

<p>Comataidh DCMS gus sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air slàinte agus àm ri teachd mion-chànanan</p> <p>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>01 Màrt 2023</p>	<p>DCMS Committee to examine health and future of minority languages</p> <p>Bòrd Na Gàidhlig Response</p> <p>01 March 2023</p>
<p>RO-RÀDH</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 Cànan 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-mhaoin 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>INTRODUCTION</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 2018-23¹⁰ 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 realising the economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. That will be through increased use of Gaelic as an economic asset. 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>

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

¹⁰ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

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 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.

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.

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 cur air bhog goireas craolaidh agus teagaisg air-loidhne SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh’inbhidh a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.

Fhuair “Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a’ Ghàidhlig”, gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012,

- 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%.

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.

Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. About 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. 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. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic, and social benefits.

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.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake for the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Scottish Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The launch of the broadcast and online teaching resource - SpeakGaelic in September 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language.

The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland” found that since 2012:

- 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%.

Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland’s cultural heritage.



Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fianais a-steach don rannsachadh seo oir tha sinn airson ar n-eòlas ann an leasachadh mhion-chànanan a cho-roinn agus mar sin am bunait fianais airson leasachadh poileasaidh a neartachadh.

GEÀRR-IOMRADH

Prìomh Fhactaran a Dhearbas am bi Mion-chànan Dùthchasach a' Soirbheachadh:

- Tha reachdas / taic riaghaltais ann.
- Gu bheil inbhe oifigeil aig a' chànan.
- Deagh bheachd poblach air a' chànan.
- Tha plana soilleir ann airson a chànan a leasachadh.
- Sgaoileadh eadar-ginealaich soirbheachail.
- Tha feum aig cànan soirbheachail air àrainneachd eaconamach math.
- A' toirt seachad diofar dhòighean-obrach airson diofar choimhearsnachdan.
- Raon a tha a' sìor fhàs de thoraidhean mheadhanan sa chànan.
- Foillseachadh buaidhean eaconamach agus cothroman eaconamach bho bhith a' cleachdadh a' chànan.
- Tha an cànan air a chomharrachadh agus air a bhrosnachadh mar chànan a tha a' cur ri beairteas agus iomadachd dùthaich.
- Tha buannachdan dà-chànanais air am brosnachadh.
- Tha comas aig neach an cànan a chleachdadh aig amannan sònraichte nam bheatha.

Dè Na Leasan A Ghabhas Ionnsachadh Bho Dhùthchannan Far A Bheil An Sluagh A' Faighinn Fileantachd Farsaing Ann An Cànan A' Mhòir-Chuid Agus Mion-Cànan Dùthchasach?

Ann an cuid no fiù 's iomadh cùis faodaidh an dùbhlann a bhith nas motha mu bhith a' stad agus a' cur cùl ri crìonadh ann an cleachdadh mion-chànan - seach a bhith

Bòrd na Gàidhlig are submitting evidence to this inquiry because we wish to share our knowledge and experience in minority language development and thus strengthen the evidence base for policy development.

SUMMARY

Key Factors Determining Whether an Indigenous Minority Language Thrives:

- There is governmental legislation/support.
- That the language has official status.
- Positive public perceptions of the language.
- There is a clear plan for development of the language.
- Successful inter-generational transmission.
- A thriving language requires a good economic environment.
- Providing different approaches for different communities.
- An increasing range of media output in the language.
- Publicising the economic impacts and economic opportunities from using the language.
- The language is celebrated and promoted as adding to the richness and diversity of a country.
- The benefits of bilingualism are promoted.
- A person is able to use the language at salient times in their life.

What Lessons Can Be Learned From Countries Whose Populations Achieve Widespread Fluency In Both A Majority And Indigenous Minority Language?

In some or even many cases the challenge can be more about arresting and reversing a decline in use of a minority language - rather than it



a' faighinn fileantachd fad is farsaing a tha na amas fada nas fhaide.

Bu chòir a bhith mothachail gu bheil gach dùthaich eadar-dhealaichte. Ann an cuid de dhùthchannan tha mion-chànanan an ìre mhath coltach ris a' phrìomh chànan a thathar a' bruidhinn an sin. Anns na cùisean sin, tha e nas fhasa mion-chànan ionnsachadh agus a chumail.

Tha cuid de na factaran a chaidh a chomharrachadh nar freagairt do Cheist 1 cuideachd a' buntainn a thaobh a bhith a' brosnachadh fileantachd fad is farsaing, gu sònraichte:

- Misneachd coimhearsnachd - i.e., a' cur luach air a' chànan.
- Taic oifigeil.

Dè Na Slatan-Tomhais A Bu Chòir A Bhith Ann Airson Breithneachadh Am Bu Chòir Do Mhion-Chànan Inbhe Oifigeil Fhaighinn

- Gu sònraichte, is e cànan dùthchasach a th' ann.
- An àireamh de dhaoine a chleachdas a' chànan gu cunbhalach.
- An ùine a chaidh an cànan a chleachdadh.
- Tha eachdraidh bheirteach agus dualchas cultarail aig a' mhion-chànan a bu chòir a ghleidheadh.
- Gu bheil an cànan air a ghabhail a-steach sa Chairt Eòrpach airson Cànanan Roinneil no Mion-chànanan.

Dè An Dleastanas A Bu Chòir A Bhith Aig Riaghaltas Na Ra Ann A Bhith A' Toirt Taic Do Agus A' Leasachadh Mhion-Chànanan Dùthchasach?

Bi na soidhniche do Chùmhnant UNESCO airson Dìon Dualchas Cultarach Neo-bheanailteach. Bheireadh seo seachad frèam cruinneil a bheir taic do gach mion-chànan dùthchasach na RA agus a bheireadh slatan-tomhais inbhe, aithne agus taic eadar-nàiseanta seachad.

achieving widespread fluency which is more of a much longer term goal.

It should be appreciated that each country is different. In some countries minority languages are relatively similar to the main language spoken there. In those cases, learning and retaining a minority language is easier.

Some of the factors noted in our response to Question 1 also apply in terms of encouraging widespread fluency, notably:

- Community confidence- i.e., positively valuing the language.
- Official support.

What Should Be the Criteria For Judging Whether A Minority Language Should Receive Official Status

- In particular, it being an indigenous language.
- The number of people who use the language regularly.
- The length of time the language has been used.
- The minority language having a rich history and cultural heritage which should be preserved.
- That the language is included in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

What Should Be The Role Of The UK Government In Supporting And Developing Indigenous Minority Languages?

Become a signatory to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding for the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This would provide a global framework which supports each of the minority indigenous languages of the UK and provide international standards of status, recognition and support.



Bu chòir do gach Roinn de Riaghaltas na RA aig a bheil raon-ùghdarras na h-Alba beachdachadh air dè dh'fhaodadh iad a dhèanamh gus taic a thoirt do Phlana Cànain Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, a rèir a' phoileasaidh làithreach a tha coltach nach eil a' buntainn ach ris a' Chuimris a-mhàin.

Tha feum air reachdas air feadh na RA airson mion-chànanan gus am bi Roinnean agus seirbheisean iomchaidh aig Riaghaltas na RA (m.e., DVLA) rim faighinn ann an Cuimris, Gàidhlig na h-Alba agus Gàidhlig na h-Èirinn. Nì sin cinnteach gum bi spèis cho-ionann aig gach aon de na trì mion-chànanan ris a' Bheurla.

Ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air poileasaidh maoin eachaidh Riaghaltas na RA airson MG ALBA (a tha a' libhrigeadh mheadhanan Gàidhlig thar raon de àrd-ùrlaran) agus ath-sgrùdadh gus am bi e cothromach a rèir nam modalan a tha ag obair airson craoladh Cuimris is Gàidhlig na h-Èirinn.

Ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air na slatan-tomhais airson Maoin Levelling Up Riaghaltas na RA gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid dèiligeadh gu cothromach ri pròiseactan cultarail agus eile a tha a' toirt taic dhìreach do mhion-chànanan dùthchasach na RA.

Leis gu bheil an RA a' cur ainm ris a' Chairt Eòrpach airson Mion-chànanan is Cànanan nas Lugha air an Cleachdadh, bu chòir do Riaghaltas na RA mothachadh a thogail mu mhion-chànanan na RA a tha air an gabhail a-steach sa Chairt agus taic a thoirt do bharrachd chothroman airson an ionnsachadh.

1) DÈ NA PRÌOMH FHACTARAN A DHEARBHAS AM BI MION-CHÀNAN DÙTHCHASACH A' SOIRBHEACHADH?

Tha Reachdas / Taic Riaghaltais Ann.

Chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) aontachadh ann an 2005. B' e aon de na h-amasan aige buidheann a stèidheachadh aig an robh gnìomhan a ghabhas coileanadh le sùil ri inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tèarainte mar chànan oifigeil na h-Alba aig a bheil spèis co-ionann ris a' Bheurla.

Tha sin tro:

Each of the UK Government Departments whose remit includes Scotland should consider what they could do to support the National Gaelic Language Plan, in the light of the current policy which appears to only apply to the Welsh language.

There is a need for UK-wide legislation for minority languages so that relevant UK Government Departments and services (e.g., DVLA) are available in Welsh, Gaelic and Irish. That will ensure that each of the three minority languages commands equal respect to English.

To review current UK Government funding policy for MG ALBA (which delivers Gaelic language media across a range of platforms) and revise so that it is equitable in light of the models that operate for Welsh and Irish language broadcasting.

Review the criteria for UK Government's Levelling Up Fund to ensure equitable treatment of cultural and other projects that directly support UK indigenous minority languages.

As the UK is a signatory to the European Charter for Minority and Lesser Used Languages, the UK Government should raise awareness of the UK's minority languages that are included in the Charter and support more opportunities for learning them.

1) WHAT ARE THE KEY FACTORS DETERMINING WHETHER AN INDIGENOUS MINORITY LANGUAGE THRIVES?

There is Governmental Legislation/Support

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act was passed in 2005. One of its purposes was to establish a body having functions exercisable with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.



- A' meudachadh na h-àireimh de dhaoine a tha comasach air a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh agus a thuigsinn.
- A' brosnachadh cleachdadh agus tuigse na Gàidhlig.
- A' cuideachadh le ruigsinneachd, ann an Alba agus àiteachan eile, air a' Ghàidhlig agus cultar na Gàidhlig.

'S e Bòrd na Gàidhlig am buidheann a chaidh a stèidheachadh, a tha air a mhaoineachadh le Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

Gu Bheil Inbhe Oifigeil Aig A' Chànan.

Ann an Alba chaidh seo a choileanadh tro aontachadh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005. Tha inbhe oifigeil a' nochdadh spèis an Riaghaltais agus a' chomainn do chànan. Tha e cuideachd a' cur taic ri barrachd cleachdaidh agus faicsinneachd a' chànan tro bhith ga chleachdadh, mar eisimpleir, le daoine nan eadar-obrachadh le buidhnean poblach, air soidhnichean, agus barrachd dhaoine a' cluinntinn na Gàidhlig ga chleachdadh. Le bhith cuideachd a' toirt taic do sholar foghlaim tha e a' toirt taic do thogail agus ionnsachadh a tha deatamach airson a' chànan a shoirbheachadh.

Deagh Bheachd Poblach Air A' Chànan.

Tha beachdan sòisealta a thaobh cànan cudromach. Bidh iad a' toirt buaidh air beachdan dhaoine eile air luach a' chànan, air na daoine a tha ga chleachdadh, agus air an luach ann a bhith ga ionnsachadh. Tha toraidhean Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba a chithear nar Ròradh a' nochdadh mar a tha cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a' sìor fhàs agus cho cudromach sa tha i mar chànan. Ach, tha beagan gnàth-ìomhaigh àicheil ann fhathast a thaobh luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig.

Gus soirbheachadh, feumaidh iarrtas, agus deòntas bruidhinn, a bhith ann airson a' chànan, a' gabhail a-steach buill na coimhearsnachd aig a bheil deagh bheachd a thaobh a' chànan aca fhèin – m.e. a bheil iad moiteil às a' chànan?

That is through:

- Increasing the number of persons who are able to use and understand the Gaelic language.
- Encouraging the use and understanding of the Gaelic language.
- Facilitating access, in Scotland and elsewhere, to the Gaelic language and Gaelic culture.

The body that was established is Bòrd na Gàidhlig, which is funded by Scottish Government.

That The Language Has Official Status

In Scotland this was achieved through the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Official status demonstrates Government and society's regard for a language. It also supports increased use and visibility of the language through it being used, for example, by individuals in their interactions with public bodies, on signage, and more people hearing Gaelic used. By also supporting education provision it supports acquisition and learning which is vital for the language to thrive.

Positive Public Perceptions of the Language

Social attitudes towards a language are important. They affect others' views of the value of the language, of the people who use it, and the worth in learning it. The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey findings shown in our Introduction are indicative of the increasing use of Gaelic and its increasing importance as a language. However, there still remains some negative stereotyping of users of Gaelic.

To thrive, there must be demand for, and a willingness to speak, the language including community members having a positive attitude toward their own language - e.g., are they proud of the language?



Tha Plana Soilleir Ann Airson A Chànain A Leasachadh.

Gus soirbheachadh, feumaidh gnìomhan a bhith ann gus cleachdadh a' chànain a ghleidheadh agus a mheudachadh. Tha feum air Plana, gus prìomhachasan a shuidheachadh agus maoinachadh a tharraing.

Tha dleastanas aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig am Plana Gàidhlig nàiseanta ullachadh, aig a bheil inbhe laghail. Tha am Plana làithreach stèidhichte air amas soilleir a choileanadh:

“is e seo, gun tèid a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsainge de shuidheachaidhean”.

Tha am Plana ag aithneachadh gum “feum an t-amas seo a bhith na amas coitcheann”. Ged a tha dleastanas aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig airson Plana Cànain Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig ullachadh, tha àite aig raon de bhuidhnean, dh'eagrachasan agus dhaoine fa leth gus an amas a choileanadh.

Is e aon de na prìomh chom-pàirtichean ann a bhith a' lìbhrigeadh amasan a' Phlana Nàiseanta MG ALBA, tro a chom-pàirteachas leis a' BhBC, airson seanail BBC ALBA. Tha seo, ann an co-bhonn ris an t-sianal rèidio Gàidhlig BBC Radio nan Gàidheal a' toirt cothrom nàiseanta air prògraman tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a bharrachd air a bhith a' toirt buaidh mhath air an eaconamaidh tro choimiseanachadh phrògraman agus cosnadh dìreach.

A bharrachd air na gnìomhan againn fhèin, bidh sinn a' toirt seachad maoinachadh do bhuidhnean com-pàirteachais gus gnìomhan a lìbhrigeadh a chuireas ri bhith a' coileanadh an amais cho-roinnte. Nam measg tha com-pàirtichean ann an raointean leithid:

- Solaraichean foghlaim - a' gabhail a-steach ùghdarrasan ionadail a tha a' toirt seachad Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig far a bheil ar maoinachadh a' toirt taic do ionnsachadh taobh a-muigh na sgoile agus goireasan curraicealaim, a bharrachd air Colaistean agus solaraichean

There Is A Clear Plan for Development of the Language

To thrive, there must be actions to preserve and increase the use of the language. A Plan is required, in order to set priorities and attract funding.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is responsible for preparing the national Gaelic Language Plan which has legal status. The current Plan is based on achieving a clear aim:

“that Gaelic is used more often, and by more people, and in a wider range of situations”.

The Plan recognises that “this aim must be a shared aim”. While Bòrd na Gàidhlig is responsible for producing the National Gaelic Language Plan a range of groups, bodies and individuals have a role and a contribution to achieving the aim.

One of the key partners in delivering the aims of the National Plan is MG ALBA, through its partnership with the BBC, for the BBC ALBA channel. This, in conjunction with the BBC Gaelic radio channel BBC Radio nan Gàidheal provides national access to Gaelic-medium programming as well as positively impacting on the economy through programme commissioning and direct employment.

In addition to our own activities, we provide funding to partner organisations to deliver activities which will contribute to achieving the shared aim. These include partners such in areas such as:

- Education providers - including local authorities that provide Gaelic Medium Education where our funding supports extra-curricular learning and curriculum resources, as well as Colleges and other Further and Higher Education providers



Foghlam Adhartach is Àrd-ìre eile leithid an t-Ionad Nàiseanta airson Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig aig a bheil cliù eadar-nàiseanta, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

- Ionnsachadh inbheach – gu sònraichte tro ar taic do leasachadh ghoireasan airson na h-iomairtean ioma-àrd-ùrlar SpeakGaelic agus LearnGaelic, agus lìbhrigeadh chlasaichean coimhearsnachd airson ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.
- Dualchas agus Cultar Mar eisimpleir, Fèisean nan Gàidheal a tha a’ toirt taic do leasachadh fèisean teagasg ealain Ghàidhlig stèidhichte sa choimhearsnachd.
- Ag obair còmhla ri daoine òga. Mar eisimpleir, tha Comunn na Gàidhlig aig a bheil luchd-obrach sa choimhearsnachd, pàrantan agus a’ choimhearsnachd ionadail a’ cur air dòigh tachartasan, gnìomhan agus pròiseactan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Airson soirbheachadh, feumaidh luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig a bhith comasach air a’ chànan a chleachdadh nuair a bhios iad ag eadar-obrachadh le diofar bhuidhnean. Tha Plana Gàidhlig aig còrr is 60 buidheann poblach ann an Alba. Nam measg tha ùghdarrasan ionadail, luchd-obrachaidh còmhdaidh, an dà Phàirc Nàiseanta, an SNS agus solaraichean seirbheis eile, a bharrachd air Pàrlamaid na h-Alba.

Tha Planaichean Gàidhlig a’ mìneachadh mar a chleachdas na buidhnean seo a’ chànan ann an conaltradh làitheil le luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig - an dà chuid ann am buidhnean eile agus leis a’ phoball san fharsaingeachd.

Sgaoileadh Eadar-Ginealaich Soirbheachail.

Sa chumantas tha an ìre de sgaoileadh eadar-ghinealach – tro bhithear a’ togail cànan aig clann bho am pàrantan agus an sean-phàrantan – mar phrìomh chomharradh air slàinte cànan.

Tha Feum Aig Cànan Soirbheachail Air Àrainneachd Eaconamach Math.

Tha buannachdan eaconamach na Gàidhlig air an nochdadh ann an grunn sgrùdaidhean, o chionn ghoirid an

such as the internationally renowned National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

- Adult learning – primarily through our support for the development of resources for the multi-platform SpeakGaelic and LearnGaelic initiatives, and the delivery of community classes for Gaelic learning.
- Heritage and Culture. For example, Fèisean nan Gàidheal which supports the development of community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals.
- Working with young people. For example, Comunn na Gàidhlig whose community-based staff, parents and the local community organise events, activities and projects conducted in the medium of Gaelic.

To thrive, Gaelic users also need to be able to use the language when interacting with various bodies. Over 60 public organisations in Scotland have a Gaelic Language Plan. They include local authorities, transport operators, the two National Parks, the NHS and other service providers, as well as the Scottish Parliament.

Gaelic Language Plans set out these organisations’ use of the language in day-to-day engagement with Gaelic users - both in other organisations and the general public.

Successful Inter-Generational Transmission

The extent of inter-generational transmission - through which children acquire a language from their parents and grandparents - is generally viewed as a key sign of the health of a language.

A Thriving Language Requires A Good Economic Environment

The economic benefits of Gaelic have been demonstrated in a number of studies, most



<p>fheadhainn a rinn Comhairle Baile Ghlaschu² agus MG ALBA³. Tha an tè mu dheireadh a' sealltainn toradh air tasgadh de £1.34 air gach £1 a chaidh a thasgadh, agus GVA de £17.2m.</p> <p>Ach, bheir cùisean eile buaidh air coileanadh amas a' Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig - sòisealta, eaconamach agus bun-structair. Gu sònraichte, tha ìre spionnadh eaconamach agus seasmhachd sluaigh na phrìomh chuspair ann am pàirtean de dh'Alba far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre mhath làidir - gu sònraichte anns na h-eileanan air a' chosta an iar. Tha dùbhlain mu choinneamh mòran de na coimhearsnachdan sin. Gu sònraichte, lùghdachadh san àireamh dhaoine anns na buidhnean aoise as buailtiche a bhith ag obair agus a' togail theaghlaichean; seirbheisean còmhhdhail poblach neo-earbsach agus nach eil gu math tric; teachd a-steach ìosal dachaigh; agus cosgais bith-beò an ìre mhath àrd.</p> <p>Tha seo air cur ri lagachadh ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns na "tìrean cridhe". Is iad sin na h-eileanan agus na sgìrean dùthchail far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig air a bhith làidir gu traidiseanta agus air a cleachdadh agus air a cluinntinn gu farsaing.</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' dèanamh a' chùis a-rithist agus a-rithist gu bheil sgìrean eileanach is dùthchail feumach air taic a thaobh leasachadh eaconamach agus sòisealta. Tha an fheum air na cùisean nas fharsaing sin a tha mu choinneamh choimhearsnachdan luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a chomharrachadh ri fhaicinn anns an raon fharsaing de cho-chomhairlean nàiseanta ris am bi sinn a' freagairt. Mar eisimpleir, freagairtean air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riaghaltas na h-Alba - Lèirmheas neo-eisimeileach ìbhricheadh sgìlean: gairm airson fianais⁴ 	<p>recently those carried out by Glasgow City Council¹¹ and by MG ALBA¹². The latter demonstrates a return on investment of £1.34 on each £1 invested, and a GVA of £17.2m.</p> <p>However, achieving the National Gaelic Language Plan's aim will be affected by other issues - social, economic, and infrastructural. In particular, the level of economic vitality and population sustainability is a key issue in parts of Scotland where Gaelic remains relatively strong - notably in the west coast islands. Many of these communities face challenges. In particular, a decreasing number of people in the age groups most likely to be working and raising families; infrequent and unreliable public transport services; low household incomes; and a relatively high cost of living.</p> <p>This has contributed to a weakening in the use of Gaelic in the "heartlands". These are the islands and rural areas where Gaelic has traditionally been strong and widely used and heard.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig repeatedly makes the case that the island and rural areas require support in terms of economic and social development. The need to highlight these wider issues facing communities of Gaelic speakers is evident in the wide range of national consultations we respond to. For example, responses to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government - Skills delivery independent review: call for evidence¹³
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² <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29502>

³ <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/skills-delivery-indie-review-bng-response-final-eng-gd.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29502>

¹² <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/skills-delivery-indie-review-bng-response-final-eng-gd.pdf>



- Pàrlamaid na h-Alba Comataidh Net Zero, Cumhachd is Còmh-dhail - Seirbheis Aiseig Ùr-nodha agus Seasmhach airson Alba⁵

A' Toirt Seachad Diofar Dhòighean-Obrach Airson Diofar Choimhearsnachdan.

Tha feum air raon de dhòighean-obrach. Tha sin air sgàth 's gu bheil measgachadh de choimhearsnachdan ann far a bheil mion-chànanan leithid a' Ghàidhlig gan cleachdadh.

a. Eileanan agus coimhearsnachdan dùthchail ann an Alba

Sheall Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 mu 13 eileanan gun robh cuid sgilean Gàidhlig aig còrr is 40% de na daoine. Tha sin an coimeas ris an àireamh de nas lugha na 2% ann an slugh na h-Alba gu h-iomlan. B' iad seo a' mhòr-chuid eileanan sna h-Eileanan Siar, a bharrachd air Ratharsair is Tiriodh. Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach anns na raointean sin; tha seasmhachd nan eileanan sin riatanach do sheasmhachd is fàs na Gàidhlig.

b. Bailtean agus bailtean-mòra ann an Alba

Tha fàs air a thighinn air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann am bailtean mòra leithid Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann. Tha cuid de seo a' nochdadh fàs anns na lìonraidhean far a bheilear a' brosnachadh agus a' libhrigeadh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig m.e., tachartasan ealain, cruinneachaidhean sòisealta.

Tha feum air cothroman a thoirt do dhaoine anns na lìonraidhean sin an cànan a bhruidhinn ri daoine eile gus an soirbhich leis. Tha diofar bhuidhnean ann an Inbhir Nis, Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann a' coimhead ri àiteachan sòisealta a chruthachadh far am faodar Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn, agus diofar ghnìomhan gan toirt seachad. San aon dòigh, tha feum aig sgoilearan air cothroman sònraichte gus Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn taobh a-muigh a'

- Scottish Parliament Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee - A Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland¹⁴

Providing Different Approaches for Different Communities

A range of approaches are required. That is because there are a variety of communities in which minority languages such as Gaelic are used.

a. Island and rural communities in Scotland

The 2011 Census showed some 13 islands the proportion of residents with some Gaelic skills was over 40%. That compares to the figure of less than 2% in the Scottish population as a whole. These were mostly islands in Eilean Siar (Outer Hebrides), plus Raasay and Tiree. The Gaelic language is not only important to these areas; the sustainability of such islands is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language.

b. Towns and cities in Scotland

There has been growth in Gaelic usage in cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. Some of this reflects growth in the networks where Gaelic use is promoted and delivered e.g., arts events, social gatherings.

There is a need to provide people in these networks with opportunities to speak the language with others so that it can thrive. Various groups in Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh are looking to create social spaces where Gaelic can be spoken, and various activities provided.

⁵ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/20220826-Freagairt-Aithisgean-ParlamaidnahAlba.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/20220826-Freagairt-Aithisgean-ParlamaidnahAlba.pdf>



chlas. Tha sin gu sònraichte dhaibhsan a tha a' fuireach ann an sgìrean far nach eil ach glè bheag de dhaoine aig a bheil an cànan.

c. Coimhearsnachdan ceangailte le teicneòlas.

Tha iad sin sgapte air feadh na cruinne. Tha fàs sa Ghàidhlig air taic fhaighinn bho aplacaidean ionnsachadh cànanain agus làraich-lìn. Tha e cuideachd air a bhrosnachadh leis an t-sruth a bharrachd de thachartasan is thaisbeanaidhean Gàidhlig air feadh an t-saoghail a nochd aig àm glasadh-sluaigh Covid.

Raon A Tha A' Sior Fhàs De Thoraidhean Mheadhanan Sa Chànan.

Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach meadhanan traidiseanta leithid telebhisean a bharrachd air stuthan air-loidhne. Uile gu lèir, tha toradh mheadhanan sa Ghàidhlig a' sìor dhol am meud, gu h-àraidh anns na meadhanan sòisealta fhad 's a tha craoladh air a chuingealachadh le gainnead maoinachaidh.

Ann an Alba tha craoladh Gàidhlig air a bhith a' sìor fhàs cudromach ann an leasachadh a' chànanain anns na bliadhnan mu dheireadh. Thòisich an sianal telebhisean didseatach Gàidhlig, BBC ALBA, ann an 2008. Bidh e a' frithealadh luchd-èisteachd farsaing de luchd-labhairt agus luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, agus luchd-èisteachd Albannach nas fharsaing. Ach, tha cuingealachaidhean maoinachaidh gu mòr a' cur bacadh air cruthachadh susbaint ùr don t-seanail Ghàidhlig gu sònraichte. Tha feum air modal maoinachaidh coimeasach ris an fhear a th' air a sholarachadh airson telebhisean Cuimreach is Èirinneach gus dèiligeadh ris an dùbhlán seo. A bharrachd air an sin, tha rèidio agus foillseachadh fhathast cudromach.

Foillseachadh Buaidhean Eaconamach Agus Cothroman Eaconamach Bho Bhith A' Cleachdadh A' Chànain.

Tha MG ALBA a' libhrigeadh mheadhanan Gàidhlig thar raon de àrd-ùrlaran, gu sònraichte tron t-seanail telebhisean BBC ALBA. Bidh gnìomhachd na companaidh

Similarly, school pupils need specific opportunities to speak Gaelic outside the classroom. That is particularly for those living in areas where there are limited numbers who speak the language.

c. Communities linked by technology.

These are spread across the globe. Growth in Gaelic has been supported by language learning apps and websites. It has also been stimulated through the increased streaming of Gaelic events and performances worldwide that emerged during the Covid lockdown.

An Increasing Range of Media Output in the Language

This includes traditional media such as television as well as online. Overall, media output in Gaelic continues to increase, particularly in social media while broadcasting is constrained by a dearth of funding.

In Scotland Gaelic broadcasting has played an increasingly important role in development of the language in recent years. The Gaelic digital television channel, BBC ALBA, commenced in 2008. It serves a wide audience of Gaelic speakers and learners, and a wider Scottish audience. However, funding constraints severely limit the creation of new content for the Gaelic channel in particular. A comparable funding model to that provided for Welsh and Irish television is required to address this challenge. In addition, radio and publishing continue to be important.

Publicising the Economic Impacts and Economic Opportunities from Using the Language

MG ALBA delivers Gaelic language media across a range of platforms, notably through the BBC ALBA television channel. The company's



<p>a’ toirt taic gach bliadhna do 340 cosnadh Làn-ùine (FTE) agus còrr air £10 millean ann an tuarastalan⁶ ann an Alba.</p> <p>Tha mu 160 de na h-obraichean sin anns na h-Eileanan Siar agus san Eilean Sgitheanach. Tha seo a’ toirt taic do bheachd làidir Bhòrd na Gàidhlig gu bheil cànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig a’ tabhann chothroman airson fàs eaconamach ann an sgìrean is eileanan nas dùthchaile ann an Alba.</p> <p>Bidh gnìomhachdan co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig ann an Glaschu a’ cur còrr air 700 cosnadh FTE agus £21 millean GVA (Gross Value Added) gach bliadhna ri eaconamaidh a’ bhaile⁷. Tha sin a’ gabhail a-steach cothroman obrach ann an cultar, na meadhanan, agus foghlam.</p> <p>Rinn aithisg ann an 2014⁸ measadh air an luach eaconamach is sòisealta a tha a’ Ghàidhlig a’ toirt do dh’Alba. Fhuair e gu bheil na gnothachasan sna gnìomhachasan cruthachail, turasachd, dualchas, agus roinnean bidh is dighe a’ faighinn buannachd shònraichte bho bhith a’ cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus gu bheil comas aig seo luach eaconamach mòr a thogail. Sheall e gum faodadh luach eaconamach na Gàidhlig a bhith suas ri £149 millean.</p> <p>Tha fàs air a bhith ann an cosnadh far a bheil feum air sgìlean Gàidhlig, thar raon farsaing de dhreuchdan agus roinnean. Tha sin a’ gabhail a-steach fàs anns an àireamh de dhreuchdan far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig “riatanach”.</p> <p>Tha còrr is 150 obair mar seo aig Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (an ùghdarras ionadail airson nan Eilean Siar) a tha feumach air fileantachd gu leòr sa Ghàidhlig gus na seirbheisean a tha a dhìth a libhrigeadh. Tha iad sin nam measgachadh de dhreuchdan teagaisg, oifigearan foghlaim agus luchd-obrach eile taobh a-staigh Roinn a’ Cheannaird. Tha seo a’ sealltainn comas a’ chàinain</p>	<p>activities support annually 340 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs and over £10 million in salaries¹⁵ in Scotland.</p> <p>Some 160 of those jobs are in the Outer Hebrides and Skye. This supports Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s strong belief that Gaelic language and culture offer opportunities for economic growth in more rural areas and islands in Scotland.</p> <p>Gaelic-related activities in Glasgow contribute more than 700 FTE jobs and £21 million GVA (Gross Value Added) per annum to the city’s economy¹⁶. That includes job opportunities in culture, media, and education.</p> <p>A 2014 report¹⁷ assessed the economic and social value Gaelic brings to Scotland. It found that the businesses in the creative industries, tourism, heritage, and food and drink sectors, in particular, benefit from their use of Gaelic, and that this has the potential to generate economic value. It showed that the potential economic value of Gaelic as an asset could be up to £149 million.</p> <p>There has been growth in employment which requires Gaelic skills, across a wide range of occupations and sectors. That includes a growth in the number of posts deemed “Gaelic essential”.</p> <p>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (the local authority for the Outer Hebrides) has more than 150 such jobs which require a sufficient fluency in Gaelic to deliver the requisite services. These are a mix of teaching posts, education officers and other staff within the Chief Executive’s Department. This demonstrates the ability of the language to</p>
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⁶ <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

⁷ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Chalmers_et_al_2022_Eaconamaidh_Gaidhlig_Ghlaschu-Glasgow_Gaelic_Economy.pdf

⁸ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

¹⁶ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Chalmers_et_al_2022_Eaconamaidh_Gaidhlig_Ghlaschu-Glasgow_Gaelic_Economy.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>



obraichean a chruthachadh – mòran dhiubh sin nan dreuchdan làn-ùine agus fad na bliadhna.

Tha VisitScotland (buidheann turasachd nàiseanta na h-Alba) air Ro-innleachd Turasachd Gàidhlig ullachadh a tha e a' libhrigeadh còmhla ri raon de bhuidhnean com-pàirteachais⁹.

Tha An Cànan Air A Chomharrachadh Agus Air A Bhrosnachadh Mar Chànan A Tha A' Cur Ri Bearteas Agus Iomadachd Dùthaich.

Tha a' Ghàidhlig air a cleachdadh ann an soidhnichean poblach - m.e. sanasan rathaid is rèile a bharrachd air soidhnichean corporra air togalaichean. Tha buaidh nan ealan Gàidhlig fìor mhòr an dà chuid don choimhearsnachd cànan agus gu nàiseanta agus bidh e a' brosnachadh deagh ìomhaigh thall thairis. Bidh iad a' togail tarraing agus ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig agus a' cur gu mòr ri beatha chultarail na dùthcha agus mar sin a' neartachadh a' chànan.

Tha Buannachdan Dà-Chànanais Air Am Brosnachadh.

Tha na buannachdan sin a' toirt a-steach comasan inntinneil leasaichte.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Alba tarraingeach do sgoilearan agus pàrantan. Tha sin air sgàth gu bheil e a' fosgladh chothroman do dhaoine fa leth a bhith ag obair do raon nas fharsainge de ghnìomhachasan is ghnìomhachasan - i.e. an fheadhainn a tha ag obair ann am meadhan na Gàidhlig a bharrachd air an fheadhainn a tha ag obair ann am Beurla (m.e. luchd-naidheachd agus craoladairean dà-chànanach). Mar sin, tha a' Ghàidhlig na buannachd nuair a thathar a' sireadh obrach.

Tha Comas Aig Neach An Cànan A Chleachdadh Aig Amannan Sònraichte Nam Bheatha.

Thathar ag aithneachadh sa chumantas gum faod luchd-labhairt dùthchasach cànan a dhol air ais gu ìre mhòr no uile gu lèir dhan chànan mhàthaireil aca nuair a thig seargadh-inntinn orra an toiseach. Dh'fhaodadh gun cuir

generate jobs - many of which are full-time and all year-round posts.

VisitScotland (Scotland's national tourism organisation) has produced a Gaelic Tourism Strategy which it delivers along with a range of partner organisations¹⁸.

The Language is Celebrated and Promoted as Adding to the Richness and Diversity of A Country

The Gaelic language is used in public signage - e.g., road and rail signage as well as corporate signage on buildings. The impact of Gaelic arts is immense both for the language community and nationally and promotes a positive image abroad. They raise the appeal and profile of Gaelic and make an important contribution to the cultural life of the nation and thus strengthen the language.

The Benefits of Bilingualism are Promoted.

These benefits include improved cognitive abilities.

Gaelic Medium Education in Scotland is attractive to pupils and parents. That is because it opens up opportunities for individuals to work for a wider range of businesses and industries - i.e., those working in Gaelic medium as well as those working in English (e.g. bilingual journalists and broadcasters). Thus, the Gaelic language is an advantage when seeking employment.

A Person Is Able to Use the Language At Salient Times in Their Life

It is generally recognised that native language speakers can revert largely or wholly to their mother tongue upon the onset of dementia. They may replace words (say, in English) with the

⁹ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>



iad faclan den aon chiall (can, sa Bheurla) ann an cànan as aithne dhaibh nas fheàrr (can, sa Ghàidhlig). Mura h-eil ach beagan dhaoine no mura h-eil duine sam bith mun cuairt ort a' tuigsinn a' chànain a tha air fhàgail agad, dh'fhaodadh seo aonaranachd, breisleach, sàrachadh, no trom-intinn adhbharachadh. Chan urrainn dhut rudan sìmplidh innse do dhaoine mar dè bu toigh leat ithe no dèanamh (m.e. dol a-mach air cuairt).

Nas fharsaing, bu chòir gum bithear a' coimhead air mion-chànan agus a cultar mar rud a tha a' cur ri sunnd neach. Bidh cànan agus cultar a' cruthachadh fèin-mhiadh, a' brosnachadh fèin-mhisneachd, a' mìneachadh fèin-aithne agus a' leasachadh maitheas na beatha. Bidh seo a' meudachadh sunnd luchd-cleachdaidh, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taice na Gàidhlig – aig a bheil moit mhòr às a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar. Tha i a' cur ri, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a' smaointinn agus a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beatha.

2) DÈ NA LEASANAN A GHABHAS IONNSACHADH BHO DHÙTHCHANNAN FAR A BHEIL AN SLUAGH A' FAIGHINN FILEANTACHD FARSAING ANN AN CÀNAN A' MHÒIR-CHUID AGUS MION-CÀNAN DÙTHCHASACH?

Ann an cuid no fiù 's iomadh cùis faodaidh an dùbhlán a bhith nas motha mu bhith a' stad agus a' cur cùl ri crìonadh ann an cleachdadh cànan - seach a bhith a' faighinn fileantachd fad is farsaing. Mar a chaidh a chomharrachadh aig C1 tha cuid den chrìonadh ann an Gàidhlig na h-Alba air a bhith taobh a-staigh nan coimhearsnachdan traidiseanta far an robh an cànan as làidire.

Bu chòir cuideachd a bhith mothachail gu bheil gach dùthaich eadar-dhealaichte. Mar eisimpleir, anns an Spàin agus na h-Eileanan Fàrach tha mion-chànanan an ìre mhath coltach ris a' phrìomh chànan a thathar a' bruidhinn an sin. Mar sin, faodaidh ionnsachadh agus gleidheadh mion-chànan a bhith nas fhasa na tha e ann an Alba far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig agus a' Bheurla eu-coltach.

A' freagairt ar puingeann aig ceist 1, tha leasan eile ri ionnsachadh air cho cudromach sa tha:

equivalent in a language more familiar to them (say, in Gaelic). If few people or no-one around you understands your remaining language this can lead to isolation, loneliness, confusion, frustration, or depression. You are unable to tell people simple things like what you'd like to eat or do (e.g., go for a walk).

More widely, a minority language and its culture should be viewed as contributing towards an individual's wellbeing. Language and culture create self-esteem, nurture self-confidence, define identity and improve quality of life. This increases wellbeing for Gaelic users, learners, and supporters - who have great pride in the language and culture. It contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.

2) WHAT LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED FROM COUNTRIES WHOSE POPULATIONS ACHIEVE WIDESPREAD FLUENCY IN BOTH A MAJORITY AND INDIGENOUS MINORITY LANGUAGE?

In some or even many cases the immediate challenge can be more about arresting and reversing decline in use of a language rather than it achieving widespread fluency. As noted at Q1 some of the decline in Gaelic in Scotland has been within the traditional communities where the language has been strongest.

It should also be appreciated that each country is different. For example, in parts of Spain and in the Faroe Islands minority languages are quite similar to the main language spoken there. Thus, learning and retaining a minority language can be easier than in, say, Scotland where Gaelic and English are dissimilar.

Echoing our points at question 1, other lessons to be learned are the importance of:



- Misneachd coimhearsnachd - i.e., a' cur luach air a' chànan.
- Taic oifigeil.

3) DÈ NA SLATAN-TOMHAIS A BU CHÒIR A BHITH ANN AIRSON BREITHNEACHADH AM BU CHÒIR DO MHION-CHÀNAN INBHE OIFIGEIL FHAIGHINN?

Tha sinn a' tuigsinn gu bheil Inbhe Oifigeil a' ciallachadh cànan aig a bheil còraichean sònraichte a bhith air an cleachdadh ann an suidheachaidhean sònraichte - gu sònraichte gus cumhachd a thoirt do bhuidhnean le bhith a' toirt dhaibh cothrom air an riaghaltas anns a' chànan dhùthchasach aca.

Tha sinn a' moladh na slatan-tomhais a leanas airson inbhe oifigeil fhaighinn.

- 'S e **cànan dùthchasach** aithnichte a th' innte.
- **An ùine a chaidh an cànan a chleachdadh.** Mar eisimpleir, 's e cànan nàiseanta a th' anns a' Ghàidhlig a tha air a bhith ga bruidhinn nas fhaide ann an Alba na Beurla no Albais.
- **Cudromachd eachdraidheil agus cultarail.** Tha eachdraidh bheairteach agus dualchas cultarail aig a' mhion-chànan a bu chòir a ghleidheadh.
- **An àireamh de dhaoine** a chleachdas a' chànan gu cunbhalach – rud a dh'fhaodadh a bhith na chomharra air cho cudromach agus a tha e.
- **Gu bheil an cànan air a ghabhail a-steach sa Chairt Eòrpach airson Cànanan Roinneil no Mion-chànanan.** Is e an Cairt an co-chruinneachadh Eòrpach airson dìon agus adhartachadh chànanan a chleachdas mion-chinnidhean traidiseanta. Tha Riaghaltas na RA air ainm a chur ris a' Chairt le gealltanasan co-cheangailte a thaobh dìon agus adhartachadh grunn mhion-chànanan san RA.

4) DÈ AN DLEASTANAS A BU CHÒIR A BHITH AIG RIAGHALTAS NA RA ANN A BHITH A' TOIRT TAIC DO

- Community confidence - i.e., positively valuing the language.
- Official support.

3) WHAT SHOULD BE THE CRITERIA FOR JUDGING WHETHER A MINORITY LANGUAGE SHOULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL STATUS?

We understand Official Status to mean a language having certain rights to be used in defined situations - in particular to empower groups by giving them access to their government in their native language.

We suggest the following criteria for receiving official status.

- It is a recognised **indigenous language**.
- **The length of time the language has been used.** For example, Gaelic is a national language which has been spoken for longer in Scotland than either English or Scots.
- **Historical and cultural significance.** The minority language has a rich history and cultural heritage which should be preserved.
- **The number of people** who use a language regularly-which can be an indicator of its importance and viability.
- **That the language is included in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.** The Charter is the European convention for the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional minorities. UK Government is a signatory to the Charter with related undertakings concerning the protection and promotion of a number of UK minority languages.

4) WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE UK GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORTING AND



AGUS A' LEASACHADH MHION-CHÀNANAN DÙTHCHASACH?	DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS MINORITY LANGUAGES?
<p>Dleastanas Riaghaltas na RA an-dràsta</p> <p>Tha cha mhòr a h-uile taic bhon roinn phoblaich do mhion-chànanan ann an Alba ceangailte ri Riaghaltas na h-Alba.</p> <p>Tha cumhachdan glèidhte aig Riaghaltas na RA a dh'fhaodadh buaidh a thoirt air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig fo Achd na h-Alba 1998. Tha na prìomh fheadhainn co-cheangailte ri craoladh.</p> <p>Tha an com-pàirteachas eadar BBC ALBA agus MG ALBA a' toirt a-steach riochdachadh agus craoladh phrògraman Gàidhlig air BBC ALBA, le MG ALBA a' solarachadh mòran den t-susbaint airson an t-seanail.</p> <p>Fhuair MG ALBA beagan maoinachaidh bhon RA ann an 2010 agus 2011 ach chan eil dad air a bhith aca bhon uairsin. An-dràsta, tha a' mhòr-chuid den teachd a-steach aige a' tighinn bho thabhartas Riaghaltas na h-Alba. An coimeas ri sin, tha Riaghaltas na RA a' toirt seachad mòran maoinachaidh airson telebhisean Gàidhlig na h-Èirinn is Cuimris san RA. Tha seo ann an co-theacsa far a bheil craoladh na chùis glèidhte. Mar sin, ma tha feum air reachdas sam bith a thaobh MG ALBA, thigeadh sin bho Riaghaltas na RA.</p> <p>Is e cùis glèidhte eile an Cairt Eòrpach airson Cànanan Roinneil no Mion-chànanan - mar a chaidh a mhìneachadh na bu tràithe. Is e seo dleastanas aig Roinn nan Coimhearsnachdan aig Riaghaltas na RA.</p> <p>Bidh comataidh de dh'èolaichean neo-eisimeileach a' cumail sùil air buileachadh a' Chairt. Tha co-dhiù 35 gealltanasan aig Gàidhlig na h-Èirinn, Gàidhlig na h-Alba agus Cuimris far am bi staid a' chànan air a mheasadh thairis air raon de raointean - m.e., Foghlam, ùghdarrasan rianachd agus seirbheisean poblach, gnìomhan agus goireasan cultarail.</p> <p>A bharrachd air an sin, tha diofar inbhe aig mion-chànanan taobh a-staigh obair Roinnean agus</p>	<p>UK Government's Current Role</p> <p>Almost all the public sector support for minority languages in Scotland is linked to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>UK Government has some reserved powers which can affect the use of the Gaelic language under the Scotland Act 1998. The main ones relate to broadcasting.</p> <p>The partnership between BBC ALBA and MG ALBA involves the production and broadcast of Gaelic-language programming on BBC ALBA, with MG ALBA providing much of the content for the channel.</p> <p>MG ALBA received some UK funding in 2010 and 2011 but has had none since then. Currently, the vast majority of its income comes from Scottish Government grant. In contrast, the UK Government provides relatively large amounts of funding for Irish and Welsh language television within the UK. This is in a context where broadcasting is a reserved matter. Thus, if any legislation is needed regarding MG ALBA that would come from UK Government.</p> <p>Another reserved matter is The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages - as described earlier. It is the responsibility of the UK Government's Department for Communities.</p> <p>The implementation of the Charter is monitored by a committee of independent experts. Irish, Gaelic and Welsh have at least 35 undertakings against which the state of the language is assessed across a range of areas- e.g., Education, Administrative authorities and public services, Cultural activities and facilities.</p> <p>In addition, there is varying status of minority languages within the operations of UK</p>



seirbheisean Riaghaltas na RA. Tha Achd na Cuimris 1993 ag iarraidh air buidhnean poblach Sgeama Cànan ullachadh a tha a' mìneachadh mar a làimhsicheas iad Cuimris agus Beurla gu co-ionann ann a bhith a' toirt seachad seirbheisean do phoball na Cuimrigh. Tha sin a' gabhail a-steach Roinnean agus seirbheisean Riaghaltas na RA. Mar eisimpleir, tha seirbheisean Cuimris HMRC don phoball a' gabhail a-steach cleachdadh air-loidhne/didseatach, post-d is fòn agus lìonadh fhoirmean.

Tha e coltach nach eil an leithid de sholarachadh ann airson Gàidhlig no mion-chànanan sam bith eile san RA ann an dèiligeadh ri roinnean is seirbheisean Riaghaltas na RA seo. 'S e a' bhuaidh a tha coltach ris gu bheil a' Chuimris a' faighinn inbhe nas àirde le Riaghaltas na RA na Gàidhlig na h-Alba no na h-Èirinn.

Atharraichean air am Moladh do Dhreuchd Riaghaltas na RA

1. Bi na soidhniche do Chùmhnant UNESCO airson Dìon Dualchas Cultarach Neo-bheanailteach. Bheireadh seo seachad frèam cruinneil a bheir taic do gach mion-chànan dùthchasach na RA agus a bheireadh slatan-tomhais inbhe, aithne agus taic eadar-nàiseanta seachad.
2. Gach Roinn de Riaghaltas na RA aig a bheil raon-ùghdarrais na h-Alba beachdachadh air dè dh'fhaodadh iad a dhèanamh gus taic a thoirt do Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, ri linn a' phoileasaidh a th' ann an-dràsta gus seo a chur an sàs sa Chuimris a-mhàin. Bhiodh sin a' gabhail a-steach na Roinnean:
 - Aig a bheil làraich ann an Alba. Mar eisimpleir, Oifis Rùnaire na Stàite airson Alba, Roinn Leasachaidh Eadar-nàiseanta.
 - Suidhichte ann an àiteachan eile san RA. Tha feum air reachdas air feadh na RA airson mion-chànanan gus am bi seirbheisean aig Roinnean agus seirbheisean iomchaidh aig Riaghaltas na RA (m.e. DVLA) rim faighinn ann an Cuimris, Gàidhlig na h-Alba agus Gàidhlig na h-Èirinn. Cuidichidh sin ann an dèanamh cinnteach

Government Departments and services. The Welsh Language Act 1993 requires public bodies to prepare Language Schemes detailing how they will treat Welsh and English equally in providing services to the public of Wales. That includes UK Government Departments and services. As an example, HMRC's Welsh language services to the public include use of online/digital, email and phone contact and filling out of forms.

There appears to be no such provision for Gaelic or any other UK minority languages in dealings with these UK Government Departments and services. The apparent effect is that Welsh is given a higher status by the UK Government than Gaelic or Irish.

Suggested Changes to UK Government's Role

1. Become a signatory to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding for the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This would provide an global framework which supports each of the minority indigenous languages of the UK and provide international standards of status, recognition and support.
2. Each of the UK Government Departments whose remit includes Scotland to consider what they could do to support the National Gaelic Language Plan, in the light of the current policy of only applying this to the Welsh language. That would include Departments:
 - With sites in Scotland. For example, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Department for International Development.
 - Located elsewhere in the UK. There is a need for UK-wide legislation for minority languages so that services by relevant UK Government Departments and services (e.g. DVLA) are available in Welsh, Gaelic and Irish.



<p>gum bi spèis cho-ionann aig gach aon de na trì mion-chànanan ris a' Bheurla.</p> <p>3. Ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air poileasaidh maoin eachaidh Riaghaltas na RA airson MG ALBA agus ga ath-sgrùdadh gus am bi e cothromach a rèir nam modalan a tha ag obair airson craoladh Cuimris is Gàidhlig na h-Èirinn.</p> <p>4. Tha Maoin Levelling Up Riaghaltas na RA air a cho-stiùireadh le Roinn Ionmhais na Banrigh, an Roinn Levelling Up, Taigheadas is Coimhearsnachdan agus Roinn na Còmhdhalach. Bu chòir ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air slatan-tomhais na Maoin gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid dèiligeadh gu cothromach ri pròiseactan cultarail agus eile a tha a' toirt taic dhìreach do mhion-chànanan dùthchasach na RA.</p> <p>5. Leis gu bheil an RA a' cur ainm ris a' Chairt Eòrpach airson Mion-chànanan is Cànanan nas Lugha air an Cleachdadh, bu chòir do Riaghaltas na RA mothachadh a thogail mu mhion-chànanan na RA a tha air an gabhail a-steach sa Chairt agus taic a thoirt do bharrachd chothroman airson an ionnsachadh.</p>	<p>That will help to ensure that each of the three minority languages commands equal respect to English.</p> <p>3. Review current UK Government funding policy for MG ALBA and revise it so that it is equitable in light of the models that operate for Welsh and Irish language broadcasting.</p> <p>4. The UK Government's Levelling Up Fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Transport. There should be a review of the criteria for the Fund to ensure equitable treatment of cultural and other projects that directly support UK indigenous minority languages.</p> <p>5. As the UK is a signatory to the European Charter for Minority and Lesser Used Languages, the UK Government should raise awareness of the UK minority languages that are included and support more opportunities for learning them.</p>
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