

This is a response to the Gaelic plan.

At first sight the plan is very encouraging , but there are some points which which I feel should be considered to be added to the final plan.

1.:

The ability to learn Gaelic should be made free ,irrespective of age under Scottish parliment rules.

At present Adult Education is very costly [depend on local authority], it can be very much a postcode lottery, which shouldn't be. Everybody should be given the same chance to learn Gaelic irrespective of where one lives within Scotland. This has not been clarified nor mentioned within the plan, but I do feel that it is extremely important ,if Gaelic is to continue to progress and will be more widely spoken in the future.

2.:

Much more support has to be given to ensure Secondary Education will become fully GME where there is /are primary GME within the same catchment area. At present children come out of primary GME fluent in Gaelic, but by the time they have been in Secondary school [with just Gaelic as a subject] for just 1 to 2 years they lose their fluency, due to then getting barely 2 to 3 hours per week Gaelic. This lack of fluency has even been observed from those who have got native speaking parents. Therefore I do feel it extremely important to have continuity in Gaelic learning.

The encrease in Gaelic teaching hours [with extra subjects to be taught in Gaelic] within secondary education should be implemented where ever needed within the next 2 years to ensure those who are fluent, can continue their fluency into the job market to e.g. Gaelic teachers to cope with the steady rise in GME from nursery and primary as well as the ever encreasing media requirements in the near future. This should only be a short stop gap as the best option would be a full Gaelic education provision complex starting from pre-nursery through to nursery, primary, secondary and adult education for area's who have got GME provision at present.

3.:

By putting Gaelic street signs up, in particular in major city's like Edinburgh [who have got a very high tourist profile], Gaelic language won't be seen as something that has to be hidden away and only allowed to be spoken by some - inparticular those from the Highlands and Islands - [as some people have commented to me previously, when mentioning of having a son in GME] . Gaelic should be made availible to ALL and everyone, who wishes to learn it and NOT just a small minority, as it has happened up untill now.

4.:

The % /per Gaelic knowledge within a particular area is too high, because if the Gaelic language is to expand it must be allowed to be taught and learned in area's presently not shown to have a high percentage of native / fluent speakers. It should be a right to anyone living in Scotland to be able to learn Gaelic, if they wish to do so, irrelevant of where in Scotland they live.

This is the only way for Gaelic to expand to a higher percentage of fluent speakers into other area's apart from the Highland /Western Isles and to be spoken as a proper 2. language of Scotland, rather than hidden away.

Gaelic should be something to be proud of.

If too many restrictions are put on it, as to which area it's allowed to expand, it won't get the chance to properly expand.

In general, I feel I have to say [what many have said regarding this plan] that this plan hasn't been written very clearly and an appriviation of it could have been circulated, which most likely would have resulted in a much greater response and better understanding what the plan is trying to achieve.

I hope that my comments will be taken into account with the final plan, as I feel rather strongly about encreasing Gaelic knowledge oppertunities to everyone and NOT just to a few lucky ones.

To be able to know Gaelic should be a right for anyone living in Scotland and NOT a postcode lottery [as it is at present and won't improve unless this plan will be reworeded to enclude EVERYONE and not just a few.

Mòran taing.

Leis gach deagh dùrachd,
Siusaidh

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