

I am very glad to see that there is a National Plan for Gaelic and the emphasis on education and communications is indeed vital.

As a former director of the Scottish National Dictionary Association Ltd, and a lifelong Gaelic learner, I would like to ask why there is so little attention paid to dictionaries in the document, and in particular why there is no commitment of support for the new project for a historical dictionary, Faclair na Gàidhlig.

Especially in terms of 'corpus development' and 'educational resources' the development of a full-scale historical dictionary would seem to be an **indispensable** base from which numerous more detailed resources could grow. Faclair na Gàidhlig is not even mentioned as one of the 'Primary Players' in Corpus Development (p 17), and 'Promote the development of Gaelic lexicography' seems to come amazingly low in the list of priorities, although one would have thought that an **authoritative** dictionary was the most important single element.

The current project struggles for mere existence from grant application to application, with no guarantee of continuation of even its present meagre resources. In spite of this a good start is being made and it is poised to produce excellent results, if more help can be given. The project **benefits from** cooperation **with** Scots-language colleagues with years of expert experience in the field.

Other countries do not neglect such resources and it seems very short-sighted not to regard this project as one of the most important building blocks in the creation of a better future for Gaelic.

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