

I would like to congratulate Bord na Gàidhlig for their efforts in publishing a draft National Plan for Gaelic. Though I agree with much of the content of the Plan, I would like to suggest the following:

1. The National Plan, and indeed the Gaelic communities need a long-term vision and long-term targets for Gaelic and for Bord na Gàidhlig. I would like to suggest the following as targets for the 2021 census:

a.. 200,000 with some ability in speaking or understanding Gaelic

b.. 20,000 speakers of Gaelic within the 3-19 age group

c.. 2,000 mother tongue speakers of Gaelic within the 3-19 age group

2. The Plan is a little long and difficult to read. Could Bord na Gàidhlig make a shorter version available? A version which is smaller, easier to read and gives information and recommendations on how people might make changes in their daily lives to help advance the cause of language.

3. I would like to see more emphasis placed on the importance of Gaelic-speaking communities. It is within those communities that Gaelic is spoken as a daily language of communication, though it is threatened in all of those communities. It is essential that the National Plan outlines what must be done to retain Gaelic as the language of daily life within these communities over the 10-15 years to come..

Regards,
Mark Dale