

8th November, 2006.

I am sorry it has taken so long for Ceòlas to respond to the consultation document, we thought the appropriate approach was to go through it page by page. We are obviously disappointed that the Arts as a means of promoting the language has been absent especially as we are so grateful for your support to Ceòlas.

Page 15: No mention of Arts organisations in the communities i.e. Feis, Ceòlas, Stratagan, YMI,

Page 17 Priority 2 - is this not already done?

Page 19: Prestige: final paragraph is it a serious statement to expect Gaelic to be used equally with English in the whole of Scotland?

P19 Awareness: recognise the geography of where the language is currently spoken.

Page 21 Why are the obvious benefits of Arts organisations not included? - Ceòlas and Feis movement?

Page 23: In Primary Players the absence of Arts events and Promoters Tours needs to be acknowledged as a major source of initial contact with the language.

Page 28 & 29: Quality control of spoken language outcome is essential - our recent experience provides us with evidence of poor standards of spoken Gaelic - literacy in a community with Gaelic speakers is less valued than capacity to converse. Resource quality needs to challenge the dominant language in terms of colour and presentation.

There needs to be quality control on the Gaelic language Primary Courses - willingness to learn is not sufficient to ensure that the children have the best experience. Pre admission level of capability is essential.

Page 32: Primary player: Ceòlas Uibhist Limited Feis Tir a Mhurain

Page 33 Primary Players: Ceòlas and Feis Tir a Mhurain

Page 37 Broadcasting Distribution: Need to recognise more and more Gaelic speakers in rest of UK outside Scotland.

Page 42: Lews Castle College in Benbecula too

Page 44: Providers of wrap around care - Cothrom in Uist has a role there

Action Areas: appear to be not specific enough and do not recognise the differing levels of activity in communities. Too focussed on policy rather than action. They action areas do not empower communities to demand action from their local authority -hence it does not strengthen communities

No timescales for the Action or target numbers also any monitoring criteria.

University Departments: Gaelic Departments need to recognise how difficult it is for native speakers to access the courses taught by non native speakers. The relevance of the content of some courses need to addressed. Anecdotal evidence from local young people who attend or attended courses is the source of information.

We hope that these comments will be an appropriate response to your document. We look forward to the agreed National Plan arising from the consultation.

We hope that Ceòlas will be able to seek your continued support, on completion of our new Development Plan which we hope will be complete by the end of the year.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Schmoller

Adviser to Board.

Mon 13/11/2006 00:01

Ceolas is willing for its response to be made public We know we may have sounded a bit harsh in some of it but its how we see it. Additional input is there is a total absence of offering to train parents of children in Gaelic Medium the basics of the language. Vocabulary is a problem in both direction - homes speaking Gaelic and children in English Medium and English speaking homes with children in Gaelic Medium

Can you please add the response - to the overall previous response.

We do need to challenge ourselves as to what is acceptable levels of the language for public consumption!!

Mary Schmoller

Thank you for your assistance