

Consultation: Ofcom's Plan of Work 2025/26

Question 1: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposed Work Plan for 2025/26?

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development, including providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome the opportunity to comment on Ofcom's Plan of Work for 25/26. We understand the importance of the review of PSM but do not feel that simply 'taking account' of MG ALBA's role in providing Gaelic language content in partnership with the BBC shows any recognition by Ofcom of how urgent the situation is for Gaelic media.

As you should be aware, MG ALBA, and other key media and language representatives, have been working tirelessly to engage all the key stakeholders to achieve a fair and sustainable solution. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has been happy to support them in their work, as a thriving Gaelic media is essential to ensuring a thriving language in the modern world. Minority languages in the UK deserve parity of provision, and this is clearly not the case for Gaelic in terms of media and must be addressed.

It is time that Gaelic language media was reviewed by Ofcom, with a commitment to ensuring it is fit for purpose and sustainable so it can properly serve those who need and rely on it. I would welcome direct engagement with Ofcom on this issue and hope to see the plan of work amended.