann? Ma bu chòir, dè na roinnean-seòrsa eile a dh'iarradh sibh a bhith ann?

Gun fhreagairt

8. A bheil sibh a' toirt taic don mhodh-obrach a thathar a' moladh airson pròiseas aontaidhean?

Gun fhreagairt

9. A bheil sibh a' toirt taic don mhodh-obrach a thathar a' moladh airson lèirmheas a dhèanamh air a' mhaoin-chunntas?

Gun fhreagairt

10. Beachdan sam bith eile

'S e briseadh-dùil a th' ann gun robhar, airson co-chomhairleachadh a tha a' buntainn ri co-phàirtean na Rìoghachd Aonaichte, a' tairgse suirbhidh sa Chuimris ach cha robhar ga tairgse sa Ghàidhlig.

7. In your view, should there be any additional categories? If so, what categories would you want included?

No response

8. Are you supportive of our intended approach to the approvals process?

No response

9. Are you supportive of our intended approach to reviewing the inventory?

No response

10. Other comments

It is disappointing that for a consultation which affects the constituent parts of the UK that a survey in the Welsh language was included but that there is no such survey provided in Scottish Gaelic.

