

Sir,

I have read with interest the proposed National Plan for Gaelic and think that it is an exciting step forward. I have lived on the Welsh border in Herefordshire for over 25 years and have watched the moves made in Wales to encourage the use of Welsh. It has always been disappointing when visiting Scotland that moves to encourage gaelic have only begun recently. The plans proposed look very thorough. The main comment I would make following my experience watching the Welsh is the apparently low priority in making all public signs from place names, road work signs, public directions bilingual.

In Wales whenever one visits the use of Welsh is very prominent , it is accepted. This must happen with Gaelic. Once it is seen everywhere people become accustomed to thinking about it and even learning odd words.

As we hope to move to Scotland within the next few months, to the Gaelic region I look forward to seeing progress made with Gaelic. Culture and life lie in the language we speak , all minority languages are vital to a culture's sustainability. Long may they flourish.

Janet Mackay,
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