



The National Trust
for Scotland

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Urras Nàiseanta
na h-Alba

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Direct line: 0131-243 9522
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Dear Peadar

NATIONAL PLAN FOR GAELIC AND
GUIDANCE ON GAELIC LANGUAGE PLANS

The National Trust for Scotland strongly supports the spirit of the draft National Plan for Gaelic and welcomes this opportunity to respond to the consultation.

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy. It was formed 75 years ago to conserve Scotland's heritage and culture for the benefit of the nation. The Trust is unique in that its activities cover the full range of the cultural, built and natural heritage. Our challenge is to make this heritage relevant to the lives of the people of Scotland and all others who have interest in Scotland's heritage.

As you know, the Trust recently approved its own Gaelic Policy (September 2005), acknowledging that it must demonstrate support for and understanding of Gaelic as part of the conservation of cultural heritage, particularly in the Highlands and Islands. Quoting from the Policy, Gaelic "*is integral to the significance of most of our Highlands and Islands properties, in some cases a central part of that significance. For example, Bannockburn, Culloden and Glenfinnan all provided the settings for events key to the history of Gaelic culture and the island of Canna holds the working library and sound archive of Dr John Lorne Campbell, one of the most eminent Celtic and Scottish Gaelic scholars of the twentieth century*". The NTS is also part of the *Tobar an Dualchas* partnership project which aims to create a national Gaelic oral archive network.

We see ourselves contributing to the success of the National Plan for Gaelic by working closely with Bòrd na Gàidhlig in the delivery of the plan as appropriate – we note our inclusion as potential partners in the Culture: Heritage section of the plan and are pleased to be such partners. The use of Gaelic in heritage interpretation is a developing field and we look forward to participating in this ongoing process with the Gaelic community and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This process has already begun in a number of recent projects, perhaps most significantly at Culloden where Gaelic will be an inherent part of the new development. Culloden offers a unique chance to present the Gaelic language to a world-wide audience and provide opportunities for its further development. We have already benefited from partnership working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig over this project.

We feel that we can contribute to most of the priorities in the Culture: Heritage section of the Draft Plan, particularly in the link between interpretation and education and tourism.

In the meantime, we will be continuing to implement our own Gaelic Policy and would welcome advice and support as to how to go about this.

I hope the above comments are useful. The Trust is content for this response to be made publicly available – please let me know if my colleagues or I could provide further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely



John Mayhew
Head of Policy and Planning



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for Scotland

The conservation charity which protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy

We are Scotland's largest voluntary conservation charity; we believe that the natural and cultural heritage of Scotland is one of our nation's greatest assets and that we have a duty to pass on this inheritance to benefit future generations. We aim to achieve this in three ways:

- by directly owning or managing some of Scotland's most important heritage places
- by engaging with all sections of society to make our heritage more socially inclusive
- by campaigning on behalf of the whole of Scotland's heritage

We are supported in this by our 291,000 members and a team of 2,500 dedicated volunteers. Our 129 properties include 76,000 hectares of Scotland's finest countryside and wild landscapes as well as castles, country houses and gardens. Each year we welcome around 3 million visitors to these very special places, and well over 100,000 young people benefit from specially arranged educational visits.