



Jenifer MacCaluim
12A Torridon Avenue
An Dùn Breac / Dumbreck
Glaschu / Glasgow
G41 5AU

staran@tesco.net

Peadar Morgan
Language Planning Manager
Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Darach, Stoneyfield
Inbhir Nis
IV2 7PA

Dear Peadar,

National Plan for Gaelic – consultation submission

Having read the consultation paper, I would like to make the following comments:

- I do not feel that the draft national plan places enough weight on adult learners. Adult learners are central to re-introducing intergenerational transmission, to adding to numbers of Gaelic speakers, to adding to the skills base and diversity of the Gaelic community and in filling Gaelic related posts.
- I do not feel that the draft national plan places enough weight on the status of Gaelic as a national language with relevance to all of Scotland.
- I do not feel that the national plan is detailed enough. There are few targets and a distinct lack of detail about how exactly priorities in the plan are to be taken forward.

I therefore suggest that:

- **A National strategy for Adult Gaelic learners** be included in the national plan covering Gaelic for adults provision of all types. The aim of this should be to ensure that an infrastructure for Gaelic learning is created to ensure that large numbers of fluent learners are created. This should be the main project for the Education/Tertiary and Lifelong learning strand of the plan and should also be a central component of the national education strategy. This should address the following:
 - A target and timescale for expanding the numbers of fluent adult learners.
 - Creating a national coordinating body for Gaelic classes for courses and classes in Scotland to address the current ad hoc and uncoordinated situation and to fill in gaps in provision.

- Address the issue of funding for the development and provision (throughout Scotland) of full-time immersion courses for adults.
 - Provision of funding support for students wishing to undertake full time Gaelic courses irrespective of their previous educational qualifications.
 - Development of a national training and certificate system for language tutors and measures to address the national tutor shortage.
 - Promote and develop provision for Gaelic degree courses in the Celtic Departments. Develop and fund a scheme by which students enrolled on Gaelic degree courses in the Celtic Departments are enabled to live or study in a Gaelic environment for one year. Existing courses are often not able to bring students up to full fluency. Such a scheme would be comparable to the long-established 'year abroad' programmes for students of Continental European languages.
 - Expand Gaelic as a subject for learners in secondary schools as a means of increasing uptake of adult learners courses and of awareness raising.
 - Develop a marketing programme to ^{outreach} address more adult learners.
 - Cli Gàidhlig and the University Celtic Departments should be included as primary players in the national plan, national education plan and in the proposed Gaelic Learners Strategy.
 - The ULPAN system should be fully supported as part of this strategy.
 - Teaching Gaelic to non-Gaelic speaking teachers should be a central part of this strategy as there is no other solution to the current shortage of Gaelic school teachers.
- Gaelic has a history of being spoken throughout Scotland, it is central to Scottish national identity, is today spoken throughout Scotland and a large proportion of GME pupils and over half of Gaelic learners live outside the Highlands and Islands. The Vision should therefore be amended to make it clear that Gaelic is a national language – a language with relevance throughout Scotland. Recognising Gaelic as a “national asset and responsibility” is not the same as saying this. Something can be a national asset and responsibility without being relevant to all areas of the nation or being seen as a responsibility of all areas of the nation. Unless the current wording is changes, the vision in the national plan is in danger of reinforcing stereotypes of Gaelic as a Highland language and in strengthening the view that Gaelic is not a national language.
 - More priority needs to be given in the plan to strengthening Gaelic in urban and lowland communities and in creating new communities (vitality/communities). This should be higher up the priority list and should not only apply to “emergent forms of Gaelic-medium community” but also to promoting the language through more conventional network based urban communities through measures such as Gaelic community centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh.
 - Increasing the visibility of Gaelic throughout Scotland and through encouraging national groups to adopt bilingual names and through

bilingual signs in strategic places such as main railway stations, airports, ports, border crossings, and entrances to major cities and local authority areas. This is very symbolically important.

- The national plan should be far more detailed as to what is proposed and when with more targets and with longer term targets beyond 2011 such as targets for numbers of teachers, adult learners and GM pupils.

Le deagh dhùrachd,

Jenifer MacCaluim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. MacCaluim', written in a cursive style.