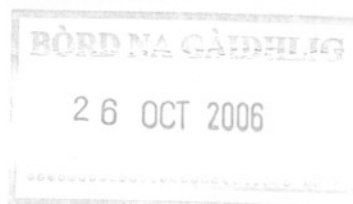


## Kincraig & Vicinity Community Council

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01540 651 715

Allen Campbell Esq.  
Chief Executive  
Bord na Gaidhlig  
Darach  
Stoneyfield Business Park  
INVERNESS  
IV2 7PA



24<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

Dear Mr Campbell,

### **National Plan for Gaelic / Guidance on Gaelic Language Plans**

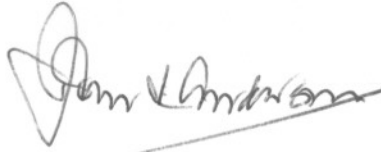
Thank you for sending us the consultation pack on the proposals for halting and hopefully reversing the decline in the use of the Gaelic language. Kincraig is on the fringe of the Gaelic speaking world on an everyday basis, although we are surrounded by Gaelic place names. We do however appreciate that keeping a language alive will owe much to its being in daily use – and there lies the challenge – how to maintain enthusiasm for the language without alienating non-speakers.

Much ground is covered in the two volumes, the advice contained in the drafts being detailed and comprehensive. You will however be well aware of the existence of other dialects if not languages – Scots and Doric for example – although Gaelic seems to be the only one being given 'national' status in addition to English. That, of course, is not an issue for this consultation, since the status of Gaelic has already been resolved by statute. There must, however, be concerns for the long term implications of that status. Although it is not too clear as to definition, it seems that initially 'selected public bodies' will be required to submit a draft action plan with a timetable etc. There are some obvious public bodies on whom that requirement could justifiably be placed, but it will raise a whole raft of issues if that requirement was to be placed on all public bodies.

However, if the stated objectives are to be met, considerable resources will be needed both initially and into the future. The drafts make it clear that as far as public bodies are concerned, there will be no new money available and these additional costs will have to be borne out of existing budgets. HC is having great difficulty in meeting existing financial responsibilities, with some services already having to be cut back.

We would have preferred an approach that strengthened and/or encouraged existing projects and developments at lower cost. Even with extra money, we find it difficult to un-conditionally support such a grandiose scheme seemingly being imposed from the top down.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "A".

John L. Anderson,  
Secretary & Treasurer.

Copied to Mr Libeks, Chairman.