

National Plan for Gaelic

As someone who has contributed in the last few years to the range of mainstream Gaelic-English and English-Gaelic dictionaries, I feel very strongly that the National Plan for Gaelic should recommend adequate and durable funding for the proposed Gaelic Historical Dictionary, Faclair na Gàidhlig. Having been fortunate enough to study French and Spanish to a high level, as well as Gaelic, I am very much aware of the importance for a language and culture of a good historical dictionary. It goes without saying that such a work underpins and complements dictionaries of the contemporary language and allows scholars, students and general readers to study the development of the language through time and to access texts and other material from earlier periods. Truly no language and culture worthy of respect should be without a good historical dictionary and I urge that the opportunity should not be missed to ensure the creation of one for Gaelic.

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