

Dear sir/madam,

National Plan for Gaelic Consultation

Following your circulating copies of the National Plan for Gaelic and Guidance on Gaelic Language Plan documents to our Community Council we discussed this consultation process as an agenda item at our most recent public meeting of the council. (The Community Council secretary is away at present but in view of the 10th November deadline I am sending you this response. If in fact it duplicates an earlier communication from her, then I apologise.)

Below is an extract of the minute from the meeting which surmises a warm support for the language on the island with the recognition that at present the amount of everyday use of the language here is at a very low level.

1. National Plan for Gaelic: A discussion took place concerning both the level of local interest and the desirability of increasing the use of Gaelic. In terms of the former the following were mentioned: language classes on the Ross of Mull, lessons in the primary school, weeks on the Abbey Programme and a small number of local folk who speak the language. Opposing views were expressed concerning the desirability of locally promoting Gaelic as a working language, although there was agreement of its value as an 'arts language' and of its significance in terms of identity and roots. The meeting agreed to send a general positive response.

So while not addressing your twenty questions we would wish as an island to broadly support what you are trying to achieve.

Yours faithfully, Mark Jardine (chair, Iona Community Council)