

A response on the draft National Plan for Gaelic

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EW

Introduction

NLS is pleased to respond to this consultation. NLS acknowledges the importance of Scotland's Gaelic heritage and sees a particular and positive contribution that the Library can make to themes identified by the Bòrd such as *prestige, education resources, broadcasting distribution and heritage*.

NLS role in contributing to the success of the National Plan

The NLS mission is to “enrich lives and communities, encouraging and promoting lifelong learning, research and scholarship, and universal access to information by comprehensively collecting and making available the recorded knowledge of Scotland, and promoting access to the ideas and cultures of the world.”

This of course applies to Gaelic as much as to English (or Scots and minority ethnic) language material. NLS sees itself having an important role to play in support of Gaelic culture by carrying out this mission. This could involve not only providing support for researchers into Gaelic material, but also greater public display of these collections, loan of items to local libraries and museums and production of educational material (including digital resources) based on our collections.

NLS is reviewing our collection policies. We will seek to ensure that the NLS collections include all items of Scottish Gaelic publishing (past and present), and that these will be preserved and made available to future as well as present generations. We will be looking at the best ways to ensure that we offer effective interpretative support for our collections as a whole, and our current corporate plan commits us to explore the creation of a collaborative curatorial post to develop the Gaelic collections.

A more specific example is the Bibliography of Scottish Gaelic compiled by NLS. This is a valuable resource to those studying Gaelic literature. We are committed to reviewing this bibliography and will consult Scottish Gaelic stakeholders in this work. We note and welcome the role envisaged for Scottish Screen Archive in broadcasting distribution (SSA is expected to become part of NLS in the near future).

In view of these roles, you may wish to add NLS (and possibly the National Archives of Scotland) to the list of primary players listed in the Culture (Heritage) section (p34).

We intend to develop a (non-statutory) Gaelic Language Plan and will consult the Bòrd over this.