

Chaarjyn - friends

**Please find below a response to the Scottish Gaelic Language Plan in respect of adult provision for Scottish Gaelic and its likely impact on Manx Gaelic in the Isle of Man.**

31 October 2006

### **Deiseal Earranta - Application for Pilot Funding of Ùlpan**

The Manx Heritage Foundation, Undinys Eiraght Vannin, is currently engaged in discussions with Deiseal Earranta with a view to adapting the proposed Scottish Gaelic course, Ùlpan, to Manx Gaelic and to train tutors to deliver it. We are hopeful that a contract to engage Deiseal to undertake this work will be finalised early in 2007.

Manx Gaelic is presently undergoing something of a renaissance as a result of well-organised community based initiatives coupled with targeted Manx Government support. Nevertheless, one area recognised as offering unfulfilled opportunities is the potential provision of structured, professionally led courses for adults. It was this in mind that The Manx Heritage Foundation embarked upon exploring the possibility for those involved with Manx and Scots Gaelic to work collaboratively.

In the last census 2.2% of people in the Island could speak Manx, of whom 47% were under the age of 20. Moreover, in a Mori opinion poll of 2002, 19% of population expressed an interest in learning the language, with a further 5% - approximately 3500 people - extremely keen on learning it. More recent market research, carried out in respect of the Manx Government's current branding initiative, indicates growing interest and support for the language.

Like Scotland we lack consistency in adult provision. A number of night classes take place throughout the Island, but there is no overall strategy for increasing access to the language for adults. With the continued growth in support for all things Manx (and the growing number of parents whose children understand some Manx) there is likely to be a steady increase of those wishing to learn the language.

Given both the context we find ourselves in at present and what we would like to achieve in the near future, The Manx Heritage Foundation is keen that Deiseal receive the necessary funding for the Scottish Gaelic project. In Mann we neither have the resources nor manpower to develop such large-scale courses on our own. Most of what we have achieved recently has been by closely monitoring developments elsewhere and applying them to our own context. Having explored the range of available options, and having visited Wales to research Wlpan with the main providers of tutor-training and classes there, we firmly believe this methodology leads the field in adult language training. Thus the proposed Ùlpan course for Scotland, of which Oolpan, the Manx version, would be a spin-off, would seem to fit ideally with our needs.

Therefore, with any Manx development dependent upon the creation of a Scottish Gaelic Ùlpan, we wish to communicate our strong support for this project and recommend that Bòrd na Gàidhlig do likewise.

Lhiats / Yours

**Adrian Cain**

**Yn Greinneyder  
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