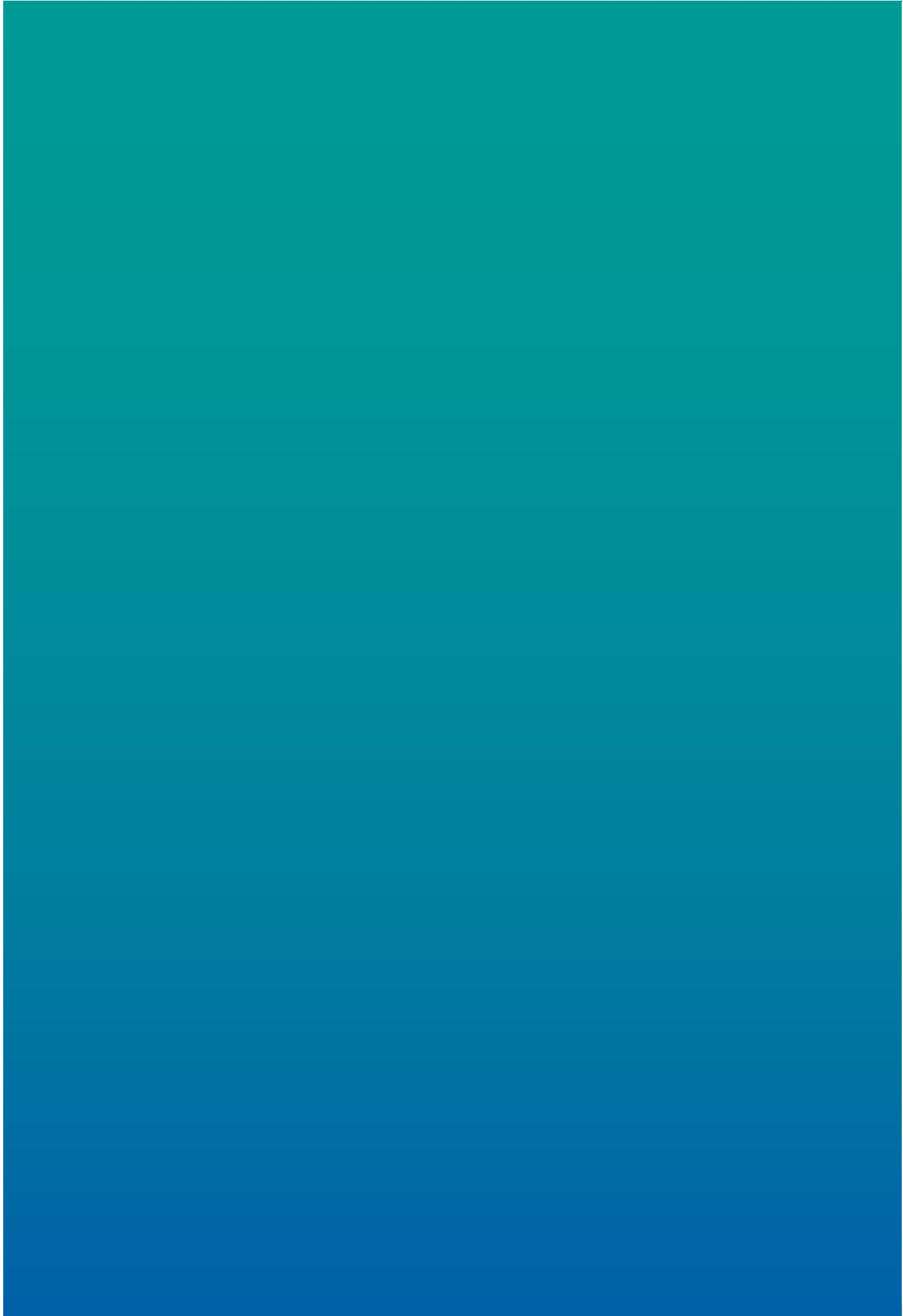


Consultation on Scots Government Commitments Tae Gaelic an Scots an Scots Langages Bill



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Ministerial Forewird

Consultation Paper on Scots
Government Commitments
Tae Gaelic an Scots an Scots
Langages Bill

Forewird fae Cabinet Secretar

The Scots Government haes made a when strang an forret luikin commitments tae Gaelic an Scots. Your thochts are invitit an walcome on thae commitments in this consultation exercise. The thochts thit we get back wull feed intae the decisions thit are taen on thir commitments.

Hit haes been a hantle years fae legislation wis inactit in support o the Gaelic langage an we noo hae a sklent at reflectin on hou the Gaelic langage (Scotland) Act 2005 an the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 hae wun-throu in practice. Grantin there been stiddy progress fae the legislation wis inactit, we ken thit there wirth in takkin a fresh deek at the misures thit hae been pitten in steid. Up tae noo the Scots langage haesna benefittit fae formal support in legislation an wi aye growin support for the leid A haud hit timeous for tae consider whit we kin dae in this regaird.

Progress haes been biggin, an throu the past decade or twa there been guid pruif o braw progress. For ensampul, there noo support for Gaelic fun in community warks, in steerin an legislation, in national structures, an in a braid reenge o projecks. For tae see the langage progress further forret we hae tae bigg up fae the foond o this diverse Gaelic infrastructure an sustain the community o spikkers an lairners whaur'er an wham-sae-e'er they nicht be.

The Scots Government noo haes a Scots Langage Policy. Mair support is tae be fun for Scots in the Cooncil o Europe's European Chairter for Regional or Minority Langages, an in the treisurable information gaihert fae the Scots question in the last census. Scots is comin tae the fore in education, publishin, an the airts, an a haunfae wee'r organisations, wi support fae Government, wirk thegither for tae mak yit mair progress for Scots. This consultation exercise wull gie a haun informin the neist steps for Scots.

Gien the Scots Government's commitments, an the speel thit wull follae this consultation, there a guid chance for tae mak mair o the guid progress thit haes been wun sae faur an for tae strenthen Gaelic an Scots in Scotland throu increasin the nummers o thaim thit's lairnin, spikkin an uisin thir langages athin Scotland. Tae this ettle, your contributions tae this consultation exercise is walcome.

Cabinet Secretar

Introduction

The Scots Government haes a forret luikin an braid set o commitments tae the Gaelic an Scots langages. This consultation excercise an the thochts returnt wull feed intae the progress thit we wull mak wi thir commitments.

Scots Government Commitments

The Scots Government haes taen a wheen o commitments tae the Gaelic an Scots langages. Amangst thir there fower key commitments thit kin be regairdit as heidmaist, wi the ither commitments fawin athin thir braid areas. The fower key commitments are - for tae foond a new strategic approach tae Gaelic Medium Education (GME), for tae splore the biggin o a Gàidhealtachd, for tae scance ower the mak up an wirkins o Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG), an for tae tak actions on the Scots langage. Whaur primary legislation is wantin in thir maitters, the commitment on a Scottish Langages Bill kin service as the legislative vehichle thit wad aloo progress for tae be taen wi thir commitments.

O late there been guid support for Gaelic. A wale o projects an initiatives hae been pittin in place, an important legislation hae been supportit ben the Scots Pairliament. There is tae been a growth in support for Scots an, wi hit, a floerin o resoources noo are available. Wi thir new commitments, an the growin evidence o support for thir leids, the Scots Government wad like for tae tak mair steps in supportin baith Gaelic an Scots.

The consultation paper wull tak ilkane o the key commitments turn aboot, gaun ower the key commitment an thae ither commitments thit we tak for tae be connectit or unner the hap o thir braid areas. We wull ettle for tae set the scene bi giein a wheen o thochts an taks thit hae been pittin tae us sae faur fae monie stakehauers in informal consultation up tae noo. This is intendit for tae gar mair

discussion, the bringin forret o thochts spikkin tae aw pertinent interests. Nae decisions hae been taen yit aboot hou tae push forret Gaelic an Scots, an as sic we are efter contributions fae athort the hail o thir communities. We are efter thochts on hou mair progress kin be haed an the thochts thit we hear wull len a haun in formin the immediate actions taen, alang wi langer term actions, for tae deliver thir commitments.

We ken there couplins an interdependencies amang the pickle Gaelic commitments. For ensampul, hit is the like thit GME wull staun in amang onie discussin o haein a Gàidhealtachd. Tae, Bòrd na Gàidhlig hauds a role wi regards tae education; chyngees tae education or the splorin o haein a Gàidhealtachd wull see thinkin ower the functions thit Bòrd na Gàidhlig maun hae for tae support chyngees in thae areas, an as sic owerlap wi the review o Bòrd na Gàidhlig's ain structures an functionins.

The commitments abuin dinna mak mention o MG ALBA but we ken thit the braid an diverse pairt pleyit bi MG ALBA lens value tae a fouth o important areas o Gaelic wark. The Scots Government's support for MG ALBA hae let them alang wi BBC ALBA pit in tae Gaelic lairnin, airts, community biggin, skills, an the economy. For that we wad tak it thit MG ALBA wull be tae the fore in thir discussions.

Gaelic Medium Education

This pairt wull consider a new national strategic tak on Gaelic medium education thit is essential gin we are tae hae the quicker biggin o progress we are efter for Gaelic.

The Scots Government haes committit tae mak mair progress wi Gaelic medium education (GME) throu a new strategic tak on Gaelic medium education. This wull see makkin siccar thit the GME experience is haily immersive, ettlin tae for tae increase the bridth o subjects thit kin be lairnt throu GME in baith levels o braid general education an in senior phase at the saicondary scuil. Hit wull involve giein a luft tae the makkin o new GME primary an saicondary scuils athort Scotland, wi the backin o mair investment for tae increase the nummer o teachers thit kin teach in the medium o Gaelic.

There a when local authorities an organisations thit pit a virrsome haun tae Gaelic medium education in Scotland. Alang wi thir, the Scots Government wull mak siccar thit e-Sgoil an Stòrlann gang forret supportit for tae help wi scuil education, adult lairnin, teacher support, community lairnin, an thit they kin gie access tae guid quality Gaelic education resoources. We wull ensure tae thit Sabhal Mòr Ostaig gaes stull forret as a centre o excellence for Gaelic lairnin, wi dedicatit fundin for tae gie Further Education an Heicher Education coorses throu the medium o Gaelic. We ken weil thit Sabhal Mòr Ostaig hauds a key role in supportin baith GME at aw levels an a braid fouth o Gaelic community initiatives.

The Scots Government kens thit thir issues abuin are essential gif we are tae see the faster rates o progress we're efter for Gaelic. The Scots Government is committit tae haudin forret supportin Gaelic Education, airts, an braidcastin wi MG ALBA haein a key role. We ken tae thit there interdependencies forby athort thir sectors thit support ane anither an pit their hauns tae the oweraw ettle o heezin the nummers o fowk thit are spikkin, usin, an lairnin the leid.

Overview o Gaelic Education in Scotland

Gaelic medium education is a establishit sector in Scots education. Gaelic education data is available fae Bòrd na Gàidhlig at the follaein link. [Education Data - Bòrd na Gàidhlig \(gaidhlig.scot\)](https://www.gaidhlig.scot/education-data) The ettle o GME is for young fowk tae be able tae wirk wi confidence an fluency in twa leids progressin fae early years, throu primary education an intae saicondary education. GME fae the nursery tae finishin at the primary scuil is a form o immersion education. Wi this form o education Gaelic is the ainly langage o lairnin, teachin an mairkin throuoot the first three year at the primary scuil, kent as the immersion phase.

Fae primary fower tae primary seiven immersion education dis cairry on, hou an iver athin this stage the medium o Inglis langage wull stert tae. Fae primary fower onwart, an efter the Inglis medium education sterts, Gaelic wants tae stey the heidmaist langage o the clessroom. GME is providit tae bairns an young fowk thit come fae faimilies whaur Gaelic is spoke an tae thaim thit's faimilies hae juist a wee drap or nae Gaelic at aw tae.

Gaelic medium primary education (GMPE) is available the noo in fowerteen fae the therty-twa education authority areas athort Scotland. There a growin amoont o Gaelic medium scuils in Scotland tae, alang wi dual stream (Gaelic an Inglis) primary scuils whaur GME is in the majority. Atap thon there a when Gaelic medium early years centres an cròileagain (pleygroups) operatin aw ower Scotland.

Gaelic medium saicondary education (GMSE) is available in therty-three saicondary scuils in Scotland. Ben thir scuils Gaelic is maistly gien as a subject, wi a haunfae scuils giein pairt o the lave o the curriculum throu the medium o Gaelic. Gaelic lairner education (GLE) is separte fae GME sein hit is gien tae thaim thit is in Inglis medium education as an additional leid. GLE gies young fowk a introduction tae Gaelic langage an culture.

Education agencies an public groups athin Scotland hae a virrsome role tae pley in the supportin an developin o Gaelic education athin Scotland tae. Teacher education institutions mak essential contributions tae the promotion, support, an growin o Gaelic education athin Scotland an aw. Alang wi thir groups Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig supports pupils, teachers, an parents throu hits role in giein oot resoources for Gaelic education.

Biggin atap the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, the Scots Pairliament haes inactit a nummer o bits o legislation thit is important tae the delivery o education thit includes the delivery o Gaelic education athin Scotland's scuils. Thir is includin the Gaelic Langage (Scotland) Act 2005, the Scuils (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, an relatit guidance.

Growth an Progress o GME

The Scots Government wad like for tae hear fae Gaelic education interests whit their thochts are on whit they tak as the bours or hinnerers thit want addressin for tae aloo GME for tae mak mair progress. We wad like for tae hear, tae, yer thochts on possible solutions tae thir issues.

Ower years recent there been reports on GME an on GME consultation repones thit haud a common theme. This theme is thit there bours or hinnerers thit hae tae be owercome sae thit GME kin mak guid progress. Sae thit we kin gar mair discussin an interaction wi stakehauders the feck o thir issues are pitten oot ablow. Hou an iver the Scots Government are wantin for tae hear your thochts on whit is maist broukit sae thit wirk kin be duin for tae bring forret an len a haun tae winnin mair progress wi GME athin Scotland. We are wantin for tae get fae ye yer thochts on weys for tae bring aboot improvements, an as sic whan answerin this consultation ye wull mibbie be wantin for tae gie yer thochts on some o thir maitters but ye hinnae tae be fankit juist tae thir topics. We are gled for tae hear yer thochts furth o thir topics ablow.

Areas o concern micht include:

- GME provision, access tae provision an local authority heezin o GME
- GME as a three tae echten experience an GME continuity
- GME subjeck chyces, curriculum an assessment arrangements
- GME teacher recruitment, steidin, retainin, an professional lairnin
- Teacher an pupil support an resoources
- Nocht tae three, early years provision an linguistic acquisition
- Cless sizes, leid assistants, immersion, an fluency
- Takkin accoot o GME whan settin oot national expectations an activities aroon scuil inspections
- Takkin tent o GME in the plannin for an reportin fae scuils thit hae GME as pairt o a dual stream scuil.

Thir areas in the leet abuin are braid heiders but ilkane cuid haud mair an finer issues. As an ensampul, unner the heider o access, we ken there a when parents thit hae sprachilt wi finnin a GME place whaur provision is limitit or no gien. This is mibbie the case tae whaur there a want ayont whit is there. Some parents kin be at a disadvantage or no able for tae tak up a place whaur transport is behaudin tae catchment arrangements, an aff the local policies aroon transport. An tae, unner the braid heider o subjeck chyces there mibbie a wirry about GME subjeck provision in the senior phase. Ilkane o the heiders in the leet abuin kin be shed intae ither mair detailt an specific ensampuls.

The ettle for onie new strategic tak wi Gaelic medium education wull be for tae support growth an development for tae mak siccar thit GME gies a guid quality education experience tae aw young fowk in GME. Sae thit we kin achieve this we maun mak ilka effort for tae owercome an impruive whaur a gien issue is fun tae be a baur tae growth. As sic we ask for ye tae consider whit gate, fae your staunnin, wants taen for tae mak progress or gie solutions. For ensampul solutions wad mibbie see:

- Gaun ower an chyngin the duties o local authorities wi regaird tae GME
- Unfanklin the naiture o the three tae echten GME experience an whit parents kin expect fae hit
- Mair misures for tae support GME teacher recruitin an professional development
- Makkin siccar thit GME early years provision is steidit an supportit
- Wirkin oot hou national groups an agencies kin wirk better thegither for tae support GME

Solutions fun as pairt o the new strategic approach tae Gaelic medium education cuid be delivert throu existin legislation, fae eikin tae hit an wi a redden o the guidance on GME. Hit is necessar tae for tae mak siccar thit a accoont is taen o the braider education reform agenda athort Scottish education an for GME for tae be includit at the hairt o thon reform. Whaur ye fin a issue ye kin mibbie pit forret whit action ye wad haud wad aloo progress for tae be taen in GME.

As sayed, tho there braid heiders gien abuin there nae assumption thit consultation taks ocht tae be juist anent thir pynts. Thochts are walcome on ither bours an proponit solutions.

Consultation Speirins

Repones in consultation are socht on the speirin anent a new strategic tak on Gaelic medium education.

Thinkin anent bours, hinnitus an solutions - whit are the key pynts ye haud maun be includit athin a new strategic approach tae Gaelic medium education?

Whit wirk specifically dae ye think maun be duin for tae support an heeze up Gaelic education an mak siccar onie new strategic approach tae GME is implementit?

Is there onie ithar pynts thit ye wad want tae mak regairdin the provision o Gaelic medium education an Gaelic lairner education athin Scots education?

Gàidhealtachd

This pairt wull consider whither or no the Gàidhealtachd commitment shuid hae hits heidmaist focus on steidin an hou hit is definit or on Gaelic spickers whaure'er they bide an hou they are supportit.

The Scots Government's weish is for tae strenthen the leid an support Gaelic spidders in communities whaur'er they might be athin Scotland. Oor ettle wull be for tae heeze up the amoont o langage uise, gie mair services throu the medium o Gaelic an for tae extend opportunities. In particular, oor ettle biolds the weish for tae see mair virrsome Gaelic leid uissage ithin baith the hame an in communities. Alang wi this is a commitment tae hae focus on hinnerin langage shift in the airts an pairts whaur there significant nummers o spidders.

Traditionally the Gàidhealtachd is a term uisit for the Heilans an Islands o Scotland. Time wis thit the langage an culture o this region wad hae been maistly Gaelic. Tae noo the term haesna pleyit a pairt in Gaelic policy athin Scotland, the ettle wi this commitment wull be for tae consider whit mair misures kin be taen for tae support an heeze up Gaelic an for tae grow the nummer o bodies thit are spidkin, uisin, an lairnin the leid. The focus o this pairt o the consultation paper wull be the commitment tae splore the makkin o a Gàidhealtachd.

Éire's Gaeltacht

The Ers Gaeltacht areas hae been recognisit fae the nineteen twinties, an thir wis areas thit the Ers leid wis tae the fore an supportit. The recentmaist legislation haes been the Gaeltacht Act o 2012. The Act rejiggit the traditional Ers-spidkin areas in Éire on linguistic gruns insteid o the geographic areas, thit wis the position up intae 2012.

In the Republic o Ireland, this term is mair associatit wi langage support an policy implementation. The Republic o Ireland hae uised a sib term aw throu the last yearhunner, but thon system haes chyngit aw throu thon tim an hit disna gie ae claer or static model thit we kin import tae repone tae the speirin o whit wad be the makkins o a Gàidhealtachd. For tae gar thocht an discussions hou an iver a owerview o their arrangements as they staun the noo are gied ablow.

The Ers leid wis ance spoke aw throu Éire, but noo there but 2% o Éire's population thit bide athin the Gaeltacht, thae areas whaur Ers floorishes as a community leid.

The Gaeltacht Act, 2012, gies the statutory fittin for langage plannin processes. Unner the processes, Gaeltacht communities along wi communities in Gaeltacht Service Toons, an Ers Leid Netwirks are gien the chance for tae pit thegither an pit in force langage plans at the community level wi ongaun support. Sicna communities syne hae the chance for tae pley a key role in lowpin the bours thit are afront the Ers leid as seen fae the community level. The Langage Plannin Guidelines gie a fu overview o the process an whit wey hit operates.

In the langage plannin processes, Údarás na Gaeltachta is in charge o facillitatin the implementation o the processes in Gaeltacht Langage Plannin Areas an in Gaeltacht Service Toons athin the Gaeltacht, an Foras na Gaelige hae sib responsibilities for the implementation o the processes ootwi the Gaeltacht sae faur as hit relates tae Gaeltacht Service Toons an Ers Leid Netwirks.

Unner the Gaeltacht Act, 2012, the Gaeltacht haes been sinnert intae twinty-sax Gaeltacht Langage Plannin Areas thit hae been gien the opportunity for tae mak an pit in force langage plans at the community level. Gaeltacht Service Toons are toons in or aside Gaeltacht Langage Plannin Areas thit tak a significant role in the delivery o public services, leisure, social, an commercial amenities tae thae areas. Ers Leid Netwirks are thae areas ootwi the Gaeltacht thit hae a basic critical mess o community an state support for the Ers leid.

Gàidhealtachd Discussion

The Heilans an Islands o Scotland hae traditionally an historically been regairdit as the Scottish Gàidhealtachd. Hou an iver, wi respek tae the policy uisage o sicna term, there a differ in thochts an repones. Some o thir hae been pitten ablow an thir micht len a haun in repones tae this consultation.

Some wad haud thit the term Gàidhealtachd is ae area for tae be geographically mairkit oot. They wad tak the ettle o this commitment for tae be for tae strenthen Gaelic in geographical areas whaur hit is spoke bi a significant percent o thaim thit bide there. Haudin thit there thae areas whaur the Gaelic leid haes a scowthier staunnin an thit a gien nummer o langage support initiatives want tae happen athin thir areas.

That said a when o interest groups didna tak the cairryin oot o this commitment for a streichtforret job. There wis speirins about whit wey this commitment sits alangside the conceit thit Gaelic is for aw athin Scotland an ocht for tae be a national leid. This wis eikit tae the wirries about ongaun support for Gaelic in ither areas, sic as Glesga or Embra, thit wad mibbie be taen as non-Gàidhealtachd. There wis threaps thit this tak wad mibbie be sinnerin, maggle the daelin o grants, an gin a line wis for tae be screivit on a map hit wad be haurd for tae win a greeance on whit wey hits gate wis decidit.

Ithers haud thit the focus maun be on giein a heeze tae thaim thit is lairnin an spikkin the leid, an tae the netwirks an communities thit they belang tae whaur'er they be. Thir chyces are no mutually exclusive an thocht micht be gien tae whit weys aw kin be better supportit. Forby, we maun haud in mind the treisure o on-line digital resoorces thit Gaelic spidders an lairners hae access tae, an the communities thit cam fae thir.

Gàidhealtachd Options

For the sake o this consultation exercise this pairt wull hae a focus on geographical areas whaur there a heich pairt o Gaelic spidders an whaur there heich Gaelic activity.

Whaur there a focus on a heich proportion o Gaelic spidders there a challenge as tae hou tae mak oot sicna area an for tae speir whit percent o the population wad hae tae be Gaelic spidders for a gien area for tae be taen as Gàidhealtachd. The neist speirin wad be about whit Gaelic misures are wantin for tae be securit in sicna area - for ensampul shuid:

- GME be available in aw scuils?
- groups hae a bilingual tak?
- a misure o community support be gien for Gaelic?
- public groups an authorities mak claer commitments tae whit wey they wull ettle at improvin support for Gaelic an provide for Gaelic spidders athin Gàidhealtachd areas?

There tae speirins about whither or no onie additional resoorces kin be pit tae this area an hou this wad be monitort or regulatit. This commitment micht weil tae see questions about enterprise activity an hou sectors sic as employment, health, hoosin, transport, connectivity, community maitters, an mair kin support Gaelic in sicna communities. There wull tae be speirins about whit this wad haud fae ither Scots Government policy areas.

Apairt fae thir, areas cuid be taen on the basis o a gien level o Gaelic activity. There a threap tae be pit, for ensampul, thit in pairts whaur Gaelic medium education scuils an units are, this sees gien netwirks an communities come about whaur there Gaelic activity. Gif recognition wis gien on this basis then thocht wad hae tae be gien tae whitna activities in support o Gaelic ocht tae be locatit, heezit up, an steidit in sicna areas. Athin communities whaur there GME there aften ither Gaelic projecks an activities thit micht include Fèisean an ither Gaelic airts activities, Gaelic adult lairnin opportunities, an the wirk o Gaelic community development officers. Hit is the fack o GME thit aften sees the biggin o ither activities in support o the leid.

Ae option for makkin progress wi this commitment micht be for tae gang ower the Guidance on Gaelic Langage Plans pitten thegither bi Bòrd na Gàidhlig. For ensampul, the Gaelic Langage (Scotland) Act 2005 an eikit Guidance pits forret thit there be a proportionate application o Gaelic plans. There pooers unner the 2005 Act thit regulations kin be makkit thit mak mair provisions for whit thir gien Gaelic Langage Plans maun contain. In ither wirts, commitments ocht tae be stranger whaur there mair Gaelic spidders. On tap o this, there commitments in the National Plans for Gaelic thit onie gien things ocht for tae happen whaur there a heicher percent o Gaelic spidders. The policy approach o the National Islands Plan wi hits Island Communities Impact Assessment is here tae relevant, alang wi the potential for tae mak local community Plans.

On-line and Digital

Gaelic on-line activity wull hae tae be taen as a essential pairt o onie tak on hou tae luik at the best weys for tae support Gaelic spidders. Gaelic on-line activity is a kern o aw gates for tae support Gaelic, whither in toons an cities, or in areas wi laich populations.

Regulation and Enforcement

The question stauns as tae whit requirements in onie Gàidhealtachd area wad be pit in place an monitirt is a important pairt o this commitment. This wis anither theme thit emergit clae in Scots Government's informal consultation wirk, whaurin questions wis speirt about the pooers thit Bòrd na Gàidhlig hae for tae monitor an enforce the requirements set oot in a gien Gaelic Langage Plan or in their ain guidance. The question o monitorin an enforcement an whaur this function maun sit owerlaps wi the commitment on the review o the functions o the Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Consultation Speirins

Repones in consultation are socht on the speirin anent splorin the makkin o a Gàidhealtachd.

Dae ye hae thochts on whitna misures maun be pitten in place for tae support Gaelic spidders in areas wi significant nummers o spidders?

Dae ye hae thochts on hou sicna areas maun be definit?

Hou wad ye balance the commitment for tae pit misures in steid in areas whaur there significant nummers o Gaelic spidders wi the principal thit Gaelic maun be a national leid for aw o Scotland?

Is there onie mair pynts thit ye wad like for tae mak about the commitment for tae splore the makkin o a Gàidhealtachd an the eikit commitments anent Gaelic uiss in families an communities?

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

This pairt wull discuss the commitment for tae gae ower the functions an structures o Bòrd na Gàidhlig for tae mak siccar thit Scotland haes a effective leadership group an netwirk o organisations for the heezin up o Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig wis stertit unner the Gaelic Langage (Scotland) Act 2005. The Scots Government is noo wantin for tae gae ower Bòrd na Gàidhlig for tae mak siccar thit Scotland haes the maist effective leadership group pit in steid for Gaelic wi the maist appropriate pooers for the heezin up o Gaelic. The review wull hae speirin thochts o stakehauders as pairt o this consultation an wull include wirkin alangsides Bòrd na Gàidhlig for tae tak on their thochts about opportunities they see for system improvement. Wi regaird for the pairts o this consultation on Gaelic Medium Education an splorin a Gàidhealtachd hit wull be necessar tae for tae refleck on whither or no thochts thit cam oot fae repones tae thae pairts wull gar mair chyges tae the functions o Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The Scots Government an Bòrd na Gàidhlig gie support tae a braid netwirk o groups thit wirk in support o Gaelic an thoct wull be gien tae hou best tae gie this support maist eidently an effectively. Oor ettle for Gaelic taks in the contributions fae public authorities an groups an especially oor weish is thit groups wi functions in airts, tourism an in heritage think about whit wey they kin pit their haun in for tae get a heicher rate o progress for Gaelic. The owerluikin wull luik at the structure, function an operation o Bòrd na Gàidhlig the noo an at the netwirks o fundit Gaelic groups wi a luik tae speirin whither or no this is stull the richt form for tae best promote an support Gaelic athin Scotland.

A bridth o thochts hae been gied vyce on this subjeck an the like is thit this is a misure o hou important tae the community hit is for tae hae a national group for tae heeze up the leid. Ance mair thir thochts are pyntit oot here for tae gar reflectin an discussin. Hou an iver stakehauders maunna feel fankit tae thir topics an are walcomit as pairt o this consultation for tae gie a hail reenge o thochts an their suggestions o onie system chynghes thit they are wantin for tae see.

For ensampul, thoct haes been gien on a want for tae rebrand an flit Bòrd na Gàidhlig; on the amoont o Bòrd na Gàidhlig fundin o Gaelic groups; on the wirkins o the Gaelic langage plans system includin hits implementation; on the status an content o the documents Bòrd na Gàidhlig mak includin the National Plan for Gaelic an the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Langage Plans. Some Gaelic spickers an lairners see the key leadership role Bòrd na Gàidhlig hae in heezin the Gaelic langage an community confidence in the leid. Ithers ettle at Bòrd na Gàidhlig's role in seein thit ither public bodies are mair aware o an impactfu for Gaelic an in supportin Gaelic fundit groups athort the sector.

Thochts hae been gien anent whither or no Bòrd na Gàidhlig maun be coothier tae the Scots Government, an at the sel same time thit it maun be coothier wi the community an wi Gaelic groups. There been thochts gien anent regulation an enforcement, an about the corporate an administrative weicht on a wee'r public body an hou this micht be taen in haun or alleviatit.

There a kennin thit the ither Scots Government commitments micht hae effeck on the structure an wirkins o Bòrd na Gàidhlig but maistly there a acceptance thit gien Bòrd na Gàidhlig wis stertit ower seiventeen year syne thit hit's timeous for tae gae ower hou hit is wirkin an wirk oot whither or no thae wirkins thit hit wis stertit wi in 2005 is stull the anes thit Gaelic wants the noo.

A pickle o thaim giein a repone micht gie their thochts on the fine wirkins o the Bòrd na Gàidhlig functions giein their ain experience o whit weys they wirk in practice. Ithers micht want for tae refleck an talk about the structure o the group includin whaur aboots hit is steidit in the public body launscape.

Speirins anent hou Gaelic plans want for tae be regulatit an owerseen hae cam up in informal consultations tae, an kennin repones tae thon micht weil get pitten forret whan splorin a Gàidhealtachd we wad walcome ocht regairdin hou the Gaelic Plans System kin get amendit for tae mak stranger quicker progress for Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Functions

Bòrd na Gàidhlig haes as hits foondin legislation the Gaelic Langage (Scotland) Act 2005. Tae, hit haes a Framewirk Document thit pits oot hits relationship wi Government thegither wi ilkane's roles an responsibilities.

The ordinar functions o Bòrd na Gàidhlig, as pitten oot in the 2005 Act, kin be taen as bein tae dae wi the Gaelic leid, Gaelic scuillin, an Gaelic culture. Bòrd na Gàidhlig hae duties for tae heeze up an for tae facilitate the heezin up o the uiss an unnerstaunin o the leid. Bòrd na Gàidhlig haes functions for tae gie cooncil on langage, scuillin, an culture tae Scots Ministers an ither public groups. Mair, Bòrd na Gàidhlig haes the pooer for tae cooncil, whan speirt tae, ither fowk on maitters tae dae wi the Gaelic leid, Gaelic scuillin, an Gaelic culture.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is responsinle tae for duties regairdin Gaelic plans an for the makkin o the National Plan for Gaelic. The Bòrd kin haud public authorities for tae pit thegither a Gaelic Langage Plan pittin oot whit a gien group maun dae wi regards tae Gaelic, kin come tae a greeance on the feck o the plan wi them, an speir for reports on progress o hou hit is gettin implementit. Bòrd na Gàidhlig maun pit thegither Guidance on Gaelic langage plans an on Gaelic scuillin. A guid when o the fundin pitten ower tae Bòrd na Gàidhlig is daelt oot bi therisels throu grants fae them tae ither groups an projecks thit tak tae dae wi the support o the Gaelic leid.

The 2005 Act hauds thit the functions gien ower tae Bòrd na Gàidhlig maun be uisit wi the heidin o makkin siccar Gaelic is a official leid o Scotland garrin equal respek tae the Inglis leid throu heezin the nummer o thaim thit kin uise an unnerstaun the Gaelic leid.

Status as an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is a Non-Departmental Public Body. NDPBs pley a gey important role in the delivery o public services athin Scotland, cairryin oot a braid reenge o functions on the behauf o Government, wi differin levels o operational authority fae the Government.

NDPBs cairry oot ministers' priorities throu the promotion, fundin, regulation an scrutiny o services as weil as giein independent, expert advice tae ministers, an aften strategic policy inpit tae Government.

NDPBs maun add value tae Government throu their specialist knowledg an skills, their focus on specific maitters an connections wi stakehauders an ither interests. They are, bi naiture, delivery focusit an line their wirk wi the Government's Purpose an National Ootcomes.

As tae structure, Bòrd na Gàidhlig cuid sit closer tae Government an there gates for tae tak thit kin be considerit for hou this cuid be duin. There cuid be sauffins for tae be haed fae legal, human resoources, finance an corporate support. This cuid relieve a wheen o the administrative weichts on a wee'r group.

Yit Bòrd na Gàidhlig rins as a wee'r public group alooin hit tae as muckle as they kin wirk throu the medium o Gaelic. We expect thit there braid support in the principal o haein a public group for tae support an heeze up the Gaelic leid an thit hit is gey important thit this group gang forret wirkin in the Gaelic leid.

Gaelic Language Plans

The Scots Government wad like for tae hear yer thochts on whither or no the Gaelic langage plannin framewirk steys the best wey for tae cairry forret for the protection o the Gaelic langage or whither wider chyges is wantit as the ootcome o this luikin ower. The system the noo o Gaelic langage plans haes shawit progress, but there a chance here for tae think about whither or no this system kin be strenghtent or whither there a better wey o gaun about awthin thit is gaun tae mak mair an quicker progress for Gaelic. Gif ye hae experience wi the Gaelic langage plannin framewirk we wad ask thit ye consider whither or no hit is as efficient as hit cuid be, or whither ye hae ocht for tae pit forret on hou tae mak a less resoource intensive wey o makkin progress for Gaelic.

Consultation Speirins

Repones in consultation are socht on the speirin anent a luik ower at the structure an functionins o the Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Dae ye hae onie thochts anent the duties o the Bòrd na Gàidhlig as they staun the noo an onie suggestions aboot hou they cuid wirk mair effective or efficient?

Dae ye hae onie thochts anent structural chyngees at the Bòrd na Gàidhlig thit cuid strenthen the promotion o an the support for Gaelic in Scotland?

Is there ocht else thit ye wad like tae share anent the review o the functions an structure o the Bòrd na Gàidhlig thit ettles at makkin siccar Scotland haes the maist effective leadership group an netwirks o groups for the promotion o Gaelic?

Scots Language

We wull bring forret a new Scottish Langages Bill thit taks mair steps for tae heeze up Gaelic, acts on the Scots leid an taks tent thit Scotland is a multilingual society.

Scots Language Policy Context

The Scots Government haes a Scots language policy thit wis officially pitten forret in twinty-fifteen. The Scots Government is commitit tae for tae bigg on this foond an for tae tak mair steps for tae support Scots. There a wheen ithier statements an commitments thit shaw the policy context thit Scots is set athin an the level o priority gien bi the Scots Government tae Scots.

Scots is spoke aw throuoot Scotland, an the twinty eleeven Census telt us thit ower 1.5 million fowk haed theirsels as Scots spikkers. The Cooncil o Europe's Chairter on Regional or Minority Langages recognises Scots. Includit in the provisions for Scots is thit unnertakkins maun be based on recognition o regional or minority leids as a expression o cultural wealth. Athin the unnertakkins is the need for tae tak stieve action for tae promote regional or minority leids sic as Scots. Includit tae in the unnertakkins is thit Scots is facilitatit an encouraged in speech an screivin in public an in private life, the provision o appropriate forms an means for the teachin an the study o Scots, an mair forby.

Scots haes been gied recognition tae in Scots education. The Curriculum for Excellence maks hit claeer thit: 'the languages, dialects and literature of Scotland provide a rich resource for children and young people to learn about Scotland's culture, identity and language. Through engaging with a wide range of texts they will develop an appreciation of Scotland's literary and linguistic heritage and its indigenous languages and dialects. This principle permeates the experiences and outcomes and it is expected that practitioners will build upon the diversity of language represented within the communities of Scotland, valuing the languages which children and young people bring to school.'

Follaein fae this, the Scots Government in 2011 agreeit tae develop the concept o Scottish Studies in oor scuils. The Scots Qualification Authority (SQA) developit the Scottish Studies award an the Scots Language Award ettlin at makkin a distinct threid o lairnin focused on Scotland haudin Scots history, Scots literature, the Scots an Gaelic leids, wider Scots culture an Scots current affairs. Aw pupils hae access tae this threid at baith Primary an Saicondary levels.

Reseirch haes been encouragit intae the attainment levels amang students thit are takkin thir awards. Creative screivin in Scots is encouragit tae an supportit athin the SQA's National Qualifications for Inglis. There wis a significant increase atween 2018-2019 in the nummers o lairners takkin an gettin thir awards, in aw levels fae SCQF levels twa tae sax.

The Scots Language Awards is a event haudit ilka year an different fae the SQA's awards. Thir awards wis furst establishit in 2019 for tae celebrate the wirk thit haes been gaun on in the Scots community ower monie years. The pickle aims o the event is for tae heeze the profile o the leid, for tae promote the wirk gettin duin, an for tae support hit in the media. The awards gies a platform tae a hantle o screivers, groups, an turns, for tae help heeze theirsels in their careers.

Education Scotland haes gied guid support for Scots athin education an haes promotit an developit a online professional development coorse for teachers.

In 2022 the Scots Government is giein fundin oot tae the follaein groups an ither Scots projects:

- Scots Language Centre
- Dictionaries of the Scots Langage
- Association for Scottish Literature
- Scots Hoose
- Scots Radio/Doric Film Festival
- Doric Board
- Scottish Book Trust (Scots Publishing Grant & Scots Bookbug app)
- YoungScot (Scottish Langages Panel)

Informal Discussions

There been informal discussions wi Scots stakehauders an thaim wi interest in the leid. In thir discussions a fouth o misures wis pitten forret for tae strenthen Scots an for tae heeze the profile o the leid. The focus wis maistly on education, the airts, braidcastin, an publishin. Forby there wis discussion on whit new structures micht be wantin for tae support the Scots langage.

In thir discussions there wis braid enthusiasm for Scots tae be gien mair recognition, an for Scots tae hae mair o a profile athin education. Scots representatives brocht tae the fore tae thit there a potential for the use o Scots in the airts, braidcastin, an publishin. A when o groups could mak a significant contribution in thir areas.

There wis suggestions pitten forret tae thit the best wey forret for the Scots leid is for tae bigg up on the wark an expertise o groups thit are weil steidit an gettin support. For tae assist wi this discussion a when o thir Scots groups is gien ablow wi a owerview o their ongaun wirk.

Key Scots Bodies

The Scots Language Centre

The Scots Language Centre (SLC) sees fundin fae the Scots Government for tae gie information an cooncil on Scots, raise awareness o an for tae promote the uiss o the Scots leid, hit's culture, an Scots in education. Hit is ane o the main online soorces for educational resoources for early years tae saicondary alang wi Scots Hoose. The Scots Language Centre employs a General Teachin Cooncil Scotland (GTCS) registert teacher as their education specialist thit hauds pairtnership wirkin wi Education Scotland, the SQA, an a wheen o ither educational organisations, developin professional lairnin an resoources baith collaboratively an in-hoose.

The Scots Language Centre routinely supports an expertly cooncils, at request, individuals, groups, organisations, an public bodies on maitters athort the hale brith o langage uissage. The Scots Language Centre taen the lead on the 'Aye Can' campaign heezin awareness o Scots aroon the Scots question in the 2022 Census. The Scots Language Centre hae pitten oot split new interactive lairnin materials online for uiss for lairners three tae eichteen year auld, teachers an for parents. In Septemmer 2021 the Scots Language Centre launchit "Scots Warks", guidance an resoources ettlin for tae help fowk gaither confidence in their literacy skills writin in Scots. This guidance wis makkit in consultation wi Scots spickers an developit bi a expert wirkin group o a wheen o leadin Scots authors.

Dictionaries of the Scots Language

The Scots Government funds the Dictionars o the Scots Leid, thit hauds responsibility for the heidmaist dictionaries o the Scots leid, an unnertak a brith o educational ootreach wi fowk o ilka age an abilities. The Dictionars o the Scots Leid hae publishit airticles about Scots wirds in The Herald newspaper for tae heeze awareness an gar public discussion. As pairt o Book Week Scotland in Novemmer 2019, the Dictionars o the Scots Leid launchit the publication "100 Favourite Scots Words". In early 2021 the Dictionars o the Scots Leid launchit the free "Scots Dictionary for Schools app" available tae aw scuil pupils an lairners alike. The new app haes thoosans o audio files for tae gie lairners a haun wi pronoonciation. Hit wis doonloadit ower a thoosan times in hits first week an stauns as a treisurable lairnin tool for scuils an teachers.

Association of Scottish Literature

The Association of Scottish Literature (ASL) taks fundin fae the Scots Government. The Association of Scottish Literature gies professional development an supports materials for Scottish literature an leids for teachers an pupils, publishes Scottish literature thit is broukit or wantin reddit up for modren readers, an pits oot a threid o scuil-college level study guides an resoources. The Association of Scottish Literature hauds a Scuils Conference giein CPD for teachers in saicondary for Inglis an Scots.

Scots Hoose

Scots Hoose is the fore-a-haun furnisar o free online Scots leid education resoources for scuils. In 2022/23 the Scots Government wull gie fundin tae Scots Hoose, hit maks sair wantin fulums, cairtoons, graphic nuvels, new poyums, stories an sangs an lear in Scots for early years, primary, an saicondary domines an pupils. Hits mission is for tae heeze attainment bi improvin Scots furnisin for aw o Scotland's young Scots spickers, wi a ettle at thaim thit bide in areas o deprivation. Scots Hoose has wirkit wi a reenge o professional airtists fae aw different backgruns an hae involvit scuils in makkin resoources an even makkin short fulums.

Scots Radio/Doric Film Festival

The Scots Government gies fundin tae Scots Radio, thit successfully stertit an steidit Aberdeenshire's furst e'er Doric Film Festival in 2018-2019. The festival gies a heich-profile boord for tae shawcase short fulums makkit bi individuals, community groups an scuils in the North East o Scotland. At the recent 2021 Celtic Media awards Scots Radio wun the Radio Magazine Show award. The Doric Board wis creatit wi a strang focus for tae support local groups an local projecks bi giein oot smaa grants tae heeze up Doric developments an initiatives.

Scottish Book Trust

In 2018 the Scots publication grant wis launchit, fundit aff the Scots Government an deliverit bi the Scottish Book Trust. Hit wis stertit for tae support Scots Publishers an for tae gar guid faith tae Scots screivers. The grant haes proven a braw success seein a guid mix o publications includin poyetry, fiction, bairns buiks an historical warks. Hit shaws the wealth o talent an interest athin an in the leid an strenthens the case for the Scots Government's support o Scots an thaim thit are wantin for tae use hit.

The Commitment tae Scots

The commitment tae a Scottish langages Bill wull be the key legislative vehichle for delivery o onie chynge tae primary legislation thit nicht be wantit for tae deliver the commitments on Scots an multilingual recognition. As set oot abuin there braid enthusiasm for Scots for tae be gien mair recognition an status, an the discussion abuin haes taen note o the possibility o a expandit role for current Scots groups.

There a weish for Scots tae hae increasit promotion an support athin education tae. An a duty on groups for tae heeze up an support Scots or for tae consider hou they kin tak accoont o Scots in their wirk cuid be deliverit throu a bill.

Consultation Speirins

Consultation repones are invitit on the speirin o support for the Scots langage.

Thinkin on the wirk o the key Scots groups thit wis spake about in the paper - Whit is yer thochts about the wark o the Scots groups? Whit wad ye dae for tae strenthen an add tae the wirk o thir groups?

Whit is yer thochts on the neist steps thit maun be taen for tae support the Scots leid?

Is there ocht mair thit ye wad like for tae pit forret anent the commitment for tae support Scots?

Consultation arrangements - Giein yer reponae tae this Consultation

The Scots Government is efter thochts anent hits commitments tae Gaelic an Scots an a Scottish Langages Bill.

Please gie yer reponae tae this consultation uisin the Scots Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space. Fin an gie yer reponae tae this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/education-reform/gaelic-and-scots-scottish-languages-bill>

Ye kin save an reijne yer repones athin the time thit the consultation is stull open. Please mak siccar thit yer consultation repones is submittit afore the shuttin date, Thursday 17t November 2022.

Gif ye arena able for tae gie yer repones uisin oor consultation hub, please fill oot the Respondent Information Form an email hit tae: GaelicAndScotsConsultation@gov.scot

Haunnlin yer repones

Gif ye gie yer repones uisin the consultation hub ye wull be sent tae the About You page afore submittin yer repones. Please let us ken hou ye are wantin yer repones for tae be haunnilt an mak siccar for tae say whither or no ye wad be gled for them tae be publishit. Gif ye say ye dinna want yer repones for tae be publishit we wull tak them as confidential an we wull haunnle them as sic.

Aw thaim thit gie repones maun be aware thit the Scots Government is haudit tae the provisions o the Freedom o Information (Scotland) Act 2002 an as sic wad hae tae consider onie speirin makkit tae hit unner the Act for information tae dae wi repones gien tae us as pairt o this consultation exercise. Gin ye arena able for tae gie yer repones via Citizen Space, please fill oot an sen in the Respondent Information Form includit in this document.

For tae fin oot hou we haunnle yer personal data, please tak a deek ower oor privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Neist steps in the process.

Whaur thaim thit haes gied permission for their repones tae be made public, an efter we hae syit throu them for tae check there nae defamatory remairks, repones wull be made available tae the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. Gif ye uise the consultation hub for tae gie yer repones ye wull get a copy o yer repones via email. Efter the shuttin date o the consultation aw repones wull be analysed an considerit along wi onie ither evidence available tae us.

Repones wull be publishit whaur we hae been gien permission for tae dae sae. A analysis report wull be makkit available tae.

Comments an complaints

Gin ye hae onie thochts anent hou this consultation exercise haes been conductit, please sen them tae the contact address abuin or tae ConsultationPSC@gov.scot.

Scots Government consultation process

Consultation is a essential pairt o the policymakkin process. Hit gies us the chance for tae consider your thochts an expertise on a gien piece o wirk that is gaun forret. Ye kin fin aw wir consultations online : <http://consult.gov.scot>. Ilka consultation gaes ower the issues unner consideration, as weil as gien a wey for ye tae gie us yer thochts, either online, bi email, or bi post.

Repones wull be analysed an uisit as pairt o the decision makkin process, along wi a bridth o ither available information an evidence. We wull publish a report o this analysis for ilka consultation. Depennin on the naiture o the consultation exercise the repones gien nicht:

- pynt tae a want for a policy development or hits gaun ower
- gie a haun wi the development o a gien policy
- len weicht tae decisions tae be taen atween twa-three policy proposals
- be uisit for tae finalise legislation afore hit is inactit

Scots Government consultation exercises ettle at providin the chance for aw thaim thit want tae gie their thochts on a gien area o wirk for tae dae sae in weys thit wull inform an add tae that wirk.

The Scots Government nicht mak the repones tae this consultation paper available tae the public an tae the Scots Pairliament.

Please fill oot the relevant pairts in the repone form for tae mak siccar thit we wull treat yer repones appropriate. Aw repones wull be acknowledgit, analysit an considerit bi the Scots Government Gaelic & Scots Team.

Thaim thit respond maun be aware thit the Scots Government is subjeck tae the provisions o the Freedom o Information (Scotland) Act 2002 an wad hae tae consider onie speirin pit tae hit unner the Act for information relatin tae repones gien in this consultation exercise.



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note thit this form **maun** be completit an returnit wi yer repones.

For tae fin oot hou we haunle yer personal data, please tak a deek ower oor privacy policy:
<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are ye respondin as a individual or a organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Fu name or organisation's name

Phone nummer

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scots Government wad like yer permission for tae publish yer consultation repones. Please indicate yer publishin preference:

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish repones ainly (athoot name)' is available for individual respondents ainly. If this option is selected, the organisation name wull stull be publishit.

If ye choose the option 'Dinna publish repones', yer organisation name mich stull be listit as haein respondit tae the consultation in, for ensampul, the analysis report.

- Publish repones wi name
- Publish repones ainly (athoot name)
- Dinna publish repones

We wull share yer repones internally wi ither Scots Government policy teams thit micht be addressin the issues ye discuss. They mich want for tae contact ye again in the future, but we require yer permission for tae dae sae. Are ye content wi the Scots Government tae contact ye again in relation tae this consultation exercise?

- Ay
- Naw





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