Western Isles Language Plan Project

Research and Outcomes of Phase 1 of the Project

AITHISG DHEIREANNACH

FINAL REPORT
CLÀR-INNSE
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Geàrr-chunntas Gniomha

- Bidh rannsachadh Íre 1 air a chleachdadh ann an cur ri chèile Planaichean Càinain Coimhearsnachd a’ toirt àite do fheuman eadar-dhealaichte coimhearsnachdan fa leth. Bidh am fiosrachadh bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2001 air a chleachdadh cuideachd gus dealbha thòirt de shuidheachadh na Gàidhlig anns na coimhearsnachdann aig an am seo.

- Bidh Ro-ìnnleachd Cleachdadh Càinain air a chur air doigh, a’ comharrachadh dè na suidhichidhean anns am feumar cothroman airson cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart. Feumar aithnheachadh cho cudromach ’s a tha a’ Ghàidhlig mar chànan coimhearsnachd agus bithear ag iarraidh air gnothachasan agus daoine a’ Ghàidhlig fhilleadh a-steach don obair aca. Feumain cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tarrangeach no don luchd-labhairt a tha ann cheana agus do fheadhainn ûra. Cuideachd feumar déiligeadh ri na duilghheadasan follaiseach ann an tar-chur eadar-ghinealach, tro mhargaidheachd a’ chànan do phàrantan agus do chluinn.

- Feumar iomairt margaidheachd gus a’ Ghàidhlig a thòirt a-steach a-rìthist mar chànan na coimhearsnachd. Ni an sgioba dealbhadh càinain dicheall gus iomairtean a chur air doigh anns a’ chomhearsnachd a dh’fhaoadadh flor obair a dhèanamh far an robh taic ann an ainm a-mhàin. Feumair sùil a thòirt cuideachd air cion úidhe mhòran dhaoine a chaidh an sgrùdadh agus feumair cuimseachadh orra san iomairt margaidheachd seo. Cuideachd, bu chois na buannachdan an cos dòighean-obrach dà-chànanach a bhith air an com-pàirteachadh ri buidhean poblach, gnothachasan priobhaidheach agus daoine fa leth air feadh nan

Executive Summary

- The outcomes of the Phase 1 research will be used in the development of Community Language Plans recognising the different needs of individual communities. The 2001 Census information will also be used in developing a picture of the current situation of Gaelic in the communities.

- A Language Use Strategy will be developed, identifying in which situations opportunities for the use of Gaelic need to be developed. The importance of Gaelic as a community language must be recognised and businesses and individuals will be encouraged to integrate the Gaelic language into their practices. The use of Gaelic must be made attractive to existing and new speakers. Also the easily identifiable difficulties with intergenerational transmission must be addressed, through marketing of the language to parents and children alike.

- A marketing campaign is essential to reintegrate the Gaelic language as the language of the community. The Language Plan Team will endeavour to provide initiatives in the community which can develop tokenistic support into motivation for positive action. The apathy among many surveyed will also need to be assessed and targeted in this marketing campaign. Also, the benefits of bilingual practices should be shared with public bodies, private businesses and individuals throughout the Western Isles. Before the distinctive culture attached to Gaelic disappears and the language has no context in which to exist, efforts will also
Eilean Siar. Mus básaich an cultar a tha an lùib na Gàidhlig a-mach agus nach bi suidheadachd ionchaidh aig a' chànan a chumas beò i, feumar oidhirpean a dhèanamh cuideachd air mothachadh air agus ùidh anns a' chànan agus a' chultar a mhargaidheachd agus a leudachadh.

- Bith e a' cur air dòigh **Ro-innleachd Ionnsachadh Cànan** far am faigh luchd-còmhnaidh ur agus daoine gun Gàidhlig air a Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus luchd-labhairt air an sgilean gribhaidh a thoirt air adhart. Cuideachd feumar beachdachadh air misneachd dhaoine mu na comasan cànan aca fhèin.

- Bith sgioba a' phlana-cànan a' co-obrachadh le Comhairle nan Eilean Siar anns gach pàirt de bhuileachadh am poileasaidh Gàidhlig, a' gabhail a-staigh a' Phoileasaidh airson Foghlam Dà-chànanach. Le seo san amharcl, bith sgioba a' Phlana Cànan a' co-obrachadh leis an Oifigeach Tadhail-dhachaighean aig Comunn na Gàidhlig gus dèanamh cinn teach gum bi pàranta a' faighinn fiosrachadh mu **fhoghlam Gàidhlig** agus gus beachdachadh air na cothrom airson Gàidhlig taobh a-muigh foghlam sgoile foirmeil, a' gabhail a-staigh barrachd Gàidhlig ga chleachdadh ann an spòrs, cultar agus cur-seachadan eile.

- Bith e a' coinhead ri obair nam **meadhanan Gàidhlig** a thaobh na tha iad air a choileanadh roimhe agus na dh'fhaoadadh tachairt fhathast. Tha e cudromach gum bi tuilleadh rannsachadh air a dhèanamh air mar a ghabhadh obair nam meadhanan Gàidhlig a'ig an àm seo a leasachadh agus a chleachadh gus an ruig an cànan air barrachd dhaoine air feadh nan Eilean Siar agus nas fhaide air falbh.

- Bith na **beachdan** bho na ceisteachain air an toirt do na buidhnejron ionchaidh air feadh nan Eilean Siar agus puingeann gniomha need to be made to market and increase awareness of and interest in the language and culture.

- A **Language Learning Strategy** to provide opportunities for new residents and non-Gaelic speakers to learn Gaelic and for speakers to improve their literacy skills will be developed. Issues of confidence in their own linguistic abilities also need to be addressed.

- The Language Plan Team will work closely with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in all aspects of the implementation of its Gaelic policy, including the Policy for Bilingual Education. With this in mind, the Language Plan Team will work with the Home-visiting Officer at Comunn na Gàidhlig to ensure information on **Gaelic education** is readily available to parents and to examine opportunities for Gaelic outwith formal school education, including increasing use of Gaelic in sporting, cultural and other activities.

- The role of the **Gaelic media** will be looked at in terms of past successes and possible future developments. It is important further research is carried out on how current Gaelic media provision can be improved and used to expose the language to more people in the Western Isles and beyond.

- The **comments** from the questionnaires will be issued to the relevant bodies in the Western Isles with whom appropriate action points will be
freagarrach air an toirt gu buil le na buidhnean
sin.

- Tha feum air ‘Pasgain Fàilteachaidh’ a thoir
t-a-steach aig an às a tha togalaichean gan reic
ri luchd-còmhnaidh ùr sna h-Eileanan Siar gus
dèanamh cinnteach gum bi iad nam pàirt de
chànan is cultar na Gàidhlig.

- Tha an rannsachadh mu phoileasaidhean nam
buidhnean poblach, a thaobh na Gàidhlig, a’
cumail a’ dol anns gach ceàrn de na h-Eileanan
Siar agus bithear ag iarraidh air buidhnean fa
leth coinneachadh ri sgioba a’ phlana cànain
gus beachdachadh air fìiliedh na Gàidhlig a-
steach do na dòighnean-obrach aca.

- Tha feum air co-obrachadh le na comuinn
eachdraidh agus Museum nan Eilean gus
dualchas nan eilean a neartachadh

- Bith barrachd chòthromann ann air beachdan a
chom-pàirtteachadh ri coimhearsnachdan
mhion-chànainnean eile.

- The introduction and effective use of ‘Welcome
Packs’, for new residents to the Western Isles
is needed to ease their integration into the
Gaelic language and culture.

- The research into the policies of the public
bodies, in relation to Gaelic, in the Western
Isles will continue and individual bodies will be
called to meet with the Language Plan
Team to discuss the integration of Gaelic into
their working practices.

- Work with the comuinn eachdraidh and
Museum nan Eilean is needed to strengthen
the heritage of the islands.

- Opportunities for exchange of ideas with other
minority language communities will be
maximised.
Rò-radh

Am Pròiseact 2003/04
Bha pròiseact Plàna Cànain nan Eilean Siar air a stèidheachadh ann an 2003 an dèidh iomart le buidheann a’ rìochdachadh Colaisde a’ Chaisteil, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar agus Comunn na Gàidhlig. Às dèidh sin bha an leasachadh seo air a ghabhail a-null le Fòrum Cànan agus Cultar na Gàidhlig, pàirt den Chom-pàirteachas Dealbhadh Coimhearsnachd, agus chaith Comataidh Stiùiridh a shuidheachadh le rìochdairean bho Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Colaisde a’ Chaisteil, Comunn na Gàidhlig, iomairt nan Eilean Siar agus, o chionn ghoirid, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Structar stiùiridh:

Com-pàirteachas Dealbhadh Coimhearsnachd

Fòrum Cànan is Cultar nan Eilean Siar

Comataidh Stiùiridh Pròiseact Plàna Cànain nan Eilean Siar

Sgioba Plàna Cànain

An Com-pàirteachas Dealbhadh Coimhearsnachd
’S e inneal a tha anns a’ Chom-pàirteachas Dealbhadh Coimhearsnachd far a bheil an t-ùghdarras ionadail, buidhnean poblach ionadail, buidhnean saor-thoileach agus muinntir nan Eilean Siar a’ dealbhadh priomhachasa airson nan eilean agus ag obair còmhla gus an coilionadh.

Introduction

The Project 2003/04
The Western Isles Language Plan Project was established in 2003 following an initiative taken by a group representing Lewis Castle College, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Comunn na Gàidhlig. This development was subsequently adopted by the Western Isles Gaelic Language and Culture Forum, part of the Community Planning Partnership, and a Project Steering Committee was set up with representation from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Lewis Castle College, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Western Isles Enterprise and, more recently, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Operating Structure:

Community Planning Partnership

Western Isles Gaelic Language and Culture Forum

Western Isles Language Plan Project Steering Committee

Language Plan Team

The Community Planning Partnership
The Community Planning Partnership is a mechanism whereby the local authority, local public agencies, voluntary organisations, private businesses and the people of the Western Isles work towards determining priorities for the islands and working together to achieve them.
Fòram Cànain is Cultar na Gàidhlig
Mar aon de na fòraman fo sgèith a’ Chom-pàirtreachais, thà Fòram Cànain is Cultar nan Eilean a’ toirt stiùireadh ro-innleachdail ann an adhartachadh na Gàidhlig anns na h-Eileanan Siar. Tha Fòram Cànain is Cultar nan Eilean a’ toirt a’ chothruim do bhuidhean air feadh nan eilean a tha a’ déanamh obair le buntainneas ri Gàidhlig, coinneachadh agus bruidhinn mu na h-oidhirpean a thathar a’ déanamh air feadh nan Eilean Siar gus a’ Ghàidhlig a chumail suas.

Tha am Fòram a’ toirt gu chèile diofar bhuidhean le uallach airson na Gàidhlig, ceithir uairean sa bhliadhna, gus beachdan a chom-pàirtreachadh, dòighnean-obrach a cho-òrdanachadh, agus cur ri leasachadh poileasaidh. Mar sin, tha am Fòram ann an suidheachadh freagarrach gus treòrachadh agus misneachd a thoirt airson uallachadh a’ Phlana Cànain a bhuireachadh.

Thathar an dòchas gun gabh am Fòram ri na toraidhean bho rannsachadh a’ Phlana Cànain agus gum brosnaich e na diofar roinnean san Ùghdarras Ionadail agus buidhnean eile anns na h-Eileanan Siar gu sin a dhèanamh cuideachd.

Gaelic Language and Culture Forum
As one of the forums under this Partnership, the Western Isles Gaelic Language and Culture Forum provides strategic leadership in the promotion of Gaelic in the Western Isles. The Forum gives organisations in the islands whose work impinges upon the Gaelic language, the opportunity to meet and discuss efforts which are being made in the Western Isles to sustain the Gaelic language.

The Forum brings together relevant bodies and organisations, on a quarterly basis, to share ideas, co-ordinate approaches, and contribute to policy development. Thus, the Forum is well placed to provide guidance and encouragement for the implementation of the provisions of the Language Plan.

It is hoped that the Forum will adopt the findings of the Language Plan Project research and urge Local Authority departments and other bodies in the Western Isles to respond accordingly.

A’ Ghàidhlig – An Suidheachadh Nàiseanta
Tha a’ Ghàidhlig ann an suidheachadh cugallach aig an às seo. Tha na figearan bho Chunntas-sluais 2001 a’ sealltainn gu bheil an àireamh de luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig fhathast a’ tuiteam gu mòr, eadhon anns na sgirean de na h-Eileanan Siar san robh a’ Ghàidhlig làdir thar linn tean. Tha e ro-chudromach gun tèid feuchainn ris an t-suidheachadh seo a leasachadh.

Gaelic: The National Context
The present state of the Gaelic language is precarious. Census figures from 2001 show that the number of Gaelic speakers continues to decrease rapidly, even in the traditional Gaelic stronghold of the Western Isles. Action to improve that situation is vitally important.
1. Project Background

1.1 The Project
Funding coming from the groups represented on the Project Steering Committee and from LEADER+ enabled the creation of the post of Language Plan Co-ordinator, to which Maggie Mackay was appointed in June 2003, on the basis of an 18 month contract. During Phase 1, the Language Plan Team was Annie Macsween, Project Director, and Maggie Mackay, Language Plan Co-ordinator.

In Phase 2, they were joined by Donald Weir as Language Plan Officer.

1.2 Operating Structure
The Language Plan Team is accountable to the Project Steering Committee who are in turn accountable to the Western Isles Gaelic Language and Culture Forum, which is one of the forums reporting to the Community Planning Partnership.

The Project Steering Committee took the lead in driving forward the Language Plan Initiative under the direction of the Western Isles Gaelic Language and Culture Forum. The sponsoring agencies involved in the Steering Committee provided strategic development support. Annie Macsween, Gaelic Development Officer at Lews Castle College, carried out the routine management of the project.

Public bodies’ involvement in this project should assist them in planning to meet their obligations.
1.4 Amaras Èire 1 den Phròiseact
'S e amas iomlan a' phróiseict a bhith a' cuideachadh le cruthachadh Plana Cànain Gàidhlig airson nan Eilean Siar, a dh'fheumas a bhulachadh sa chuid dol a-mach thairis air trì bliadhna aig a' char as lugha le taic choimhearsnachdan, bhuidhean poblach agus nan roinnean saor-thoileach agus priobhaideach.

1.5 Amas a' Phlana Cànain Gàidhlig
'S e amas a' Phlana Cànain Gàidhlig a bhith a' dèanamh cinnieach gum bi a' Ghaidhlig air a cumail suas anns na h-Eileanan Siar agus gum bi dà-chànanas comannach seasmhach ann.

1.6 Primh Amasan a' Phróiseict
Gus an t-amasan seo a choileanadh bidh am pròiseact a' co-obrachadh le coimhearsnachdan agus buidhean iomchaidh gus plana a chruthachadh a bheir comas na priomh amasan planadh cânain a choileanadh:

- A' Ghaidhlig a neartachadh mar chànan san teaghlach.
- A' Ghaidhlig a neartachadh mar chànan sa choimhearsnachd.
- An àireamh de luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig sna h-eileanan a mheudachadh.

under the forthcoming Gaelic Language Act in ways that satisfy the needs of the community.

1.4 Objective of Phase 1 of the Project
The general purpose of the project is to facilitate the creation of a Gaelic language plan for the Western Isles, relevant to needs and strengths, to be implemented over an initial period of at least three years with the support of communities, public agencies and the voluntary and private sectors.

1.5 Objective of the Gaelic Language Plan
The objective of the Gaelic language plan is to ensure the maintenance of the Gaelic language in the Western Isles and to secure stable societal bilingualism.

1.6 Key Aims of the Project
To fulfil this objective the project will engage with communities and relevant agencies to create a plan to help achieve the key language planning aims:

- To strengthen Gaelic as a language in the family.
- To strengthen Gaelic as a language in the community.
- To increase the number of Gaelic speakers in the islands.
2. Sgrùdadh air Cunntas-sluaigh 2001

Bha toraidhean Cunntas-sluaigh 2001 air am foillseachadh anns a’ Ghearran 2003. Seach gun robh e ro-chudromach gum biodh an dàta co-cheangailte ri comasan cânain Gàidhlig air am mion-sgrùdadh, chaidh cuideachadh haighinn bhon Ollamh Coinneach MacFhionghuin, neach-comhairle le eòlas air sgrùdadh ãireamhan ann an althisgean Cunntas-sluaigh a rinneadh roimhe agus na gluasadan air cùl chûisean, mus b’ urrainn toraidhean nan Eilean Siar an tuigse gu ceart.

San fharsaingeachd, sheall Cunntas-sluaigh 2001:

- Den 26,502 luchd-còmhnaidh anns na h-Eileanan Siar, tha beagan sgilean Gàidhlig aig 18,662, le 7840 gun sgilean sam bith sa chànan.

- Tha na ùrdan comhairle ann an sgire Steòrnabhagh air an comharrachadh mar an fheadhann as laige a thaobh tuigse na Gàidhlig le nas lugha na 60% den luchd-còmhnaidh anns na sgirean sin le tuigse sam bith den Ghàidhlig – le ùrd Chùl ri Grèin san àite as isle aig 54.8%.

- Tha co-dhiù beagan comais tuigse air a’ Ghàidhlig aig 86.9% de luchd-còmhnaidh Dhalabroig agus Êirisgeigh 82.6% de luchd-còmhnaidh Taobh Sear na Hearadh agus 81.4% de mhuinntir Phort Nis.

- A thaobh an luchd-còmhnaidh sin a bhruidhneas an cânain, tha 15,811, no 59.7% den 26,502 luchd-còmhnaidh anns

2. Review of Census 2001

The results of the 2001 Census were published in February 2003. As it was vital that the data pertaining to Gaelic language abilities was analysed, the assistance of Professor Kenneth Mackinnon, a consultant with experience in statistical analysis of previous census reports and the underlying trends, was obtained for interpretation of the Western Isles results.

In general, it was shown in the 2001 Census that:

- Of the 26,502 residents in the Western Isles, 18,662 have some Gaelic language skills, with 7840 having no skills in the language.

- The council wards in the Stornoway area are identified as the weakest in terms of understanding Gaelic with less than 60% of residents in those areas having this ability – the Coulregrein ward being lowest at 54.8%.

- 86.9% in the Daliburgh and Eriskay ward, 82.6% of those in the Harris East ward and 81.4% of those in the Port of Ness ward can at least understand Gaelic.

- In terms of those residents able to speak the language, 15,811, or 59.7% of the 26,502 residents of the Western Isles can
na h-Eileanan Siar comasach air Gàidhlig a labhart. ’S e àsardan Port Nis agus Dail na àsardan Comhairle as làidire a thabh labhart na Gàidhlig anns na h-Eileanan Siar, agus tha an àireamh as lugha de luchd-labhait Gàidhlig ann an àsardan a’ Chaisteil agus Cùl ri Grèin.

In the ten years between the 1991 and 2001 Censuses the number of Gaelic speakers fell 8.9% from 68.6% in 1991 to 59.7% in 2001.

With the Census 2001 data providing a baseline of information as to the Gaelic language skills of the residents of the Western Isles, it was essential for the Language Plan Team to carry out a comprehensive Language Use Survey of Gaelic within the islands. This was to provide a detailed picture of the language skills of island residents, the actual use of Gaelic in the family and in the community.


Le dàta bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2001 a’ toirt fiosrachadh bunaiteach mu sgilean Gàidhlig luchd-còmhnaidh nan Eilean Siar, bha e riatanach gun dèanadh sgioba a’ Phlana Cànain Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànain iomlan den Ghàidhlig sna h-eileanan. Bha seo gu sas dealladh mionaidreach fhaighinn air sgilean cânain luchd-còmhnaidh nan eilean, na tha de Ghàidhlig air a cleachdadh dha-rirreach.

...
san teaghlach agus sa choimhhearsnachd agus beachdan luchd-còmhnaidh san fharsaingeachd mu na thatar a’ tairgse an-dràsta a thaobh a’ chànnain agus na leasachaidhean a dh’fhaoardar a dhèanamh sna làithean ri teacht.

and the overall views of residents on present provision and possible future developments for the language.
3. Rannsachadh Ceisteachain

3.1 Na Sgrùdaidhean

Fo stiùireadh làitheil fosglan, an t-Aonad Leasachaidh Gàidhlig stèidhichte an Colaiste a’ Chaisteil, thòisich an com-pàirteachas càinain air Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Càinain am measg inbhich nan Eilean Siar san fharsaingeachd agus Sgrùdadh mu Ùidh sa Chànan am measg luchd-còmhnaidh ùr. Bheir toraidhean an sgrùdaidh seo buaidh air poileasaidh càinain ionadail, agus air obair sna coimhearsnachd an am measg sluagh nan Eilean Siar gus feuchainn ri stad a chur air crionadh na Gàidhlig gu h-ionadail, cleachdadh a’ chànan leis a’ mhòr-shluagh a leudachadh agus an àireamh le deuchd-labhair a mheudachadh.

B’ e am priomh adhbhar rannsachadh mar seo a dhèanamh gu robh feum air tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mus gabhadh plana càinain éifeachdach a dhealbh airson nan eilean. Ghabh an ceisteachan a-steach cleachdadh na Gàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd agus san teaghlach aig an àm seo bho Phort Nis gu Barraigh. Bìdh na toraidhean air an cur ri toraidhean Cunntas-sluagaigh 2001 agus faodar an cleachdadh còmhla riutha.

Bhathar a’ meas gu robh an co-obrachadh leis a’ choimhearsnachd bhon fhior thoiseach tron cheisteachan na eileamaid riatanach ann an stèidheachadh plana càinain. Bha criochan ama agus maoineachaidh a’ ciallashadh nach b’ urrainn sgrùdadh far-saing a dhèanamh den h-ule dachaigh anns na h-Eileanan Siar.

Chaidh dà cheisteachan a chur gu sampall de luchd-còmhnaidh sna h-Eileanan Siar. Bha aon de

3. The Survey Research

3.1 The Surveys

Under the day-to-day direction of fosglan, the Gaelic Development Unit based at Lews Castle College, the language partnership initiated a Language Use Survey amongst the general adult public of the Western Isles and a Language Interest Survey amongst recent incomers. The results of this survey will inform local language policy, and form the basis of outreach amongst the people of the Western Isles to attempt to arrest the decline of Gaelic locally, enhance public usage of the language and increase the number of speakers.

The primary reason for undertaking such research was that more information was needed before an effective language plan for the islands could be devised. The questionnaire covered present Gaelic language use in the community and within the family from Port of Ness to Barra. The results will add to and can be used in conjunction with the 2001 Census results.

The engagement with the community from the outset through the questionnaire exercise was considered to be an essential element in the process of devising a language plan. Time and funding constraints did not allow for an extensive study of every household in the Western Isles.

Two questionnaires were distributed to a sample of residents of the Western Isles. One of these
na ceisteachain sin ag amas gu sònraichte air daoine a thàinig a dh’fhuireach sna h-Eileanan Sìar sna deich bliadhna mu dheireadh – ag iarradh am beachdan mun Ghàidhlig – agus chaidh an dàrna ceisteachan gu sampaill de luchd-còmhnaidh sna h-Eileanan Sìar, luchd-còmhnaidh ùr agus daoine a tha air a bhith a’ fuireach sna h-eileanan fad am beatha.

3.2 An Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànain
Gus tagadh an fhèilhainn a gheibheadh an Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànain b’ e samplachadh eagarach den h-uile 35th a’imh bhon chlár luchd-bhòtaidh. Bha an dòigh seo a’ ciàllachadh gum biodh tagadh ríchdachail den choimhearsnachd a’ faisghinn ceisteachan. Mar sin, cha b’ ann bho dhaoinne a bhiodh taisceil don chànan a-mhàin a fhuaireadh freagairtean.

Chaidh luchd-tadhail dhachaighean a-mach dhan h-uile coimhearsnachd sna h-Eileanan Sìar. Le bhith a’ tadhal air an duine thigeadh àireamh na bu mhotha de fhreagaitean air ais, an coimeas ri ceisteachan anns a’ phost far a bheil àireamh gle bhеag air an tilleadh san fharsaingeachd. De na 611 ceisteachain a chaidh a-mach, thill 414 – ire freagairt 68%.

3.3 Toraidhean an Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànain
Bhon Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànain, gheibh bhear air suidheachadh na Gàidhligh sna h-Eileanan Sìar a dhearbhadh agus, mar sin, faodar a thighinn gu co-dhùnadh mu na priomh phuineag gnìomha a tha a dhìth fo Plana Cànain nan Eilean Sìar.

3.3.1 Ríchdachadh an t-Sluaigh
Tha gach uàrd ann an Comhairle nan Eilean Sìar questionnaires specifically targeted new residents to the Western Isles in the last ten years – seeking their views on Gaelic – while the second questionnaire went to a sample of residents of the Western Isles, new residents and people who have lived in the islands all their lives.

3.2 The Language Use Survey
In order to determine the recipients of the Language Use Survey, a systematic sampling of every 35th name from the electoral roll was chosen. This method allowed for a cross-section of the community to receive a questionnaire. Responses were thus not only received from those who would be supportive of the language.

Home visitors went out in every community in the Western Isles. This method of going to the individual’s house meant that the number of responses would be maximised, as opposed to a postal survey where returns are traditionally low. Of the 611 questionnaires which went out, 414 returned – a 68% response rate.

3.3 Language Use Survey Results
From the Language Use Survey, the situation of Gaelic in the communities in the Western Isles can be determined and, in turn, priorities can be identified where actions under the Western Isles Language Plan are needed.

3.3.1 Representation of Population
Each Comhairle nan Eilean Sìar ward is
air a riodhachadh san sgrúdadh, le mòran freagairtean air a thiginn bho na Lochan, an Abhainn Dhugh, Loch nam Madadh agus pàirtean de Steòrnabhagh (uire le irean freagairt de 90% no nas àirde). Tha na h-irean freagairt nas isle ann an urdan Comhairle Loch Aineort, Dalabrog agus Êirisgeigh, Úige agus an Tiumpan sa mhòr-chuid mar thoradh air nach eil na daoine a chaidh an taghadh airson an t-sampaill a’ còmhnaidh a-nis aig an t-seòladh a tha air clár an luchd-bhòtaidh, no gu roh iad ag obair air falbh bhon t-seòladh sin aig am an sgrúdadh, no gu roh iad tinn, no air básachadh. San t-sampaill iomlan, b’e nas lugha na 10 daoine a dhìult an sgrúdadh a lionadh.

**FIG 1: Sampall de Luchd-freagairt/ Sample of Respondents**

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Port of Ness</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<td>Dell</td>
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<td>Barvas and Arnol</td>
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<td>Shawbost</td>
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<td>Carloway</td>
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<td>Daliburgh/Eriskay</td>
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<td>Barra and Vatersay</td>
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Tha an sampall a’ riochdachadh sluagh nan Eilean Siar gu math le 58.5% den luchd-freagairt boireann agus 41.5% fireann. Tha figearan Cunntas-sluagh 2001 a’ sealltainn gu bheil barrachd bhoireannaich represented in the survey, with high returns in Lochs, Blackwater, Lochmaddy and areas in Stornoway (all with response rates of 90% or more). The lower response rates in the Loch Eynort, Daliburgh and Eriskay, Uig and Tiumpan Council wards can be attributed primarily to the selected individuals for the sample being no longer resident at the address on the electoral roll, working away from said address at the time of the survey, or to illness, or death. In the overall sample, less than 10 individuals refused to complete the survey.

The sample gives a good representation of the Western Isles population with 58.5% of respondents being female and 41.5% male. According to the 2001 Census figures there are in fact more females
than males living in the Western Isles, 13,082 males and 13,420 female. The remaining deficit of male respondents can be explained by the islanders’ way of life including a large number of the male population working away from the island while retaining their primary residence here, many working in oil-related occupations in the North Sea.

FIG 2: Gnè/ Gender

There is also a good representation of different marital status with 60% married, 24% single, 9% widowed, 5% divorced and 2% living with a partner.

FIG 3: Inbhe-pòsaidh/ Marital Status

In terms of the ages of respondents, the sample chosen provides a good cross-section of different ages representing the spectrum of over 18s in the Western Isles. The largest proportion of respondents is between the ages of 40 and 50, which is representative of the Western Isles.

a’ fuireach anns na h-Eileanan Siar na tha ann de fhireannaich, 13,082 fireannaich agus 13,420 boireannaich. Faodar an àireamh nas isle de fhireannaich a fheagair a thuigsinn le dòigh-beatha nan eileanach a’ ciallachadh gu bheil àireamh mhòr de na fir ag obair air falbh bhon eilean ged a tha an dachaigh aca an seo, le mòran dhiubh ann an obair na h-ola sa Chuan a Tuath.

Tha inbhe pòsaidh eadar-dhealaichte air a dheagh riodhachadh cuideachd le 60% pòsta, 24% gun phòsadh, 9% nam banntaichean, 5% dealaichte agus 2% a’ fuireach còmhla ri comanach.

A thaobh aoi sean an luchd-freagairt, tha an sampall na dheagh riodhachadh air diofar aoi sean anns an raon nas sine na 18 sna h-Eileanan Siar. Tha a’ chuid as motha de luchd-freagairt eadar aoi sean 40 agus 50, a tha a’ riodhachadh sluagh nan Eilean Siar air fad, far a bheil, a réir Chunntas-sluaigh.
2001, 35% de luchd-còmhnaidh anns na h-eileanan eadar na h-aoisean 35 agus 59.

population as a whole, where, according to the 2001 Census, 35% of island residents are between the ages of 35 and 59.

FIG 4: Aoisean/ Ages

Cuideachd, hluaireadh riodhachadh cothromach de na diofar sheòrsachan dreuchd bho 7.5% ann an dreuchdan proifiseanta gu 12.5% ann an dreuchdan neo-ionnsaichte. Tha seòrsachadh nan dreuchdan mar seo a’ cleachdadh nan slatantomhais a bha ann an rannsachadh Cunntas-sluaigh 2001. Tha an àireamh sa cheud nas àirde de luchd-freagairt ann an obair neo-sheòrsaichte/gun obair a’ sealltainn na h-earrainn den luchd-freagairt ann an dreuchdan nach gabhadh an seòrsachadh anns na roinnean eile gu sònraichte mnathan-taigh.

Also, an even representation of the various occupation types from 7.5% in professional occupations to 12.5% in elementary occupations has been gained. This categorisation of the occupations is using the criteria used in the Census 2001 research. The higher percentage of respondents in the unclassified/ unemployed category reflects the proportion of respondents whose occupations could not be classified in the other categories and includes in particular housewives.

FIG 5: Dreuchdan/ Occupations
Bha pàrantan 78% den luchd-freagairt às na h-Eileanan Siar, agus bha 83% den luchd-freagairt air a bhith a’ fuireach sna h-Eileanan Siar airson 10 bliadhna aig a’ char as lughha, agus 17% nan luchd-còmhnaidh ùr.

The parents of 78% of respondents originated in the Western Isles, while 83% of respondents have lived in the Western Isles for at least 10 years, and 17% are new residents.

**FIG 6: Tús Beatha Pàrantaí agus Luchd-còmhnaidh Ùr**

Parental Origin and New Residents

Mar sin, fhreagair tagadh riodhachail de luchd-còmhnaidh sna h-eileanan an Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànanain, a’ leantainn gu toraidhean bhon sgrùdadh a bu chòir gu ire mhòr a bhith a rèir bheachd sìlaich nan Eilean Siar san fharsaingeachd. **Thathar a’ sùileachadh, cho fada ’s a ghabhas, gun odir p’ich an Sgioba Plana Cànain air dèanamh cinnteach gum bi na**

Therefore, a representative cross-section of island residents responded to the Language Use Survey, leading to survey results which should to a large extent correspond to the overall views of the Western Isles population. **It is anticipated that, as far as possible, the Language Plan Team will endeavour to ensure the community language forums are made up of a cross-section of**
fòrman cànan coimhearsnachd air an dèanamh
suas de dhaoine bho iomadh suidheachadh
eadar-dhealaichte.

3.3.2 Ionnsachadh Gàidhlig
Thuirt 61.5% de luchd-freagairt gur e a' Ghàidhlig
aon de na ciad chànainean aca agus den 38.5%
gun Ghàidhlig, bha 56.2% airson a’ chànan
ionnsachadh.

3.3.2 Gaelic Language Learning
61.5% of respondents intimated that Gaelic is one
of their first languages and of the 38.5% who did
not have Gaelic, 56.2% felt a desire to learn the
language.

FIG 7: Ciad Chànan/ First Language

Bha na priomh adhbharan air cùl an iarrais seo co-
cheangailte ris a’ choinhearsnachd agus ris an
teaghlach, a tha a’ co-fhreagairt amasan pròiseact
a’ phlana càinain a bhith a’ misneachadh
cleachdadh na Gàidhlig nas motha san teaghlach
agus sa choinhearsnachd.

Their primary motivations behind this desire were
community and family reasons, which correlate with
the aims of the Language Plan Project to
encourage increased use of the Gaelic language
within the family and in the community.

FIG 8: Adhbharan airson Ionnsachadh Càinain/ Language Learning Motivations
3.3.3 Comasan Cànain Gàidhlig
A thaobh comasan cânain Gàidhlig, tha e misneachail faicinn gu bheil co-dhù beagan tuigse den chànan aig 88% de luchd-freagairt. Tha sgilean cânain eile an luchd-freagairt mòran nas laige, gun ach 14% le sgilean sgriobhaidh fior mhath. Feumair togal air a’ bhunait tuigse seo gus sgilean labhairedh, leughaidh agus sgriobhaidh dhaoine fa leth a leasachadh. Cuideachd feumair beachdachadh air am misneachd a thaobh nan sgilean cânain aca fhèin.

FIG 9: Comasan Cànain Gàidhlig/ Gaelic Language Abilities

Nuair a tha a h-uire ball de theaghlach gach neach-freagairt air an gabhail a-staigh, thathar a’ tighinn gu co-dhùnadh gu bheil sgilean cânain Gàidhlig math gu leòr no flòr mhath aig 48% de na 968 luchd-còmhnaidh anns na h-eileanan a bha air an gabhail a-staigh.

When including all the members of each respondent’s household, it is determined that 48% of the 968 island residents included, have quite or very good Gaelic language skills.

FIG 10: Comasan Cànain Gàidhlig 2/ Gaelic Language Abilities 2
3.3.4 Gàidhlig anns an Teaghlach
Taobh a-staigh an teaghlach, tha flor dhearbhadh ann gu bheil cleachdadh na Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh an teaghlach a’ bàsachadh a-mach, mar a tha na seann daoine a’ bàsachadh. A rèir fiosrachadh staitistig a chaidh a thional bho rannsachadh an sgrùdaidh, ’s iad na linntean as sine ann an teaghlaich as dòcha a’ Ghàidhlig a bhruidhinn, seach an fheadhainn as òige. Tha seo air a dhearbhadh leis gur e a’ Bheurla am priomh no an t-aon chànan conaltraidh eadar 8 a-mach â 10 chloinne. Tha tuigse luchd-freagairt air buaidh na Gàidhlig san teaghlaich agus sa choimhearsnachd aca a’ sealltainn gu bheil àite aig a’ chànan fhathast anns na suidhichidhean sin agus cho cudromach ’s a tha e a bhith a’ neartachadh cleachdadh cânain anns na raointean sin. ’S i a’ Ghàidhlig an cànan as dòcha a bhith air a cleachdadh ann an conaltradh ri daoine nas sine, ach tha combhradh ri ginealaich nas òige mar as trice tro mheadhan na Beurla. Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil seo a’ sealltainn gu bheil sgilean Gàidhlig nan ginealach as òige seo nas laige, ach cuideachd nach eil uiread de dh’iartas aca a bhith a’ bruidhinn a’ chànan.
Feumar cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tarraingeach don luchd-labhairt a tha ann agus don fheadhainn ùra. Cuideachd feumar dèileagadh ri na duiligheadsan folaiseach ann an tar-chur eadar-ghinealach, tro margaidheachd a’ cânain do phàrantan agus do chloinn.

3.3.4 Gaelic in the Family
Within the family, there is evidence that the use of Gaelic within the family is dying out, as the older generations themselves pass on. According to the statistical information gleaned from the survey research, the older generations in a family are more likely to speak Gaelic, than are the younger ones. This is confirmed by the fact that 8 out of 10 children mainly or always speak English to each other. The respondents’ appreciation of the significance of Gaelic in their family and community reveals the role still available for the language in those situations and the importance of strengthening language use in these areas. Gaelic is the language most likely to be used in conversation with older generations, whereas speaking to younger generations is primarily through the medium of English. This is not only an issue of the younger generations’ weaker Gaelic language skills, but also a question of their waning desire to speak the language. The use of Gaelic must be made attractive to existing and new speakers. Also the easily identifiable difficulties with intergenerational transmission must be addressed, through marketing of the language to parents and children alike.
3.3.5 Gàidhlig sa Chomhearsnachd
Chaidh faighneachd dhan luchd-freagairt mu chleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an làithean an òige. Faodar coimeas a dheànanmh ri mar a tha i air a cleachdadh san latha an-diugh. A rèir am freagairtean, chan eil a’ Gàidhlig air a cleachdadh idir cho tric san latha an-diugh – sios bho Gàidhlig air a cleachdadh gu tric 55% den tide sa chuibheasachd, gu nas lugha na 30% sa chuibheasachd. Feumar tuigsinn cho cudromach ‘s a tha a’ Ghaedhlig mar chànan

3.3.5 Gaelic in the Community
The respondents were asked to about the use of Gaelic in their childhood. This can be compared to the use of Gaelic in the same situations in the present day. According to their responses, Gaelic use has decreased in the present day – down from an average of Gaelic being used frequently 55% of the time, to an average of less than 30%. The importance of Gaelic as a community language must be recognised and businesses and individuals will be encouraged to integrate the
coimhearsnachd agus bithear ag iarradh air gnothachasan agus daoine a' Ghàidhlig fhilleadh a-steach don obair aca.

FIG 11: Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd/ Gaelic in the Community

Occurrence of spoken Gaelic in childhood

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Community category

Occurrence of spoken Gaelic in present day

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<th>Percentage</th>
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Community category

Tha mion-sgrùdadh air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns a' choimhearsnachd a' sealltainn gu bheil fios aig an luchd-freagairt gum faod iad a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an iomadh suidheachadh eadar-dhealaichte; ach tha na tha iad a' cleachdadh den chànain mòran nas isle. Mar eisimpleir den seo, thuirt 72% gu robh cothrom aca Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ris a' mhinistear no ris an t-sagairst aca, ach 's e direach 38% a bhios a' dèanamh sin.

A detailed examination of Gaelic use within the community shows that despite the respondents being aware they are able to use Gaelic in many different situations; their actual use of the language is significantly lower. This is exemplified by the fact 72% said it was possible for them to speak Gaelic to their minister or priest, yet only 38% do so. Likewise 38% can use Gaelic in the library, but only 8% actually use the language there. Action will be
Cuideachd faoidh 38% Gàidhlig a chleachdadh san leabharlann, ach ’s e 8% a tha a’ dèanamh sin. Thèid oidhirp a dhèanamh gus a’ Ghàidhlig a thoirt air ais mar chànan na coimhearsnachd. Bìdh seo air a dhèanamh tro iomairt margaidheachd còmhlach ri buidhnean poblaich agus priobhaideach feedh nan eilean.

FIG 12: Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd 2/ Gaelic in the Community 2

- 24 -
3.3.6 Gàidhlig agus Clann
Bha 171 duine-cloinne aig an 414 luchd-freagairt fo aois 18. Den 171 duine-cloinne sin, b’ e direach 27.3% a tha no a bha ann am foghlan meadhan-Gàidhlig. Bidh Sgioba a’ Phlana Cànain ag obair còmhla ris an Oifigear Tadhla-dhachaidhean aig Comunn na Gàidhlig, a’ cleachdadh an rannsachaidh leantainneach aca gus faighinn a-mach carson a tha pàrantan a’ roghnachadh gun an cuid chloinne a chur tro fhoghlaim meadhan-Gàidhlig agus dè dh’fheumair a dhèanamh gus an suidheachadh seo a leasachadh.

FIG 13: Fhoghlaím tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig/ Gaelic Medium Education

Taobh a-muigh na sgoile, ’s i a’ Bheurla an cànan as trice a tha air a cleachdadh ann an cur-seachad. Nuair a tha clann a’ gabhail pàirt ann an spòrs, ceòl no danns no ann am uibhdean oifigeil, ’s e glè bheag de Gàidhlig a chluinnear. Tha coltas gu bheil a’ Bheurla air a cleachdadh nas trice cuideachd sna tachartasan a bha co-cheangailte ris a’ Gàidhlig, m.e. Mòdan ionadail agus nàiseanta, Croileagain, féisean agus Sradagan. Tha seo follaiseach bho fhreagairtean nan daoine aig a bheil clann a tha a’ frithéaladh nan cur-seachadan sin agus iad ag radh gu bheil Gàidhlig air a cleachdadh.

3.3.6 Gaelic and Children
The 414 respondents had 171 children under the age of 18. Gaelic Medium Education was the education system chosen for only 27.3% of these children. The Language Plan Team will work with the Home-visiting Officer at Comunn na Gàidhlig, using their ongoing research to determine why parents do not choose Gaelic Medium Education for their children and what developments are needed to improve this situation.

Outwith school, English is generally the language of recreation. This research shows that there is minimal or no use of Gaelic in the children’s hobbies of sport, music, dance, or in the uniformed organisations. It would appear that the English language is also becoming increasingly used in the traditionally Gaelic activities, e.g. local and national Mods, Croileagain, féisean and Sradagan. This is evident from the responses of those whose children participate in these activities who intimate that Gaelic is the language used less than half of the time, with English used the rest of the time. It is
nas lugha na dàrna leth den tide, le Beurla air a cleachdadh an còrr den tide. Tha e follaiseach gum feumar cothroman air a’ Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh taobh a-muigh foghlam sogile foirmeil agus mar sin thèid iarraidh air na buidhnean Gàidhlig barrachd Gàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an cur-seachdan an cloinne. Feumar beachdachadh air dòigh an gus barrachd Gàidhlig a chleachdadh anns na cur-seachdan as cumanta mar spòrs, ceòl agus danns.

3.3.7 Na Meadhanaidh Gàidhlig
Chaidh faighneachd don luchd-fregaìrt dè cho triic ‘s a tha iad a’ cleachdadh nan diofar meadhanaidh – ann am Beurla agus ann an Gàidhlig. Tha e comasach coimeas a dhèanamh eadar telebhisean, réidio, pàipearan naidheachd agus leabhraichean Gàidhlig agus an theadhainn Bheurla, gus beachd fhaighinn air dòighan-cleachdaidh am measg eileanaich san fharsaingeachd. Tha an rannsachadh a’ sealltainn gu bheil barrachd dhaoine a’ cleachdadh nam meadhanaidh Beurla, ach tha e cuideachd fior gu bheil barrachd tagadh evident that opportunities are needed where Gaelic can be used outwith formal school education and so the Gaelic organisations will be encouraged to increase their use of Gaelic in their children’s activities. Methods of increasing use of Gaelic in the more popular activities of sport, music, dance and drama will need to be considered.

3.3.7 Gaelic Media
The respondents were asked to indicate how frequently they use the various forms of media – in English and in Gaelic. It is possible to compare television, radio, newspapers and books in Gaelic with their English equivalents, to determine the patterns of uptake of these media amongst islanders. The research shows that more people use the English media, but it is also evident that there is more choice of television and radio programmes and books and newspapers in English than in Gaelic. Whereas 78% of respondents
de phrógraman telebhisein agus réidio agus de leabhraichean agus pháipearan-naidheachd ann am Beurla na ann an Gàidhlig. Ged a tha 78% den luchd-freagairt a’ leughadh páipearan-naidheachd Beurla tric, chan eil ach 8% a’ leughadh an fheadhainn Ghàidhlig tric. Cuideachd, tha 58% a’ leughadh leabhraichean Beurla tric, le direach 8% a’ leughadh an fheadhainn Ghàidhlig tric. Bidh an luchd-freagairt a’ coimhead prògraman Tbh Beurla a dhà uimhir cho tric ‘s a tha iad a’ coimhead an fheadhainn Ghàidhlig - 70% a’ coimhead prògraman Tbh Beurla gu tric, ach airson prògraman Tbh Gàidhlig tha am fitgear sin a’ tuiteam gu 35%. An coimeas ri réidio Beurla (45% gu tric), bidh ire meadhanaich àrd ag èisteachd réidio Gàidhlig (39% gu tric). **Feumar tuigsinn an t-àite cudromach a tha aig Radio nan Gaidheal agus an soirbhheachadh sin a leudachadh. Feumar obrachadh còmhlra ri Seirbheis nam Meadhanaidh Gàidhlig gus dèanamh cinnceach gun tèid beachdachadh air na beachdan a thàinig bhon rannsachadh ceisteachain, co-cheangailte ri na meadhanaidh. Cuideachd bidh an Sgioba Plana Càinain a’ co-obrachadh le companaidhean mar Comhairle na Leabhrachean, Acair agus An Storlann gus dèanamh cinnceach gun cùm leasachadh litreachas Gàidhlig a’ dol. Thèid beachdachadh air dè a’ bhuaidh a dh’fhaoadh a bhith aig a’ pháipearan-naidheachd Gàidhlig ‘An Gaidheal Ùr’ agus na diofar cholbhan Gàidhlig ann am páipearan-naidheachd ionadail agus nàiseanta air a’ Ghàidhlig anns na h-Eileanan Siar.**
3.3.8 Beachdan Luchd-freagairt
Chaidh iarraidh air luchd-freagairt a’ cheisteachain am beachd air diofar abairtean co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig. Bho na freagairtean aca, faodar sgòr cruinneachail fhaighinn, a’ dearbhadh dé an taic a tha gach neach-freagairt a’ toirt don chànan. Tha na sgòran sin a’ sealltainn gu robh 55% den luchd-freagairt taiceil no fior thaiseil don Ghaèdlig, le 22% neo-phàirtreach. **Feuchaidh an Sgioba Planadh Cànain ri iomairtean a chur air dòigh anns a’ choishearsnachd a gheibh air an taic seo a leudachadh gu fior obair.** Cuideachd feumar sealltainn ri cion ùidhe mòran de na chaidh an sgràdadh agus amas orra-san ann an iomairt margaidheachd.

3.3.8 Respondents’ Opinions
The questionnaire respondents were asked to provide their opinion on different phrases concerning the Gaelic language. From their responses, they can be given an accumulative score, determining each respondent's support for the language. These scores show that 55% of respondents were either supportive or very supportive of Gaelic, with 22% being neutral. **The Language Plan Team will endeavour to provide initiatives in the community which can develop this support into positive action.** The apathy among many surveyed will also need to be looked at and targeted in a marketing campaign.
Dh’iarr an ceisteachan air an luchd-freagairt comharra a-mach à deich a thoirt do bhuidhnean agus do dhaoine eadar-dhealaichdhe a rêir am beachd air an taic a tha iad a’ toirt don Ghàidhillg. A rêir an luchd-freagairt, ’s e Pàrlamaid na RA agus gnothachasan priobhaideach a tha a’ toirt na h-ire as isle de thaic don Ghàidhillg, agus tha iad den bheachd gu bheil an taic as motha don chànan a’ tighinn bhon t-sluagh ionadail aig a bheil Ghàidhillg. Bithear a’ foilseachadh nan àireamhan sin do na diofar bhuidhnean anns na h-Eileanan Siar, ’s ag iarraidh orra a bhith nas càirdeil don Ghàidhillg, agus bithear ag innse dhaibh mar a bhios seo na bhuanachd don bhuidhinn aca.

The survey asked the respondents to give specific bodies and groups of people a mark out of ten in terms of how the respondents view the support they are giving to Gaelic. According to the respondents, the UK Parliament and private businesses are the least supportive of Gaelic, with local native Gaelic speakers seen to provide most support for the language. These statistics will be presented to the various bodies in the Western Isles, and they will be encouraged to become more Gaelic-friendly, with the benefits this will provide for their organisation being communicated to them.
Tha an rannsachadh air sealltainn gu bheil 57% den luchd-freagairt mothachail gu bheil dearbh-aithne làdir Gàidhlig aig na h-Eileanan Siar. **Bidh e mar phàirt de obair an Sgioba Plana Cànain brosnachadh agus úidh a thogail anns an fheart shònraichte seo.** The research has shown that 57% of the respondents perceive the Western Isles as having a strong Gaelic identity. **Part of the Language Plan Team’s work will be to encourage and increase awareness of this unique Gaelic identity.**

**FIG 18: Dearbh-aithne Làdir Gàidhlig sna h-Eileanan Siar? / Strong Gaelic Identity in Western Isles?**

Uile gu lèir, tha an rannsachadh air sealltainn gu bheilear a’ creid Sinn gum fàs a’ Ghàidhlig nas làige san àm ri teachd le dèreach 12% ag aon tachadh gum fàs a’ Ghàidhlig beagan nas làidire no mòran nas làidire sna deich bliadhna ri teachd. **Ni an Sgioba Plana Cànain dicheall, tron obair còmhla ri buidhnean eile sna h-Eileanan Siar, gum bi seasmhachd aig a’ Ghàidhlig sna h-eileanan san àm ri teachd.** Overall, the research has shown that there is a belief that the Gaelic language will become weaker in the future with only 12% agreeing that Gaelic will become slightly stronger or very much stronger in the next ten years. **The Language Plan Team will endeavour, through their work in conjunction with other bodies in the Western Isles, to provide a stable future for the Gaelic language in the islands.**

**FIG 19: An t-Àm a Dh’fhalbh agus an t-Àm ri Teachd/ The Past and Future**
3.4 Toraidhean bho Sgrùdadh Ùidh sa Chànán
Rinneadh an dàrna sgrùdadh sna h-Eileanan Siar gus dearbhadh beachdan dhaoine a thàinig a dh'fhuireach dha na h-eileanan o chionn ghoidir mun Ghàidhlig. Bha an luchd-còmhnaidh úr sin air am mineachadh mar dhaoine a thàinig a dh'fhuireach dha na h-Eileanan Siar sna deich bliadhna mu dheireadh. Chaidh an cothrom a ghabhail air an sgrùdadh a dhèanamh fhad 's a bha na Sgrùdadhian Cleachdadh Cànan coitcheann a' dol a-mach; far an robh an Sgrùdadh Cleachdadh Cànan a' dol gu luchd-còmhnaidh úr, bha cothrom aca an dàrna sgrùdadh seo a lionadh ma bha iad deònach. Ach, cha tug a' chiad chothrom seo a-steach ach 40 freagairtean bho luchd-còmhnaidh úr agus cha robh sin gu leòr airson sampall iomchaidh. Mar sin, chaidh coimhearsnachdan sònraichte a thaghadh – an Rubha, Nis agus Taobh Siar Leòdhais agus Uibhist a Tuath – gus freagairtean fhaighinn bho luchd-còmhnaidh úr sna sgìrean sin, a' leantainn gu sampall iomlan de 150 luchd-còmhnaidh úr do na h-Eileanan Siar. **Bidh toradh sgrùdail an rannsachaichd seo air a chleachdadh gus ro-inneachd a chur ri chèile leis am faighear pàirt nas motha a thoirt do luchd-còmhnaidh úr do na h-eileanan ann an cànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig.**

Bha a' chlad ceist anns an sgrùdadh airson faighinn a-mach dè an dearbh ire ùidh sa chànan a tha aig an luchd-còmhnaidh úr sin. B' e 6% den luchd-freagairt a mhàin a thuirt gu bheil iad coma ged nach biodh a' Ghàidhlig beò agus tha 14% eile dhiùbh nach eil ag iarraidh a' Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh. A dh'aindeoín sin, thà seo a' fàgail 80% a tha a' toirt taic no ag iarraidh taic a thoirt don chànan ann an dòigh air choreigin, biodh e tro

3.4 Language Interest Survey Results
The second survey carried out in the Western Isles aimed to ascertain the views on Gaelic of new residents to the islands - defined as people who had come to live in the Western Isles in the last ten years. The survey was carried out opportunistically while the general Language Use Surveys were being distributed; where the recipients of the Language Use Survey were new residents, they were asked if they would be willing to complete this second survey. However, this initial opportunistic distribution resulted in only 40 new resident responses. More responses were needed to give a credible sample. Therefore, specific communities were targeted – in Point, Stornoway, Ness, the West side of Lewis and in North Uist – seeking responses from new residents in these areas, resulting in a total sample of 150 new residents to the Western Isles. **The analytical outcome of this research will be used to develop a strategy by which new residents to the islands can be better integrated into the Gaelic language and culture.**

The first question in the survey wished to establish what level of interest in the language these new residents actually have. Only 6% of respondents intimated that they do not care whether the Gaelic language survived and 14% do not want to learn Gaelic. Nevertheless, this leaves 80% who support or desire to support the language in one way or another, be it through acquisition and actual use of the language or aspirations to develop some Gaelic
language skills. The respondents’ interest in the Gaelic language will be encouraged and developed with opportunities for language learning maximised through the development of the Language Learning Strategy.

A bharrachd air ùidh ann an ionnsachadh Gàidhlíg, chaith faighneachd don luchd-freagairt an robh iad a’ smoineachadh gu robh e cudromach gum biodh an cân an beò. B’e 11.7% a-mhàin a thuirt gu robh iad coma am biodh a’ Ghàidhlig beò no nach biodh. Thèid an taic a thuirt còrr agus 88% den luchd-freagairt a bha aca a leasachadh agus a leudachadh gu fior obair airson math a’ chànan.

As well as an interest in learning Gaelic, the respondents were asked for their view on the importance of survival of the language. Only 11.7% intimated that it did not matter to them whether Gaelic survived or not. The support shown by over 88% of respondents will be developed and will be translated into positive action for the benefit of Gaelic.
Ma tha a’ Ghàidhlig a’ dol a dh’fhàs nas làidire anns na h-Eileanan Siar san àm ri teachd, feumaidh ceangal air chòiregin a bhith aig luchd-còmhnaidh nan eilean ris a’ chànnan. Nuair a chaidh faighneachd don luchd-còmhnaidh ur an robh iad, aig an àm seo, gam faicinn fhèin mar Ghàidheil, thuirt còrr agus 67% de luchd-freagairt nach eil iad gam faicinn fhèin mar Ghàidheil, le 8.4% a-mhain ag ràdh gu bheil iad a’ lùn chreidsinn gur e Gàidheil a tha annta. Gabhaidh am facal ‘Gàidheal’ a mhineachadh air diofar dhòighean agus cha bhí luchd-còmhnaidh ur do na h-Eileanan Siar a’ call an ceangal ris an dùthaich no an sgire às an tàinig iad agus cha bhí e duelteach gum b’lànn chom-pàirt aca fhathast ann an cànnan agus cultar nan Eilean Siar.

For Gaelic to become stronger in the Western Isles in the future, one factor will be the ability of island residents to identify with the language in some way. When the new residents were asked if they considered themselves to be Gaels, over 67% of respondents indicated that they did not, with only 8.4% saying they definitely did consider themselves to be Gaels. There are different interpretations of the term ‘Gael’ and new residents to the Western Isles will have retained identity with their country or region of origin and are, as yet, unlikely to have been fully integrated into the language and culture of the Western Isles.

FIG 22: Ceangal ris a’ Chànan ’s a’ Chultar/ Identity with Language and Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you consider yourself a Gael?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, but only in some ways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven’t really thought about it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

’S e a’ cheist mu dhearbh-aithne fear a shònraich luchd-freagairt mar nì a dh’thaodadh a bhith na bhrosnachadh airson a’ chànnan ionnsachadh. Tha seo a’ gabhail a-staigh mothachadh air dearbh-aithne pearsanta, ach mar as trice ceangal ris a’ choimhearsnachd aca. Tha na freagairtean seo a’ sealltainn gu bheil an luchd-còmhnaidh ur sin do na h-Eileanan Siar a’ lùn chreidsinn gum biodh e na bhuanadh daibh a’ Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh. Thathar an dòchas gum faodor an tuigse seo mu na buannachdann ann an ionnsachadh cànan

This issue of identity is one which respondents pinpointed as being a potential motivation for learning the language. This includes a sense of personal identity, but mostly identity with their community. These responses show that these new residents to the Western Isles do believe they would benefit from learning Gaelic. It is hoped that this realisation of the benefits of language acquisition can be used to encourage actual learning and use of Gaelic.
a chleachdadh gus fior ionnsachadh agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig dha-rireabh a bhrosnachadh.

FIG 23: Buannachdan Ionnsachadh Cànain/ The Benefits of Language Acquisition

Cùmhla ri bhith a’ nochdadh taic don Ghàidhlig tro ionnsachadh a’ chànain, tha cur do pháiste do sgoil far am bi iad air an teagasc tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a’ sealltainn gu bheil creideas agad anns a’ chànan. Chaidh faighneachd don t-sampall de luchd-cùmhnaidh ùr an smaoinicheadh iad air am pàiste a chur do sgoil meadhain-Gàidhlig agus thuirt còrr agus 70% gun robh iad a’ cur taic ris an t-siostam seo. Ged nach gabh na freagairtean bhon sgrùdadh an ghabhail mar ghealltananas gun toir an luchd-cùmhnaidh ùr a tha nam pàrantan taic cho làdir ri sin do fhoghlam meadhain-Gàidhlig, tha e misneachail gu bheil am faireachdainn san fharsaingeachd mun dòigh foghlaim seo taiceil agus bu choir barrachd fiosrachaidh a thoirt do na pàrantan sin mun t-siostam agus dè dha-rireabh an cuideachadh a ni foghlam meadhain-Gàidhlig don pháiste aca.

In addition to exhibiting support for Gaelic through learning the language, sending one’s child to a school where they will be taught through the medium of Gaelic shows faith in the language. The sample of new residents were asked whether they would consider sending their child to a Gaelic Medium School and over 70% supported enrolment in this system. Although the survey responses cannot be treated as a promise the new residents who are parents will support Gaelic Medium Education in such a strong manner, it is encouraging that the attitude towards this form of education is positive. These parents should be provided with more information on the system and what Gaelic Medium Education offers.
FIG 24: Foghlam Meadhan-Gàidhlig/ Gaelic Medium Education

Would you send your child to a Gaelic medium school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitely would</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would consider it a possibility</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No feelings on the matter</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely not</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ma tha duine a’ dol a thoir taic don Gàidhlig, feumaidh iad faireachdainn gu bheil adhbhar aca an cànan ionnsachadh agus gum bi e na bhuanachd dhaibh a h-ionnsachadh agus a cleachdadh. Tha a’ mhòr-chuid de luchd-freagairt (74%) a’ nochdadh gu bheil iad a’ faireachdainn gum biodh beag no mòr de bhuanachd ann dhaibh a’ Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Feumaidh na faireachdainnean deimhinneach sin atharrachadh gu fior ionnsachadh Gàidhlig.

FIG 25: Rudeigin a Dhith gun Ghàidhlig?/ Something Missing Without Gaelic?

Do you think you are missing out on a lot by not speaking Gaelic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quite a lot</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, to some extent</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really bothered</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a great deal</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For people to support Gaelic, they will have to believe there is a reason for learning the language and that they will benefit from acquiring and speaking it. The majority of respondents (74%) indicate that they feel they would benefit to some extent from learning Gaelic. These positive feelings should be translated to positive actions of actual Gaelic language acquisition.

Feumar coimhead ri dè tha luchd-còmhnaidh úr sna h-Eileanan Siar a’ dèanamh gus am bithear cinnteach nach eil toraidhean an rannsachadh sgrùdaidh stèidhichte air gealltanasan teòrirdheach a-mhain, nach eil an luchd-freagairt an dúil a

The actions of new residents to the Western Isles need to be examined to ensure that the results of the survey research are not solely based on theoretical promises which the respondents may not fulfil. Respondents were asked to indicate what
choileanadh. Mar sin dheth chaidh iarraidh air an t-sampall innse an do rinn iad oidhpir a’ Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh. Bha a’ chuid as motha de luchdfreagairt (34%) air feuchainn ris a’ Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh, ach cha robh iad soirbheachail. Mar sin feuchaidh Sgioba a’ Phlana Cànain ri comharrachadh agus ceartachadh nan duilgheadasan a dh’adhbharaich gu robh na h-oidhirpean sin neo-shoirbheachail le bhith a’ cur ri chèile Ro-innleachd Ionnsachadh Cànain, pàirt de Phlana Cànain iomlan nan Eilean Siar.

FIG 26: Ionnsachadh Cànain/ Language Acquisition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you attempted to learn Gaelic?</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, with success</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, but unsuccessful</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, but would like</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No and don't want to</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gus leantainn a’ faighinn a-mach dè an t-àite a tha aig a’ Ghàidhlig ann am beatha an luchdfreagairt, chaidh tomhas a dhèanamh air ire cleachdaidh nan caochladh mheadhan. Tha a’ cheist seo a’ cuideachadh gus co-dhùnadh dè an ire gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig follaiseach, no air a cluinntinn, le luchd-còmhnaidh ùr nan eilean, agus a’ cuideachadh a’ toirt dàlbh coileanta air dè na meadhanaidh as trice a thathar a’ cleachdadh. Tha na toraidhean a’ sealltainn, ged nach eilear gan cleachdadh faisg cho tric ri na meadhanaidh Beurla, gu bheil luchd-còmhnaidh ùr a’ déanamh feum de na meadhanaidh Gàidhlig, ged nach bruidhinn a’ chuid as motha dhiubh Gàidhlig. Tha rèidio agus telebhisean Gàidhlig gu sònraichte soirbheachail san dòigh seo.

To continue to ascertain the place of Gaelic in the lives of respondents, the uptake of the various media was gauged. This question assists in determining how visible, or audible, Gaelic is in the lives of new residents to the islands and helps to create a picture of which media are more or less successful in terms of uptake. The results show that, despite attracting significantly lower uptakes than English media, the Gaelic forms are being utilised by new residents, most of whom are not Gaelic speakers. Gaelic radio and television are particularly successful in this manner.
Chan eil uiread de chothrom air na diofar seòrsa meadhnan Gàidhlig an coimeas ri na meadhnan Beurla agus dh'fhaoadadh gur e seo aon adhnhar gubheil tomhas nas lugha de na meadhhanan sin air an cleachdadh. Mar sin chaidh faighneachd don luchd-còmhnaidh ùr a chaidh an sgrùdadh dè am beachd air na tha de Ghàidhlig anns na meadhhanan aig an às a' chuid as motha de luchd-freagairt cinnteach dè na tha ann de prògraman rèidio, leabhraichean agus pàipearan-naidheachd Gàidhlig, ach tha 39% ag aontachadh nach eil gu leòr prògraman Tbh Gàidhlig ann. Tha na freagairtean don cheist seo a’ sealltainn mi-chinnt an luchd-freagairt, tro chion fiosrachaidh mu na thathar a’ tairgse aig an às seo a thaobh nam meadhnan Gàidhlig, no cion ùidh sa chuíis. A dh’aindeoin sin, tha e cudromach gum bi tuileadh rannsachaidh ann air ciamar a ghabhas an t-seirbheis a thathar a’ tairgse sna meadhhanan Gàidhlig aig an às seo a leasachadh agus a chleachadh gus am bi barrachd dhaoine air feadh nan Eilean Siar agus nas haide air falbh a’ cluinnntinn a’ chànan.

Provision of the various forms of Gaelic media is very much less than that of the English media and the lower uptake of them may be to some extent a result of that. When the new residents surveyed were asked for their opinion on the current provision for Gaelic in the media, most of them appeared to be unsure about the provision of Gaelic radio programmes, books and newspapers, but 39% stated that there are not enough Gaelic TV programmes. The responses to this question show that the uncertainty of the respondents may arise from lack of knowledge of the present provision of Gaelic media, or from indifference. Nevertheless, it is important further research is carried out into how the current Gaelic media provision can be improved and used to give the language greater exposure in the Western Isles and beyond.
Chan e gu leòr a tha ann am barrachd a thaobh na meadhanan. Ma tha a’ Ghàidhlig gu bhith na cànan beò feumar a cleachdadh anns a’ choimhearsnachd agus feumar barrachd chothrom an thoirt airson a bhith ga cleachdadh. Am measg an luchd-còmhnaidh ùr sin a tha a’ tighinn do na h-Eileanan Siar, tha mòran dhiubh a’ dol gu tachartasan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, ach tha freagairtean an sgrùdaidh a’ sealltainn a thaobh a h-uile tachartas gu bheil còrr agus 58% den luchd-còmhnaidh ùr sin nach eil a’ gabhail pàirt annaig aig às sam bith. Tha feum air na tachartasan sin a dhèananmh nas fhosgailte agus nas tarraingiche do shluagh an àite agus do luchd-còmhnaidh ùr. Bhiodh seo a’ gabhail a-staigh maraidheachd nan tachartasan a tha ann cheana agus fedhainn ùra a leasachadh.

Increased media provision will not suffice. To continue to be a living language, Gaelic has to be used in the community and opportunities for using Gaelic need to be maximised. Many of these new residents coming to the Western Isles do partake of activities through the medium of Gaelic, but the responses to the survey show that, for all activities, over 58% of them never partake in them. There is a need for these activities to become more accessible and attractive to locals and new residents alike. This will involve marketing of the activities available and the development of these activities.
FIG 29: Gàidhlig sa Choinmhearsnachd/ Gaelic in the Community

![Diagram showing level of participation](image)

Bha an sgrùdadh airson faighinn a-mach nam biodh na tachartasan sin nas so-ruigsinn am biodh atharrachadh san àireamh a tha gan cleachdadh. Dh'innis an luchd-freagaitr gun gabhadh iad pàirt ann am barrachd thachartasan Gàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd nam biodh iad rim faotainn. Sa h-uile tachartas, ach a-mhàn na seirbheisean eaglais Gàidhlig, thuirt còrr agus 40% gur dòcha gun com-pàirticheadh iad sna nìthean sin co-dhiù bho am gu am. **Faodar na freagairtean sin a chleachdadh gus taic a thoirt ann am brosnachadh barrachd thachartasan sòisealta tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd.**

The survey sought an indication the possible effect of greater availability of these activities on the likelihood of participation. Respondents reveal in their answers that they would take part in Gaelic activities in the community more often if they were available. In every activity, apart from the Gaelic church services, over 40% said they were likely to take up these activities at least occasionally. **These responses can be used to support the encouragement of increased provision of social activities through the medium of Gaelic in the community.**

FIG 30: Gàidhlig sa Choinmhearsnachd II/ Gaelic in the Community II

![Diagram showing likelihood of participation](image)
Tha e cudromach gum bi Gàidhlig sa choimhhearsnachd, gu h-àraidh ma tha an cânan gu bhith air fhaicinn agus air a chluinninn mar chànan beò. Bhiodh buaidh aig an t-sealladh de Ghaidhlig sa choimhhearsnachd air a’ chànadan agus a’ chultar. Tha e misneachail faiçinn gu bheil mothachadh aig 71.3% den luchd-còmhnaidh úr a chaidh an sgrùdadh air cultar Gàidhlig sònraichte nan Eilean Siar agus gu bheil uídh aca anns a’ chultar seo. Tha e ro-chudromach gum bi àite air a thoirt don chultar a bhuineas don Ghaidhlig agus an fheum a fheàrr a dhèanamh dheth gus am bi barrachd mothachaidh agus uídh anns a’ chànan fhèin.

The presence of Gaelic in the community is important, especially for the language to be visible and audible as a living language. This presence in the community will affect both the language and the culture. It is encouraging to note that 71.3% of the new residents surveyed are aware of and interested in the unique Gaelic culture in the Western Isles. It is vital that the culture associated with the Gaelic language is recognised and its full potential utilised to increase awareness of and interest in the language itself.

FIG 31: Beachd Luchd-còmhnaidh Ùr/ New Residents’ Perception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you aware of a unique Gaelic culture in the Western Isles?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I am aware and interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I am aware but not interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, not really aware, but would like information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, and not interested</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'S e cothrom air a' chultar aon ní a dh'fhéum a' leasachadh 's gun ach 17% a' faireadhdainn gu bheil cothrom aca air a' chultar, agus gu bheil deagh chom-pàirt aca ann. Feumar margaidheachd agus fiosrachadh a chur fa chomhair dhaoine mun cultar co-cheangailte ris a' Ghaidhlig mus bàsach an cultar seo a-mach agus nach bi suidheachadh iomchaidh aig a' chànan anns am bi e beò.

This issue of access to the culture is one that needs to be addressed, as only 17% feel they not only have access to the culture but have integrated well into it. Efforts will be made to market and educate people about the culture associated with Gaelic before this culture disappears and the language has no context in which to exist.
FIG 32: Cothrom air a’ Chultar/ Access to Culture

Tha a’ mhòr-chuid de luchd-freagairt ag aontachdadh gum bu chòir buntainneas a bhith aig a’ Ghàidhlig ri Alba gu lèir. Tha seo a’ neartachadh nan nithean feumail ann am Bile na Gàidhlig aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha aig ire co-chomhailreachaidh agus obair Bòrd na Gàidhlig air feadh Alba.

The majority of respondents stated that Gaelic should be a Scotland wide issue. This adds weight to the merits of the Gaelic Language Bill being consulted on by the Scottish Executive and the work of Bòrd na Gàidhlig throughout Scotland.

FIG 33: Cò dha a bhuineas a’ Ghàidhlig?/ Whose Gaelic is it?

An dèidh beachdan an luchd-còmhnaidh urch air an t-suidheachadh a tha ann an-dràsta fhaighinn a-mach, chaidh faighneachd dhaibh dè an cuideachadh a bheireadh iad don chànan agus an cultar san am rì teadh. Thuirt còrr agus 60% de luchd-freagairt gun cudicheadh iad i tro ionnsachadh Gàidhlig gus am biodh iad comasach

Having established the views of the new residents on the current situation, they were asked what contribution they would make to the language and culture in the future. Over 60% of respondents said they would contribute by learning Gaelic and being able to speak it, which, if fulfilled, would result in an increase in the number of Gaelic speakers in the
Thèid na toraidhean sin bhon rannsachadh sgrùdaidh air beachdan dhaoine a ghluais do na h-Eileanan Siar sna deich bliadhna mu dheireadh a chleachdadh mar bhunait airson coinneachadh ri feuman na buidhne seo. Feuchaidh Sgioba a’ Phlana Cànain ri dèanamh cinnteach gum bi luchd-còmhnaidh ùr do na h-eileanan air am fìlleadh a-staigh do chultar na Gàidhlig agus gum bi cohroman air a thoirt dhaibh, a rèir am feuman, air a’ chànan ionnsachadh.

These results of the survey research into the views of people who have only become resident in the Western Isles in the last ten years will be used as the basis for targeting this group. The Language Plan Team will endeavour to ensure new residents to the islands are integrated into the Gaelic culture and are given opportunities, which meet their needs, to learn the language.
3.5 Beachdan
Bha iomadh beachd an cis freagarth an nan cheisteachan, mun h-uile cuspair a bhuinneas don Ghàidhlig. **Bhidh na beachdan air an cleachdadh gus cuideachadh le leasachadh planaichean cànan ionadail anns gach choimhearsnachd sna h-Eileanan Siar agus bidh iad nam fianais airson gach leasachadh buntainnach san às ri teadh.

Chaidh iarraidh air an luchd-freagairt aon nì ainmeachadh a chuireadh iad air thoiseach a bu chòir a dheànamh gus ionnsachadh agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh. Tha na toraidhean a’ sealtainn gu bheil cudrom air a chur air fughlam, ach cuideachd gum bu chòir a’ Ghàidhlig a bhrosnachadh ann an àiteachan mar an dachaigh agus a’ choimhearsnachd. **Tha na freagarth an sin a’ cur neart ri amasan Pròiseact a’ Phlana Cànan, a tha a’ gabhail a-staigh a bhith a’ neartachadh a’ chànan san teaghlach agus sa choimhearsnachd.**

**FIG 35: Beachdan Luchd-freagairt/ Respondents’ Comments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you think is the single most important thing that can be done to encourage people to learn or use the Gaelic language more?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic in the Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Gaelic in School Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media needs improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing of Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Jobs/ Improve Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate on Young People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 Comments
Many comments were attached to the surveys’ responses, opining on all aspects of Gaelic language. **The comments will be used to aid in the development of local language plans in each community in the Western Isles and provide evidence for all relevant future developments.**

The respondents were asked to identify what they perceived as the single most important thing which could be done in encouraging acquisition and use of the Gaelic language. The results show the importance placed on education, but also the fact the home and the community are areas where Gaelic should be encouraged. **These responses add value to the aims of the Language Plan Project, two of which are to strengthen the language in the family and in the community.**
B’ e an earrann air foghlam meadhan-Gàidhlig am páirt den cheisteachdan a bhrosnaich a’ chuid bu mhotha de bheachdan. Tha an luchd-freagairt a’ tuigsinn cho cudromach ’s a tha foghlam meadhan-Gàidhlig, ach cuideachd tha iad a’ tuigsinn gum feumar atharrachadh san t-siostam agus fuasglaidhean fhaighinn do na dUILheadasan le cion ghoireasan taobh a-muigh ballachan na sgoile.

The part of the questionnaire which attracted the most comments was the section on Gaelic Medium Education. The respondents recognise the importance of Gaelic Medium Education. The need for a change in the system and solutions to the problems with lack of resources outwith the school walls was also highlighted.

FIG 36: Foghlam Meadhan-Gàidhlig/ Gaelic Medium Education

A thaobh nan Ealan Gàidhlig, tha na beachdan san fharsaingeachd a’ sealltainn gu robh an sampall luchd-freagairt taiseil do na h-ealain ged a tha 35% den bheachd gum feumatharrasmhaidhean a bhith ann. **Bidh na beachdan air an co-roinn ri Pròiseact nan Ealan agus Oifigeur Leasachaidh nan Ealan airson nan Eilean Siar.** Ged nach robh dualchas air a shòrrachadh san sgrùdadh bu chúir àite a thoirt an seo cuideachd do LINKS, an com-pàirteachas ro-innleachdail airson libhrigeadh seirbheis thasglann nan Eilean Siar san àm ri teachd, oir tha páirt chudromach den pròiseact sin co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig agus gu h-àraidh ris a’ chultar.

In terms of the Gaelic Arts, the overall comments show that the sample was supportive of the Arts although 35% perceive that changes are required. **These comments will be shared with Pròiseact nan Ealan and the Arts Development Officer for the Western Isles.** Although heritage was not expressly mentioned in the survey, the LINKS strategic partnership for the future museums’ service delivery in the Western Isles should also be included here, as a major part of that project is concerned with Gaelic, with indigenous culture at its heart.
Gheibh Sgioba a’ Phìlana Cànain air na beachdan a thàinig bho choimhearsnachdan fa leth a chleachdadh gus dealachadh a dhèanamh eadar na priomh-amasan a chomharraich daoine sna coimhearsnachdan sin agus an cleachdadh mar bhanait airson planaichean cânain coimhearsnachd  ullamadh.

The Language Plan Team will be able to use the comments which came from individual communities to distinguish the priorities identified by individuals in those communities and use this as a foundation for the development of community language plans.
4. Rannsachadh Poileasaidhean

Bhuidhnean Poblach

San t-Sultain 2003 chaidh litrichean a-mach gu 32 buidhnean stèidhichte sna h-Eileanan Siar a' faighneachd mu dheidhinn am poileasaidhean agus dòighnean-obrach a thaobh na Gàidhlig. Gu ruige seo tha na buidhnean aleanas air freagairt:

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Iomairt nan Eilean Siar
Buidheann Dion Òrainneachd na h-Alba
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
Seirbhéis a' Phoileis
Iomairt aig an Òir
Ionad Obrach agus Eile
Dreuchdan Alba
Iomairt Nis
Cùirt an t-Siorraidh

Bidh an rannsachadh seo mu phoileasaidhean nam buidhnean poblaich air feedh nan Eilean Siar air a chumail a’ dol agus bidh tuilleadh litrichean a’ dol a-mach, agus thèid iarraidh air buidhnean fa leth coinneachadh ri Sgioba a’ Phlainn Cànan gus tighinn gu co-dhùnadh mu bhith a’ filleadh na Gàidhlig a-steach do na dòighnean-obrach aca.

4. Research into Policies of Public Bodies

In September 2003 letters were sent to 32 organisations based in the Western Isles asking for information about their policies and practice in relation to the Gaelic language. To date the following organisations have responded:

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Western Isles Enterprise
The Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Natural Heritage
Police Service
Iomairt aig an Òir
Job Centre Plus
Careers Scotland
Iomairt Nis
Sheriff Court

This research into the policies of the public bodies throughout the Western Isles is ongoing and further letters will be sent out, and individual bodies will be encouraged to meet with the Language Plan Team to determine the integration of Gaelic into their working practices.
5. Co-labhairtean Plana Cànain

Ann a bhith ag ullachadh airson rannsachadh ceisteachain air feedh nan Eilean Siar a ghabhail os làimh, agus an dèidh don sgrùdadh a chriochnachadh gu soirbheachail, bha grunn cho-labhairtean ann, mar a leanas:

- Air 14 Lùnastal 2002 chaidh co-labhairt a chumail ris an Ollamh Coinneach MacFhionghuín gus beachdachadh am bidhe comasach Pròiseact Plana Cànain a thòiseachadh sna h-Eileanan Siar.
- Air 21 Lùnastal 2003 chaidh co-labhairt a chumail ris an Ollamh Coinneach MacFhionghuín far an deach beachdachadh air na cothroman fa leth a bha an liub sgrùdadh air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig sna h-Eileanan Siar.
- Air 6 Samhain 2003 chaidh co-labhairt a chumail ann an Nis, le muinntir na cinneasachd, far an robh an cudrom air ceisteachain dheachdainn a-mach airson sgrùdadh a ghabhail os làimh.
- Air 8 Faoiolláidh 2004, chaidh co-labhairt a chumail airson tréanadh a thoir air luchd-tadhail dhachaighean a bha a’ dol a-mach leis na ceisteachain air feedh nan eilean.
- Air 6 Cèitean 2004 bha co-labhairt ann far an robh na toraidhean bhon rannsachadh air an taisbeanadh do rìochdairean bho na còachlaidean bhuidhean air Fòrum Cànana agus Culltar na Gàidhlig.
- Air 21 Ògmhios 2004 bha co-labhairt ceudna ann far am fàca buidhean le úidh sa chòis agus a’ mhòr-shluagh toraidhean an sgrùdaidean. Bha rìochdairean bho Acadamh na hOllscolaiochtà Gaeilge, Gaillimh, Èirinn

5. Language Plan Seminars

In preparation for undertaking questionnaire research throughout the Western Isles, and following the successful completion of the survey, several seminars were carried out, namely:

- On 14 August 2002 a seminar was held with Professor Kenneth Mackinnon to discuss the possibility of starting up a Language Plan Project in the Western Isles.
- On 21 August 2003 a seminar was held with Professor Kenneth Mackinnon where the possibilities surrounding a survey of Gaelic use within the Western Isles being carried out were discussed.
- On 6 November 2003 a seminar was held in Ness, with individuals from the community, where the focus was on the piloting of questionnaires for the undertaking of the survey.
- On 8 January 2004, a seminar was held for the training of the home-visitors who were to distribute the questionnaires throughout the islands.
- On 6 May 2004 a seminar was held where the findings of the survey research were presented to representatives from the various bodies on the Gaelic Language and Culture Forum.
- On 21 June 2004 a similar seminar was held where the interested parties and the general public had an opportunity to see the results of the survey work. Representatives from Acadamh na hOllscolaiochtà Gaeilge, Galway,
ann cuideachd agus dh’innis iad mu na h-oidhirpean aca fhèin airson ath-thilleadh gluasad cânain.

Ireland also attended this seminar and gave a presentation on the efforts being made by their institution to reverse language shift.
6. Foillseachadh nan Toraidhean

Bha cìad thoraidhean an rannsachaidh air am foillseachadh aig Fòrum Cànan agus Cultar Chomhairle nan Eilean Siar air 6 Cèitean 2004. Bha riochdairean bhon Chomhairle, Bòrd Slàinte nan Eilean Siar, Iomairt nan Eilean Siar, Bòrd Turasachd nan Eilean Siar agus na caochladh bhuidhnean Gàidhlig an làthair agus thug iad an taic do phrionnsabalan Pròiseact a’ Phlana Cànain.

Bha toraidhean an rannsachaidh air am foillseachadh cuideachd do riochdairean bho Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge an Gaillimh, Éirinn agus don mhòr-shluagh an ceann a tuath Leòdhais air 21 Ògmhios 2004 ann an Comunn Eachdraidh Nis.

Cho-thaisbean Co-òrdanaiche a’ Phlana Cànain pàipearan, còmhla ris an Ollamh Coinneach MacFhionghuinn, aig dà cho-labhairt. B’e a’ chìad tè dhiubh sin Co-labhairt Eurolinguistics ELAMA an Cill Rìmhinn bho 11 gu 14 Ògmhios 2004 far an robh toraidhean an rannsachaidh seo air an taisbeanadh do chànanaischean nàiseanta agus eadar-nàiseanta.

B’ e an dàrna co-labhairt nàiseanta Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 3, an Dùn Èideann bho 21 gu 23 lugadh 2004. Bha toraidhean an rannsachaidh air an taisbeanadh do dhiofar dhaoine a bha an sàs ann an rannsachadh co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig.

6. Presentation of Results

The preliminary findings of the questionnaire research were presented at the Gaelic Language and Culture Forum at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on 6th May 2004. Representatives from the Comhairle, Western Isles Health Board, Western Isles Enterprise, Western Isles Tourist Board and the various Gaelic bodies were present and offered their support to the principles of the Language Plan Project.

The research findings were also presented to representatives from Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge in Galway, Ireland and the wider public in the north of Lewis on June 21st 2004 at Comunn Eachdraidh Nis.

The Language Plan Co-ordinator has co-presented, with Professor Kenneth Mackinnon, papers at two conferences. The first of these conferences was the ELAMA Eurolinguistics Conference in St Andrews from 11th to 14th June 2004 where the findings of this research were presented to a national and international audience of linguists.

The second national conference was Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 3, in Edinburgh from 21st to 23rd July 2004. The research findings were presented to various people involved in research concerning the Gaelic language.
7. Rannsachadh Eile

Tha sgrìdhadh eile a chaidh a dhèanamh aig an aon àm ri pròiseact 2003/2004 a' gabhail a-staigh rannsachadh air coimhearsnachdan eile le mion-chànanan. Mar thoradh air na h-oidhirpean a tha gan co-òrdanachadh sa Chuimhrigh bha ath-thilleadh gluasad cânain gu Cuimris. Tha iomadh leasan rin ionnsachadh bho na sgeamaichean a tha stèidhichte sa Chuimhrigh, a bhios feumail do pròiseact Plana Càrnain nan Eilean Siar. Bhith na leasain sin air an gabhail a-staigh ann am plana sam bith a bhios air a dhealbh airson nan Eilean Siar. Thathair air ceanglaichean a dhèanamh ri Comhairle Gwynedd a tha air an ro-innleachd cânain fhèin ullachadh do lar-thuath na Cuimhrigh.

Bheir na ceanglaichean a rinneadh le Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge an Gaillimh, cuideachd cothrom airson beachdan a chom-pàirtreachtadh ri coimhearsnachd mion-chànain eile.

7. Other Research

Other research undertaken over the 2003/2004 project includes, an examination of other minority language communities. The efforts being co-ordinated in Wales have resulted in a reversal of language shift towards the Welsh language. A study of the schemes in place in Wales provides many lessons, from which the Western Isles Language Plan Project can learn. These lessons will be incorporated into any plan drawn up for the Western Isles. Links have been established with Gwynedd Council who have produced their own language strategy for North West Wales.

The links which have been established with Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge in Galway, will also provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas with another minority language community.
8. Co-dhùnadh

Bidh an rannsachadh a chaidh a dhèanamh ann an Êre 1 de phróiseact Plana Cànan nan Eilean Siar, gu sònraichte an Ceisteachan Cleachdadh Èadan a rinneadh sna h-eileanan, air a chleachdadh gus na gniomhan a leanas ann an Êre 2 a dhèanamh comasach:

- cur ri chèile planeichean cànan aig Êr coimhearsnachd ag obair còmhla ri fòrman beaga sa choimhearsnachd
- stèidheachadh Plana Cànan nan Eilean Siar
- cur ri chèile Ro-inleachd Ionnasachadh Èadan airson nan Eilean Siar
- oídhirpean co-àrdanaichte còmhla ri oifigearan leasachadh eile a tha ag obair air feedh nan Eilean Siar
- mion-sgrùdadh mhodailean dealbhadh cànan a bha air an cleachdadh ann an coimhearsnachd mion-chànan eile
- mion-sgrùdadh air dàta bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2001 cus coimeas a dhèanamh ri sùidheachadh nan coimhearsnachd aig an às seo
- co-obrachadh leis na comuinn eachdraidh ‘s Museum nan Eilean gus dualchas nan eilean a neartachadh
- rannsachadh leantainneach air poileasaidhean agus doighean-obraich bhuidhnean poblach sna h-Eileanan Siar a thaobh na Gàidhlig
- tuigse air cho cudromach ‘s a tha e fiosrachadh a thoirt do òigridh le Gàidhlig

8. Conclusion

The research carried out in Phase 1 of the Plana Cànan nan Eilean Siar project, in particular the comprehensive Language Use Survey carried out in the islands, will be used to facilitate the following actions in Phase 2:

- co-operation with small community forums to generate local language plans
- establishment of a Western Isles Language Plan
- formulation of a Language Learning Strategy for the Western Isles
- liason and co-ordination of effort with development officers in the Western Isles
- analysis of language planning models used in other minority language communities
- analysis of the Census 2001 data to compare this with the present situation in the islands’ communities
- working with the comuinn eachdraidh and Museum nan Eilean to strengthen the heritage of the islands.
- research into the Gaelic policies and practices of public bodies in the Western Isles
- informing young Gaelic speakers about project developments and encouraging
• their participation in these

• creation of a bilingual website to market

the project and the Gaelic language.

Bu chòir don phróiseas planadh cânain a bhith a' dol air advart aig a huile ire bhon choimhearsnachd gu ire ûghdarras ionadail, le tuigse air na diofar phàirtean de rannsachadh agus gniomhan a dh'fhéum mar tha am pròiseact a' dol a shoarbheachadh. Tha Dr Joshua A. Fishman a' toirt a'ite don seo ann 'From Theory to Practice (and Vice Versa): Review, Reconsideration and Reiteration' ann an *Can threatened languages be saved?*, nuair a tha e ag ràdh gun gabh cânanan a tha ann an cunnart a bhith air an sàbhailadh, "but only by following careful strategies that focus on priorities and on strong linkages to them, and only if the true complexity of local human identity, linguistic competence and global interdependence are fully recognised." ¹

The language planning process should be ongoing at all levels from community to local authority level, with recognition of the various facets of research and action necessary for the project to succeed. Dr Joshua A. Fishman recognises this in ‘From Theory to Practice (and Vice Versa): Review, Reconsideration and Reiteration’ in *Can threatened languages be saved?*, when he notes that threatened languages can be saved, "but only by following careful strategies that focus on priorities and on strong linkages to them, and only if the true complexity of local human identity, linguistic competence and global interdependence are fully recognised." ¹

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TÚSAN/ SOURCES

Leabhraichean/ Books


Pàipearan/ Papers

Gwynedd County Council (2001) ‘Welsh Language Plan’


Mac an tSomaire, Peadar (2004); ‘The Role of The National University of Ireland, Galway in meeting the needs of Irish-Speaking Communities’ Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge address to Plana Cànain nan Eilean Siar Conference 24th May 2004.


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An Comunn Gàidhealach, www.ancomunn.co.uk
Cli Gàidhlig, www.cli.org.uk
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PÀIPEARAN-TAICE</th>
<th>APPENDICES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I: Dàta bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2001</td>
<td>I: Data from Census 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II: Ceisteachan Cleachdadh Cànain</td>
<td>II: Language Use Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III: Ceisteachan Ùidh sa Chànan</td>
<td>III: Language Interest Survey</td>
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<td>IV: Beachdan bhon Cheisteachan Cleachdadh Cànain</td>
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<td>VI: Litir gu Buidhnean Poblach</td>
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<td>VII: Gailearaidh Dhealbhain</td>
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</tbody>
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## Data from 2001 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eilean Siar</th>
<th>ALL PEOPLE</th>
<th>All Ages</th>
<th>Understands speaks or writes Gaelic</th>
<th>No knowledge of Gaelic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALL PEOPLE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>518</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3- 4</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>314</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5- 11</td>
<td>2248</td>
<td>1294</td>
<td>954</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12- 15</td>
<td>1461</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16-24</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>1354</td>
<td>896</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>3105</td>
<td>2058</td>
<td>1047</td>
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<td></td>
<td>35-59</td>
<td>9266</td>
<td>6541</td>
<td>2725</td>
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<td></td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>3096</td>
<td>2550</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>2369</td>
<td>2079</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>1147</td>
<td>1032</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 and over</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>13082</td>
<td>8992</td>
<td>4090</td>
</tr>
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<td>388</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>3- 4</td>
<td>256</td>
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<td>153</td>
</tr>
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<td>Males</td>
<td>5- 11</td>
<td>1137</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
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<td>Males</td>
<td>12- 15</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>237</td>
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<td>16-24</td>
<td>1213</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>507</td>
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<td>25-34</td>
<td>1597</td>
<td>1045</td>
<td>552</td>
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<td>3398</td>
<td>1409</td>
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<td>1030</td>
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<td>294</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>90 and over</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>13420</td>
<td>9670</td>
<td>3750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>3- 4</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>5- 11</td>
<td>1111</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>12- 15</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>184</td>
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<td>Females</td>
<td>16-24</td>
<td>1037</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>1508</td>
<td>1013</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>35-59</td>
<td>4459</td>
<td>3143</td>
<td>1316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>1572</td>
<td>1329</td>
<td>243</td>
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<td>Females</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>1393</td>
<td>1179</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>90 and over</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plana Cànain nan Eilean Siar

Language Use Questionnaire

Tha Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Colaisde a’ Chaisteil, Iomairt nan Eilean Siar agus Comunn na Gàidhlig air an riochdachadh air a’ bhuidheann-stiùridh a’ deasachadh plana cânain airson nan Eilean Siar. Mar phàirt den phróiseact seo, thathar a’ rannsachadh suidheachadh na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachdan nan eilean.

Thathar an dòchas gun cuidich an ceisteachan seo ann a bhith ag aithneachadh câit a bheil na neartan agus na laigsean rin lorg. Bu chóir iad seo cothrom a thoir dh mhuinnitir nan eilean am beachdan air a’ Ghàidhlig a thoir seachad cuideachd.

Bidh na ceisteachain seo air leth feumail nuair a thathar a’ deasachadh plana cânain airson nan Eilean Siar, a thathar an dòchas a bhith a air a chur an gniomh thar co-dhiù tri bliadhna. Le sin, tha sinn gu mòr nur comain airson ar cuideachadh, oir tha ur com-pàirteachaidh deatamach.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Lews Castle College, Western Isles Enterprise and Comunn na Gàidhlig are all represented on the steering group developing a language plan for Gaelic for the Western Isles. As part of this project, research is being carried out to ascertain the role of the Gaelic language throughout the communities in the islands.

This questionnaire hopes to aid in developing a picture of where the strengths and weaknesses are in terms of provision for the Gaelic language. This should also give an opportunity for the people of the islands themselves to express their own opinions on provisions for Gaelic.

The responses to these questionnaires will be extremely useful when a language plan for Gaelic is developed, with a view to being implemented in the Western Isles, over a period of at least three years. Therefore, we would be extremely grateful for your co-operation, as your assistance is essential.

Mòran taing – Thank you very much
**GAELIC LANGUAGE USAGE SURVEY**

1. **Gender?**  Male 1  Female 2
2. **Age?**  (in years)
3. **What is your marital status?**
   - Single 1
   - Married 2
   - Partner 3
   - Divorced 4
   - Widowed 5

4. **What is your present occupation?**
5. **If you are retired, what was your main occupation?**
6. **Where do your parents originally come from?**
   - Mother
   - Father
   - Western Isles 1 1
   - Highlands of Scotland 2 2
   - Rest of Scotland 3 3
   - Ireland 4 4
   - Wales 5 5
   - England 6 6
   - Outside British Isles 7 7

7. **What language did you first learn at home?**
   - Gaelic 1
   - English 2
   - Both 3
   - Other 4

   *If Gaelic is your first language, please go to Q.10*

8. **(a) Did you want to learn Gaelic?**  Yes 1  No 0

   **(b) If yes, what was the MAIN reason?**
   - Educational reasons 1
   - Career reasons 1
   - Family/personal reasons 1
   - To fit in with community 1
   - Scottish identity/roots 1
   - General interest 1
   - Other (please state) 1

9. **If you learnt Gaelic was it:**  (tick all applicable)
   - Yes
   - No
   - At school 1 0
   - In the community 1 0
   - Evening classes 1 0
   - Residential classes 1 0
   - Television courses 1 0
   - Open Learning 1 0
   - Other (please state) 1 0
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. (a) When you were a child, to what extent did the following family members use Gaelic and English to you?</th>
<th>Always Mainly Gaelic and English equally Mainly English Always English Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather (maternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother (maternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather (paternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother (paternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(b) When you were a child, which language did you speak in conversation with these family members?</th>
<th>Always Mainly Gaelic and English equally Mainly English Always English Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather (maternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother (maternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather (paternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother (paternal)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11. What is your own level of Gaelic?</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Quite Good</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12. As a child, was Gaelic spoken in your community?</th>
<th>Frequently</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General conversation in street</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shops</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubs/associations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social occasions e.g. cèilidhs, dances,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13. Nowadays, do you hear Gaelic spoken in the community?</th>
<th>Frequently</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General conversation in street</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shops</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 59 -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clubs/associations</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social occasions e.g. ceilidhs, dances,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 14. What language do you speak mostly?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Always Gaelic</th>
<th>Mainly Gaelic</th>
<th>Gaelic and English equally</th>
<th>Mainly English</th>
<th>Always English</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At mealtimes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to mother</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to father</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to spouse/partner</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to child/children</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to work colleagues</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 15. (a) Is spouse/partner a Gaelic speaker?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### (b) If yes, what language does he/she usually speak in following situations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Always Gaelic</th>
<th>Mainly Gaelic</th>
<th>Gaelic and English equally</th>
<th>Mainly English</th>
<th>Always English</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At mealtimes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to mother</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to father</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to spouse/partner</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to child/children</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to work colleagues</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 16. (a) To your knowledge, in which of the following situations in your community is it POSSIBLE for Gaelic to be spoken?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
<th>Gaelic</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For shopping</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking the time from a stranger</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy a newspaper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk to your minister/priest</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying petrol</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk to local councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For car repairs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordering a drink in a pub</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hairdresser</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For repairs to machines and appliances</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordering a meal in a restaurant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To your bank manager</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To your child’s teacher</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To your doctor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the library</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports activities</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### (b) Which language do you mostly use in these situations?

### 17. Do you have children? Yes 1

### 18. Did they attend a Gaelic Medium Unit?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If yes, what are their genders and ages?</th>
<th>Yes 1</th>
<th>No 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boy 1 Girl 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy 2 Girl 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy 3 Girl 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19. What language do your children speak with one another?</th>
<th>Always Gaelic</th>
<th>Mainly Gaelic</th>
<th>Gaelic and English equally</th>
<th>Mainly English</th>
<th>Always English</th>
<th>Not English</th>
<th>Appl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boy 1 Boy 1 Girl 1 Girl 1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy 1 Boy 2 Girl 2 Girl 2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy 1 Boy 3 Girl 3 Girl 3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20. What clubs/associations do your children belong to now and which language is used most?</th>
<th>Always Gaelic</th>
<th>Mainly Gaelic</th>
<th>Gaelic and English equally</th>
<th>Mainly English</th>
<th>Always English</th>
<th>Not English</th>
<th>Appl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sradagan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croileagain</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformed Organisations</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music and Dance Activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Feisean</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Mod/National Mod</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21. How many people live in your household, and what is their level of knowledge of Gaelic?</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Knowledge of Gaelic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person 4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person 5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 22. Do you: |      |
| Listen to Gaelic radio programmes | Frequently | Occas. | Rarely | Never |
| Listen to English radio programmes | Frequently | Occas. | Rarely | Never |
| Watch Gaelic TV programmes        | Frequently | Occas. | Rarely | Never |
| Watch English TV programmes       | Frequently | Occas. | Rarely | Never |
## 23. Please tick how you feel about each of the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree strongly</th>
<th>No comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) To get on in life there are more valuable languages than Gaelic.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) It seems a good idea that councils strongly support Gaelic in their administration.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Gaelic is a dying language.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) To keep their true identity the Highlands and Islands need their Gaelic speakers.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Only working class people speak Gaelic.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) To work in the public sector in the Gaelic areas, you should be able to speak Gaelic.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Gaelic has no place in the modern world</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) It is essential that children in the Highlands &amp; Islands learn Gaelic.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) The Gaelic language is not suitable for business and science.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) Speaking Gaelic helps you get promoted in the Highlands &amp; Islands.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k) Speaking Gaelic helps you get promoted within Scotland.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l) Most people view anything to do with Gaelic as old-fashioned.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 24. In your view, how supportive of Gaelic are the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Please give them a ‘mark out of 10’ – from ‘very supportive indeed’=10, to ‘not supportive at all’=1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Yourself</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Your friends</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Local native Gaelic speakers</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Indigenous locals without Gaelic</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Incomers</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Religious bodies/churches</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Media, TV and radio</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Public bodies (eg. NHS, police, etc)</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Private businesses</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. Do you think that the village/district that you live in has a strong Gaelic identity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26. Do you think the Gaelic identity of your village/district has become stronger or weaker over the last 10 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very much stronger</th>
<th>Slightly stronger</th>
<th>About the same</th>
<th>Slightly weaker</th>
<th>Very much weaker</th>
<th>No comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27. Do you think the Gaelic identity of your village/district will become stronger or weaker over the next 10 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very much stronger</th>
<th>Slightly stronger</th>
<th>About the same</th>
<th>Slightly weaker</th>
<th>Very much weaker</th>
<th>No comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28. Had you previously read or heard about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29. What do you think is the single, most important thing that can be done to encourage people to learn or use the Gaelic language more?
Comments Page

We would be pleased to have any views you may wish to express on the following:

Gaelic Medium Education

The Gaelic Media

The Gaelic Arts

Gaelic in the Community

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Gaelic Language Bill

Western Isles Language Plan

Other
Finally, we would be grateful for some further information on a few further details. These will help us in making sense of our research. We do stress that this questionnaire will be entirely anonymous, no personal details will be published, and all these questions are voluntary.

30. What area of the Western Isles are you living in?
____________________________________

For new residents: -

31. When did you come to live in the Western Isles? Before 1993 or year since
_______

32. Where did you come from? ____________________________

33. What attracted you to relocate in the Western Isles?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Thank you very much for your help
Mòran taing airson ur cuideachadh
Plana Cànain nan Eilean Siar

Language Interest Questionnaire

Tha Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Colaisde a’ Chaisteil, lomairt nan Eilean Siar agus Comunn na Gàidhlig air an riodachadh air a’ bhuidheann-stiùridh a’ deasachadh plana cânain airson nan Eilean Siar. Mar phàirt den phróiseact seo, thathar a’ rannsachadh suidheachadh na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachd an nan eilean.

Thathar an dòchas gun cuidich an ceisteachan seo ann a bhith ag aithneachadh câid a bheil na neartan agus na laigsean rin lorg. Bu chòir iad seo cothrom a thoírt do fheadhainn a tha air ur thighinn a dh’fhuaireach anns na h-eileanan, am beachdan air a’ Ghàidhlig a thoír seachad cuideachd.

Bidh na ceisteachain seo air leth feumail nuair a thathar a’ deasachadh plana cânain airson nan Eilean Siar, a thathar an dòchas a bhiteas air a chur an gniomh thar co-dhiù tri bliadhna. Le sin, tha sinn gu mòr nur comain airson ar cuideachadh, oir tha ur com-pàirteachaidh deathamach.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Lewis Castle College, Western Isles Enterprise and Comunn na Gàidhlig are all represented on the steering group developing a language plan for Gaelic for the Western Isles. As part of this project, research is being carried out to ascertain the role of the Gaelic language throughout the communities in the islands.

This questionnaire hopes to aid in developing a picture of where the strengths and weaknesses are in terms of provision for the Gaelic language. This should also give an opportunity for the people who have moved to the islands in the last ten years, to express their own opinions on Gaelic and provisions for the language.

The responses to these questionnaires will be extremely useful when a language plan for Gaelic is developed, with a view to being implemented in the Western Isles, over a period of at least three years. Therefore, we would be extremely grateful for your co-operation, as your assistance is essential.

Mòran taing – Thank you very much
Language Interest Questionnaire:
New Residents in Western Isles since 1993

Please tick where appropriate and provide comments opposite each question where possible.

1. Which of the following best describes your interest in Gaelic?
   a. Already have some Gaelic background
   b. Already started to learn
   c. Very keen to learn
   d. Quite interested in learning
   e. Don’t care
   f. Don’t want to learn

2. How important is it to you that the Gaelic language survives, regardless of whether you can speak Gaelic?
   a. Would not like it to survive
   b. Doesn’t really matter
   c. Quite important
   d. Very important

3. Do you consider yourself to be a Gael?
   a. Yes
   b. Yes, but only in some ways
   c. Haven’t really thought about it
   d. No
   If not, what do you consider yourself to be?

4. What do you consider ability in Gaelic would give you?
   a. A sense of personal identity
   b. Identity with the community
   c. Advantages for jobs
   d. Advantages in social life
   Anything else?

5. Would you send your child to a Gaelic Medium School?
   a. Definitely not
   b. No feelings on the matter
   c. Would consider it a possibility
   d. Definitely
6. Do you think that you are missing out on anything if you cannot speak Gaelic?
   a. Quite a lot
   b. Yes, to some extent
   c. Not really bothered
   d. Not a great deal
   e. Not at all
   If you do think that you are missing out on anything, what is it exactly?

7. Have you ever attempted to learn Gaelic?
   a. Yes, with success.
   b. Yes, but unsuccessful.
   c. No, but would like to.
   d. No, and do not want to.

8. Do you:
   Listen to Gaelic radio programmes  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Listen to English radio programmes  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Watch Gaelic TV programmes  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Watch English TV programmes  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Read Gaelic newspapers  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Read Gaelic books  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Read English newspapers  frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Read English books  frequently  occas.  rarely  never

9. In general, do you think the current level of provision of the following is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>too much</th>
<th>not sure</th>
<th>just about right</th>
<th>not enough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic TV programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic radio programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic press articles</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic books</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   How often do you do participate in/attend the following:

   frequently  occas.  rarely  never
   Gaelic church service
   Gaelic cèilidh
   Gaelic language class
Gaelic informal discussion  
Local history evening  
Informal Gaelic discussion group  

11. If the following were available, would you participate in/ attend them: -

Gaelic church service  
Gaelic cèilidh  
Gaelic language class  
Gaelic informal discussion  
Local history evening  
Informal Gaelic discussion group  

12. Are you aware of a distinctive Gaelic culture in the islands?

a. Yes, I am aware and interested.
b. Yes, I am aware, but not interested
c. No, not aware, but would like information
d. No, and am not interested.

13. Do you feel the Gaelic culture in the Western Isles is easily accessible to those who have come into the islands?

a. Yes, I feel I had ready access to and have integrated well into it.b. Yes, I feel I have had some access to the culture
c. No, I do not feel I have had ready access to it
d. No, but not interested in accessing the culture

14. Do you think that Gaelic should be confined to places like the Western Isles or should it be promoted as part of national identity of Scotland as a whole?

a. Western Isles only issue.
b. Scotland wide issue.
c. No opinion.
15. **What contribution do you think you can make to the future of the Gaelic language?**

a. Learning Gaelic and being able to speak it.
b. Through participating in Gaelic events, ceilidhs, etc.
c. Member of a Gaelic playgroup, choir, drama group.
d. Other (please state)
e. No contribution.

16. **Give any opinions you may have as to how people who come to live in the Western Isles could contribute to the development of the Gaelic language and culture.**

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Finally, we would be grateful for some information on a few further details. This will help us in making sense of our research. We do stress that this questionnaire will be entirely anonymous, no personal details will be published, and all these questions are voluntary.

17. **Your age (in years)?** ________________

18. **Male or female?** ______________________

19. **Whether: Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced, Separated, Living with partner.**

20. **What is your present occupation?** ______________________

21. **If you are retired, what was your main occupation?** ______________________

22. **What area of the Western Isles are you living in?**

________________________________________________________

23. **When did you come to live in this area? Before 1993 or date as year since ________**

24. **Where did you come from?** ______________________

25. **What attracted you to relocate in the Western Isles?** ______________________

________________________________________________________

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

*Mòran taing airson ur cuideachadh*
IV Language Use Survey Comments

What do you think is the single, most important thing that can be done to encourage people to learn or use the Gaelic language more?

For people to be taught Gaelic from an early age, either at home or in school.

Talk it at home and to the child on the knee.

Promotion of the language internationally would be beneficial.

Speak the language all the time.

Primary school education (Gaelic lessons).

Teach the children when they are young.

Teach it in the primary schools to all children, especially in the Western Isles where I personally believe there should be no alternative.

It should be taught to all children from Primary 1

Early teaching of Gaelic in schools

Speaking Gaelic at home

Interest in the culture and language and easy access to sources of learning about them

More Gaelic taught to mainstream Primary School children.

Attend Gaelic Classes.  Gaelic speaking parents encourage family to speak Gaelic.

To offer more jobs involving Gaelic and to offer teaching non speakers so that they may apply for these jobs, therefore creating a wider interest in the Gaelic language.

Improve the orthography.

Make the language more accessible, emphasise bilingual elements.  Bilingual forms and information in community.  Making the language more accessible to non-speakers, encouraging participation in small ways initially.

A high percentage of finance spent on Gaelic should be concentrated on Primary Education.  All primary children should have 1-2 periods of Gaelic per week.  This would give them good grounding in the language, then hopefully they would carry on in secondary.

Very envious of the Welsh people, their language is on the up and up.  Until Comhairle nan Eilean Siar adopt the same policy and employ fluent Gaelic speakers in all positions in their offices Gaelic will not survive.  It is paramount that we employ Gaelic speakers in public sector jobs in the Western Isles.
That all parents should at all times speak to their children in Gaelic as it is most parents use the English language in the home.

Local native Gaelic speakers need to be more helpful when incomers try to learn the language.

For using Gaelic more it should be spoken in the home. For encouraging people to learn Gaelic it should be used more by public bodies i.e. Calmac, NHS, tourist Board etc.

Television – good quality programmes, programmes children enjoy watching e.g. “De a Nis”.

Gaelic compulsory in schools, legal status to the language.

Encourage learners. Local community is very exclusive of learners and often unkind to people seen to be struggling with trying Gaelic. This puts people off. There will never be enough indigenous gaels to keep the language going.

Easy accessibility for new learners. Continued promotion in schools.

Children should have to speak it in playground.

For Gaelic speaking islanders to become friendlier with incomers etc, so they can hear the language on a day to day basis when it is so much easier to pick it up.

Speakers should continue to converse in Gaelic and encourage learners to use it in as many situations as possible.

Accessibility to materials/courses/newspapers etc.

Make it a requirement in public sector office work locally.

For children who are not in Gaelic medium class to have a lot more Gaelic taught in schools, particularly primary classes as this is almost non-existent. Secondary pupils should not be allowed to opt-out of Gaelic lessons.

English spoken adult incomers have to be convinced that learning the language has it’s benefits.

Father and mother, both Gaelic speaking, would help.

Make Gaelic compulsory in schools – taking away the division that is around between Gaelic medium and mainstream.

More publicity for classes for people to learn the language.

Stop leaving houses for English to buy or in 50 years time no person will speak it.

To encourage the use of Gaelic in all facets of daily life especially increased media coverage.
Use it in public – churches, shops, where it can be understood to be of help to the learner as well.

Promote the “myth” and “legend” of Scotland in both the media and literary works and offer more opportunities to learn/use Gaelic by encouraging (eg shop staff) to use both languages – saying, for example, “good morning/afternoon”, “hullo”, “thank you”, “may I help you”, “goodbye”, first in Gaelic, then in English. Visitors and incomers would thus be “curious” first then (hopefully) interested/polite enough to learn those few words – It’s a start!!

Begin in the home while the children are very young. Continue and persevere speaking Gaelic regardless as to any who may oppose or criticise your zeal. The play school has an important part to play regarding the children. The day school and the church have again a very important part to play regarding both children and adults. Resurrect the ceilidh house, I think it would prove a precious avenue for both young and old.

If somebody wants to learn how to speak Gaelic then they should. Employ more Gaelic speakers instead of incomers who can’t or don’t want to learn to speak it or use it.

I don’t think there is just one thing. I think croileagans, Gaelic medium education, media, CNES, the Mod and the appreciation of history and culture will all help and has helped.

Educate by publicising widely and repeatedly proven benefits of Gaelic medium education and bi/multi lingualism, fact that being a Gaelic speaker never hindered anyone but being brain washed into regarding it negatively has.

Immersion teaching.

Better language tuition and incentive to learn Gaelic.

For native speakers to be more open and tolerant of learners in the workplace (especially when the workplace is multi-cultural) and don’t use Gaelic as a secret code to discuss business (or whatever) at the discrimination of others but encourage the interest and keeness that a lot of incomers have in learning the language.

Through using music as a medium for learning/teaching the youngsters Gaelic. Gaelic shop/selling anything to do with the language.

I think the most important thing is to maintain and encourage “spoken” Gaelic in everyday conversation/use.

To get parents to speak Gaelic to the children before they go to school and not use some of the “made up” words in Stor Data. The Gaelic news readers should not translate English idiom word for word to Gaelic. Have they never learnt any Gaelic idioms?

I feel you have to be born with it and brought up with it.

Teach young people who are learners more confidence, which requires further media exposure.
Be willing to speak English and stop looking down on people whom you think don’t speak or understand Gaelic.

More childcare and mother & toddler Gaelic speaking so children can learn Gaelic from a young age.

Gaelic should be used more in public places. Labelling, menus etc in shops, showing Gaelic and English.

Target young people – that includes young parents. English media has a lot of influence but I don’t know how this could be lessened.

As children at primary school. Encouraging unity not segregation i.e. “The Gaelic Medium” and “The English.” In small schools this may create divisions. All children should be encouraged to learn Gaelic together.

Get the children interested. More funding for Gaelic speaking activities so that children see it as a language that is not only spoken in the classroom.

Conversation, reading & writing.

Make opportunities easy to fit into day to day life.

Provide dedicated opportunities for Gaelic to be spoken. Aggressively promote Gaelic education for all.

Try to get the message across of the value and benefit of being able to speak more than one language.

Shop keepers etc could help by using Gaelic and being prepared to translate.

To stop speaking or referring to English medium classes an MAINSTREAM – this should be Gaelic and English should be secondary. (As it is in Wales, for example). The language should be compulsory in all schools.

In my view failure of governing bodies to provide employment for our youngsters they had to further their education away from home on the mainland, whatever field they qualified in they could not get employment in that field in Highlands & Islands. That is the main reason for the decline in the Gaelic language.

I worked in north Wales before coming to the Uists. The Welsh people in that area had a real pride in their language, sometimes, it seems that does not exist in the Western Isles. I have an up hill battle to get my wife and her mother and aunts to speak Gaelic to my kids.

Be less biased with non Gaelic speakers. As much as I encouraged my children through GM education I feel it is going too far to insist on Gaelic within the Council NHS, it would not survive if this was the case. Gaelic should be taught as a class throughout primary school and into secondary much the same as EIRE.
Having more TV programmes and radio programmes in Gaelic.
Encourage more Gaelic teachers.

To promote it as an important part of life in Scotland.

To be assured of a good job at the end of the day.

Confidence needs to be encouraged – many local Gaelic speakers are afraid of using it
because they think they will be criticised by a perceived Gaelic elite whose aim can
appear to be perfection or nothing.

Encourage both parents and children to use the language more in the home, through
school books, TV programmes etc.

Compulsory immersion in primary and secondary schools, bi-lingual.

More money to help Gaelic.

Bi-lingual education in primary school.

If it was the only language spoken on the island then those who do not speak it may
possibly try to learn it

Watching less English programmes (soaps) on television.

Offer free Gaelic lessons within a community – by community people (informal learning)
with inclusive social dimension (encourage incomers and those born on island who don’t
have Gaelic). This is more important in my view than formal classes – need everyday
social conversational Gaelic.

Update its image and market it as an important part of today’s culture as well as the
pasts.

Accessible learning program.

It would be good if more Gaelic speaking parents spoke to their children in Gaelic.
Gaelic on TV is on far too late and would help if it was on earlier like after tea when
people could watch it together.

Removing the idea that it is ‘uncool’ to speak Gaelic. The only way the language will
grow is to have the youth of the islands speaking Gaelic as their language of choice.

To concentrate on giving children confidence in the value of the language.

A structured education system from play school to university.

Gaelic speakers should use the language more in the community – people are too polite.

Improve Gaelic language programmes in TV, ‘speaking our Language’ didn’t seem to
reflect how the language was structured.
It will be very difficult as the number of incomers to the island increases. It’s very hard to encourage your child to speak Gaelic when other children only speak English. An increase in Gaelic children’s programmes, magazines, groups would be beneficial. TV programmes for adults to be a bit more interesting! And also be shown at a more suitable time. I feel that there is a severe lack of Gaelic spoken and taught mainstream school so unless your child goes to the GMU he/she get taught more French than Gaelic.

By talking to each other in Gaelic but only when everyone in the company can understand Gaelic not like when in North Wales where the people are not very understanding when a non Gaelic speaker is present.

If it is taught properly to children in the schools from a very early age this will ensure future generations speaking Gaelic. With incoming families it will also provide incentive for parents to learn Gaelic in order to communicate better with their children.

To make it accessible to all and to sell it as a living language which is modern and up to date and not one that is dying.

More Gaelic on radio and television.

Publication of advertisement of material than teach people how to learn and speak the language.

Introduce ‘Gaelic only’ day once a week in pre-school and junior primary. Young children learn from other children without feeling it is a chore.

Parents to talk to kinds in Gaelic giving them a basic understanding of the language.

More colloquial use rather than academic with big words.

More radio programmes of good quality, more TV programmes, at reasonable hours.

A local Gaelic TV and radio station.

Not to force people to learn the language, let them learn from their own free will.

Allow the teenage population some mechanism where they see/realise the value of having Gaelic as an integral part of their lives.

Young parents who have been born in the islands should speak to their off-springs in Gaelic, to keep the language alive.

**Gaelic Medium Education**

Complete waste of money and time. Takes funding away from the English speaking majority. Children in Gaelic classes never speak Gaelic out with the classroom, in Stornoway anyway.

A drain on resources if there are only a couple of children in one class.
I don’t see much use in Gaelic Medium Education in school when English is the playground language and when out of school you never hear Gaelic spoken.

Gaelic Medium Education has slowed, but not revised the decline in Gaelic usage. Gaelic Medium Education does not fully compensate for lack of Gaelic at home in that the children’s Gaelic is less rich and local dialect and idiom are lost in many cases. (Occasional exceptions e.g. Abair E)

I find it elitist and an unfair distribution/use of educational funding.

I don’t see the point of teaching young children Gaelic and then changing it to English 4 or 5 years later.

Money not well spent – for select few.

Should not take resources away from English medium education.

I think this has created divisions in a small school and diluted resources with the children suffering lack of Gaelic in English Medium.

More information on the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education need publicising. There are many stories going around about kids not coping and coming out behind kids in mainstream.

This, in my opinion does not help the children in any way. The ones who are going to speak whether mainstream or GM will speak it anyway.

I see in my own work place that those children in GME barely speak in Gaelic outside their classroom.

I don’t think it’s for all children, depends on the child. I also think it should not be carried on into the upper primary classes – concentration should be on English.

NOT NEEDED, it would be better of Education Authority employed young fluent Gaelic speakers to go to schools to teach the children to speak Gaelic.

If I had a child in a Gaelic Medium Primary Class I would be most concerned that he/she might not have a sufficiently wide education to fit in and cope well with the curriculum at Senior School level with subjects being taught in English.

I think time should be spent on learning all classes, rather than separating the young as they do not speak the language when they are at home.

A waste of money and effort – the future of the language lies in the home.

Divisive and expensive.

I don’t think it will succeed when some parents don’t encourage the children at home.
Probably only reaches those who would be Gaelic speakers anyway and in some cases is used to achieve public schooling level at no expense.

The children don’t speak Gaelic out with the classroom.

More, more, more.

Very important.

It’s a good thing to encourage/enable children if that’s what parents/children want.

Children who have been educated through the medium of Gaelic become very fluent in the language and readily use the language in all areas of the secondary school curriculum.

Very sound foundation observing children who attend Gaelic medium.

Good if the classes have a reasonable amount of children in it.

I would prefer the vast amount of money spent on so few children in GME be used so all children get Gaelic as part of their primary education.

This is a good idea for Gaelic speaking children and those wishing to develop their Gaelic but sector needs more investment and continuity through secondary education.

A great idea, wish that more people (even if they themselves don’t speak Gaelic) would consider enrolling their children in Gaelic Medium.

Very important.

I’m of the opinion that when in Rome … Gaelic should be educated in all schools to all pupils no matter what parents say or where they came from.

Helpful, but they will not speak it in playground.

Good promotion of language and culture.

Has to be encouraged in all schools and made one of the priorities of each local education authority, preferably throughout Scotland.

GME needs improved funding and support.

More could be done to promote the benefits of this bi-lingual education.

It is encouraging to see children progressing in Gaelic reading etc. but disappointing when conversation outwit school turns to English even when with other Gaelic speaking children.

Excellent system.
Both my children are in Gaelic medium in school and I think it is helping their Gaelic tremendously.

Encourage kids to speak Gaelic outside of class – e.g. when socialising.

This is good but all children should be given some Gaelic lessons once they go to school and if possible carried on through primary school.

A good idea in principle but Gaelic needs to be spoken in the home and in the community to make any marked improvement.

It works. Why are we still failing to get the message across widely and effectively?

This is an excellent means of encouraging students of all ages to use Gaelic.

Without GMU I don’t think my children would have Gaelic. Children who are in GMU together tend to speak Gaelic to each other which they wouldn’t do if they weren’t in that environment in school.

Necessary for the future of Gaelic.

A very good system much needed.

Only suitable for children with Gaelic speaking parents.

For all children throughout school to be taught in Gaelic.

Should be promoted and supported more aggressively.

This is excellent, but I never hear these children speaking Gaelic between themselves and very often answer in English when spoken to in Gaelic.

Pity more people can’t see the benefit of GME. It definitely gives children more confidence in an unassuming way. I think all schools in the Western Isles should be Gaelic schools.

The most effective measure to support Gaelic. Very successful, gives access to cultural inheritance, social cohesion and bilingualism.

May be frowned upon yet in my experience members of my family who have less Gaelic than others still have the confidence to use Gaelic after going through Gaelic medium. Fluent speakers who have not been through Gaelic medium do not use the language as they lack confidence.

Mainstream Gaelic Medium Education for a proportion of the curriculum.

Essential.

Should be given more support.

Very good for those in the stream. Others immersion required.
Good starting base if family and friends are willing to speak Gaelic to child.

I think it’s a good idea as parents have a choice for their child’s education.

May be divisive. Concept is good but obviously not working as well as was originally anticipated, therefore should be looked at again.

Tha e glè chudromach don Ghàidhlig gum bi a’ chlann sgoile ga cleachdadh le bhith ag ionnsachadh a h-uile nì tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

It should be available to children who wish to avail themselves of it.

No choice, should be compulsory for first years.

Does great work but needs to be strengthened in the teenage years.

**The Gaelic Media**

I think there should be a dedicated TV channel. If I was learning Welsh I could tune in to Welsh TV on Sky. Why does Gaelic not have the same?

Transmission times could be earlier than late night shots as is given at present.

The quality of reporting on Gaelic radio is not good – language, dialect of reporters/grammar very disappointing.

Needs more government investment. More original ideas developed for children’s TV rather than just sub-title of existing programmes.

Could be better.

TV programmes should be shown in the evening – not during the night. Children’s programmes are on at 9.30 when they are art croileagan or playgroup.

Needs a greater scope – should be more structured and encompassing.

Apart from Eorpa, which is very good, Gaelic TV is shallow and attempts to be trendy, but does not address interesting or serious issues, lacks originality. Gaelic radio is somewhat better.

Make more cultural programmes re the Western Isles, combine Gaelic and interesting history, not just programmes re Sunday flights/cookery etc, as is the case now.

I watch any programmes I can, but find it difficult/impossible to follow English subtitles while trying to link words to sounds. Why not have side bar/overscreen/footbar with daily “word” highlighted as it is English/Gaelic. Also, language classes on TV, as well as via college AT SENSIBLE times (mid morning, mid afternoon, 10-11pm) or instead of any/all these ridiculous soap operas!!!
I find that some Gaelic programmes such as Eorpa and De a Nis are informative but only in that it gives a local (i.e. Western Isles) outlook. This sort of media should be available to non-Gaelic speakers who are deprived of the use of their own mother tongue.

TV in particular amateurish and parochial, poor leadership from Gaelic TV Committee.

Difficult to be economically viable.

Improve the standard of Gaelic broadcasting by introducing a language equality assurance system.

More time and money needs to be spent in this area.

Gaelic TV programmes broadcasted too late.

Gaelic TV will never hit off, TV is an English thing.

Keep Gaelic programmes in Gaelic.

Far more Gaelic TV programmes are needed and also more effort to produce books, newspapers, children’s comics etc and promote them.

Gaelic should be spoken grammatistically correct at all times.

This seems to be for the Gaelic Mafia.

A lot of money poured in, wasted as it has not made a real difference.

TV programmes are on far too late – very few people stay up until midnight if working next day – change times.

All Gaelic programmes should be shown before midnight.

I don’t have any great opinions. I view the Gaelic sector as a clique – expensive one at that!

More good Gaelic programmes at reasonable hours, piping which plays a big part in Gaelic culture.

Appears to suffer (at times) from lack of fluent Gaelic speakers.

Better that it used to be, has more programmes for younger people.

Programmes like Eorpa are excellent, not just because they are presented in Gaelic but because they are well made, interesting and informative other programmes are Gaelic led with content appearing to be more incidental. Can’t read Gaelic so unable to comment on other Media. Ran Dan is good as well - is every body involved from the one local area?

I don’t have Gaelic so I cannot really comment on any of the following bodies. It is good to try to keep Gaelic going but not if it is using up more financial resources than it should.
Better coverage over past 5 years.

Gaels have a developing skillsbase now, encourage indigenous makers and performers to create new programmes.

I am quite pleased with the efforts being made by the local radio station.

Programmes usually interesting and of very high standard.

Noticeable improvements in the last few years but more diverse programmes required.

The radio is very good – with good selection of songs, news and stories. Apart from Eorpa the programmes do not appeal very much, the Mod coverage is generally good.

An interesting, sensible Gaelic programme after school and before teatime for children – not longer than half an hour.

Great that people can have a laugh with Gaelic with the likes of RanDan which may encourage people to use the language.

Necessary for the future of Gaelic.

A channel on TV specifically for Gaelic programmes and at a suitable time for all viewers not after midnight as at present.

There are some good Gaelic programmes and it reaches a wide audience.

Radio nan Gaidheal supplies a great service with some really good programmes.

At the moment many programmes have an historical basis. More contemporary series like RanDan would help.

This is good and should be aimed to interest the young as well as adults.

Radio programmes such as Rapal should be made more frequent as they are suitable for teenagers to listen to.

More radio programmes and TV programmes for teenagers.

I enjoy the music but cannot understand the language programmes.

Saoilidh mi gum bitheadh e feumach seanal sònraichte telebhisean a bhith ann airson na Gàidhlig.

Since I don’t have the Gaelic I pay little attention to this, which is my loss. If I stay here in the long-term I may endeavour to learn the language. Nonetheless, I listen sometimes to Gaelic radio music.

Children’s Gaelic videos?
More Media (Gaelic) on the main channels.

Needed for elderly.

Really needs its own channels.

**The Gaelic Arts**

More please!

They play a major part in Gaelic development and promotion. Some very good.

Need to encourage locally based artists, place value on them to produce more work relevant to Gaels, encourage training etc.

Needs more support.

Slowly improving in recent years and the steps being taken is to be applauded.

Improved funding and support.

Excellent.

I believe the people responsible for Gaelic Arts work hard to promote the language but don’t always receive adequate support from the community.

Very important to WI should be more collective promotion and marketing.

Any arts are important, what I would like is more cross cultural arts. All instruments not just pipes etc.

I do very much appreciate some Celtic music both vocal and instrumental.

The MOD etc help to advertise the language and culture.

Bha úidh agam a riamh ann cultair agus ealan agus saoilidh mi gum faodadh tuilleadh a dhéanamh airson taic agus brosnachadh na níthean seo, gu h-àraidh Dràma.

I am in favour of Gaelic Arts: cinema, TV, music, theatre etc. Ideally, given that many islanders appear to be bi-lingual, arts encompassing Gaelic and English may be an option. However, Gaelic arts must exist for the language to survive.

Should be promoted more and made available to tourists to become self subsidising.

It would be good to do more non-competitive Gaelic music and drama with the children. The MOD can put them off because of the pressure.

Too much valuable revenue is being spent at too early a stage in Gaelic development.
No different from any other arts. They should not expect extra support from public coffers.

Theatre? Film? Do they exist? Music, original, traditional music is good but attempts by some groups to change it usually fall flat, production of new material (which is not common).

Poor administration, very cliqued.

Fèis etc. could be made more strictly Gaelic.

Not much happening in the Uists apart from the Fèis.

Jollys for those interested. Does nothing for the ordinary crofter/Gaelic speaker.

A real turn off.

Does not do enough to encourage the use of Gaelic in youngsters and teenagers.

**Gaelic in the Community**

Should be encouraged more.

Not enough.

Far too often using learner Gaelic is an excuse for your background/accent/language to be abused. The only other language group I’ve seen behave in this fashion are the English. Most people are happy you’ve made the effort. Not my experience here.

More of an open door policy, greater bi-lingualism encouraging everyone to value the language.

Gaelic can survive if a different approach is taken. We need sympathetic people to push the Gaelic. Get rid of the people who are sitting on the numerous Gaelic committees at the moment, they’ve done nothing for the Gaelic language, they just seem to push themselves to appear on radio & television. Are there sympathetic people about to push the Gaelic language? Sure there are, but they would have to be head-hunted. We need people who are not proud of themselves but proud of the Gaelic language. We need people who can get their heads down and get stuck into saving the Gaelic not people who spend the time wondering when is the next microphone in front of their face. Sick fed up of the faces and same voices and nothing being done.

More could be made of Gaelic for tourists, visitors and new incomers.

People who generally converse in Gaelic appears to be the older generation.

Non existent.

Patchy.
The youth unfortunately don’t speak it on a day to day basis, obviously something has to be done to make it more (trendy) for the young.

Very little in the community.

More effort should be made connecting the older generation (with Gaelic) and young children and school pupils. The richness of Gaelic will be lost without main resources coming from older generations.

Since we first come here on holiday 14 years ago it seems that the level of spoken Gaelic in the community has decreased – in local shops for example.

Welcome people into the community but make it clear that Gaelic is the first language. The local people are too polite and speak English if a non Gaelic speaker is present.

Street names and directions should be of equal size in both languages. English names must be easily readable. This would encourage tourists in their goodwill attitudes.

Dying out unfortunately.

Only used by locals of certain generation, with so many incomers moving in no much is heard, apart from when in own home/family.

The type of development that Gaelic has undergone is unnatural, e.g. creation of new words has led to the alienation of native Gaelic speakers who can often not understand their own child’s homework. Languages should be allowed to develop naturally with the integration of other languages.

I do enjoy speaking Gaelic on a social basis with friends and family.

Gaelic is still very strong in some communities e.g. Uig, Ness. More strategies for Gaelic promotion should be initiated in Stornoway.

Must be spoken in more situations without shame.

I love listening to people talking Gaelic, the lilt, I adore.

We are a Gaelic speaking community and would not like to have it otherwise.

Unless incomers are encouraged – especially young children – the Gaelic language will slowly disappear.

Good among the older generation but the young tend to speak English.

Without interference it will find its own level of usage and it should be left to individuals to decide usage.
Should be encouraged at all levels.

Leaders for youth clubs, football clubs, evening classes etc, to talk to their pupils in Gaelic where possible. Gaelic speakers to make a point to talk in Gaelic amongst themselves and to the young children.

Gaelic in the community is the way to keep Gaelic alive.

As previously mentioned, needs to be spoken in the home.

It would be helpful if Gaelic speakers would address the young and children in Gaelic.

Brings people closer together, dying out in some areas.

No problem as long as others, tourists etc, are able to understand signposts etc.

More Gaelic concerts.

Churches doing their best to maintain Gaelic traditions but not supported in this by any external funding unlike arts/media.

It is good to hear Gaelic being spoken locally in a relaxed way.

I think Gaelic is still strong in most communities.

Bu chaomh leam barrachd a bhith ga bruidhinn den Ghàidhlig anns a’ choimhearsnachd.

It is good to hear Gaelic spoken between friends and neighbours and each of them should be encouraged to continue, but not by artificial boots produced by cash investment. This will never work in the long term. Pride in unique heritage is the key.

Again, I’m wholeheartedly behind this. We do not want the language to die so people should feel comfortable speaking Gaelic in the community. There’s no point keeping a language alive just in schools and homes.

I would like to hear more Gaelic spoken in the community.

Locals are far too polite and immediately speak English in the company of non Gaelic speakers.

Draft Gaelic Language Bill 2004

Not enough.

More required.
Urdu/Hindi children go to privately funded schools at weekends to learn their language. As parity approaches in terms of numbers I wonder if they’ll get a language bill? Nor have I seen any plans for a Scots language bill.

Get on with it and get the best deal possible!

Do not feel that this Bill will have any effect on the future of Gaelic at community level in Gaelic speaking aspects.

Too weak.

A waste of tax payers money.

Won’t work, most children speak English.

Don’t know about it.

Needs teeth – real objectives and proactive plans.

Another bunch of QUANGOS wasting public money.

More important issues than this.

Do not know.

Lacks ability re compulsion doesn’t have equivalent of syn in Wales.

Forgive my ignorance but I have no information on this Bill. Is there literature in hard or internet copy?

Parochial.

Seems to be taking forever for anything to happen.

Hope it is strengthened from the first draft that was presented. First draft was ‘woolly’ in parts.

Hopefully if and when it becomes law it will strengthen the identity and use of the language.

The Scottish Parliament will at least know there is such a language but it’s really up to the individual to keep it going.

I feel it’s important that the Bill gives the maximum encouragement to the development and use of Gaelic throughout Scotland.
Unless you get pride and commitment from the community there is little point in just changing road signs etc.

**Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

Communicate with the public more.

Don’t know enough about it. Why isn’t it in Lewis?

Insufficient knowledge to comment.

Not structured properly – needs more public input.

Costra Nostra?

As yet I have heard nothing from them – the members always seem to come from a small group of the same people able to get themselves into these posts.

I have never heard of it.

Too insular, needs widening out.

Heard about them but not sure what they actually do.

Another bunch of QUANGOS wasting public money.

Have not seen much progress/advancement so far.

Doing a good job, keep at it.

Good work being accomplished here.

Good to see Gaelic Development Agency able to fund work under one banner.

Good that it’s there.

Accessible, supportive but needs teeth and proactive planning – visible to all.

We will have to wait and see what impact it will have on the Gaelic community.

Very welcomed.

Doing a good job.
Western Isles Language Plan

When will it take effect or how?
Insufficient knowledge to comment.

Another bunch of QUANGOS wasting public money.

Don’t know enough about it.

Good to hear about it, but before we lose our culture, we need to do something drastic.

A very good idea.

Make this publicly available, once you’ve collected the data announce the outcomes nationally. Act on the outcomes.

Important to develop.

I hope it works but with so many incomers it’s not going to be easy to keep Gaelic as the main language. The Council could help. They do have a reputation of favouring non-Gaelic speakers. The best of luck to all concerned.

The educationalists are trying their best.

Admirable. Hope it stops the decline in the language.

Other Comments

Being a person with very little Gaelic, I might add that on occasions when I do hear Gaelic been spoken within the community – and understanding virtually zero of it – the phonetics of the language can frequently sound curt and almost primitive or abrasive almost. There are occasions, rarely, I might add, when the language sound eloquent and graceful, maybe that has more to do with the speaker of the language that the language itself.

This questionnaire is hardly anonymous as it is numbered for easy cross-referencing, that’s certainly how it appears.

Democracy means that people have to feel involved. These same people have not been asked whether street names should be written in Gaelic or English. I am self-employed
and have problems doing business outside Lewis as my postcode come up with the
Gaelic street name, which I am unable to spell or pronounce. Trading companies have
trouble with this to the extent that I have had applications rejected because I am only
able to give then my address in English. Without a serious look at all the problems and
benefits of all aspects of Gaelic, it is doubtful as to what extent programs, jobs, etc,
would succeed.

My experience with ‘threatened’ language is confined to a couple of old French dialects
& Catalan. In both cases French/Catalan speakers were eager and happy for outsiders
to attempt their language. Gaelic language however, have at any rate, seems to operate
as a divisive factor and the culture seems to shape itself in opposition to the
Scottish/British. A culture which defines itself in terms of what it’s opposed to or
threatened by is no culture at all. A language plan should focus on what’s vibrant and
alive and be able to be inclusive even to those whose Gaelic is poor or broken. At least
they’ve made the effort!!

Far too many Gaelic organisations, each with their own administration, one professional
body would suffice. As a non Gaelic speaker, a victim of the educational plan of the
50’s, one has to be careful in promoting Gaelic, not yo further isolate the non Gaelic
speakers i.e. local radio – Gaelic, local children programmes on TV – Gaelic, Gaelic only
road signs. You have to learn how to take the non Gaelic speaker along with you as
the public perception is that it’s a financial ‘gravy train’ once you get in on the Gaelic
scene.

It is in my opinion that when CNES started employing people south of Hadrian’s Wall, it
was then that our language, culture and heritage went into the decline. So let’s start at
employing our own people here in the Western Isles. For decades many a Lewis man &
woman roamed the world and educated the world having gone to school with nothing but
Gaelic. For too long now we have been too polite with incomers when more often than
not we changed our conversation from Gaelic to English when they ‘invaded our
company’, we have paid the price now.

Very disappointed in some questions when asked my age, present occupation and what
area of the Western Isles that I live in. This questionnaire should be entirely anonymous
as stated, however, there is nothing anonymous about it as each questionnaire is
numbered and not even an envelope supplied to put the questionnaire in after being
filled.

I don’t think it matters how much money is ‘thrown’ at Gaelic or any other language, if it
isn’t naturally spoken in the home and in the playground then it will die.

The opportunity for all children to join in Gaelic conversation regularly even if the child
has only a little knowledge, this would improve their language ability. English speaking
children who have learning support at school are not given this opportunity in S3-6.

I think the way they teach Gaelic today is confusing the older generation i.e. a lot of
words have changed for no apparent reason.

The richness of the Gaelic language has lessened in the past few generations of
speakers, so that those now learning as children have a much poorer range of
vocabulary and idiom. General attitudes towards Gaelic have not significantly improved e.g. Gaelic speaking parents who fail to bring up children fluent in Gaelic.

Not enough information on the above questions therefore I cannot comment, sorry!

The investment on Gaelic as an economic tool has run its course. Public money should be channelled into the entire Western Isles community. In an era of “Inclusive” Social Policies Gaelic investment is “exclusive” as it is to the detriment of non-Gaelic speaking residents who feel that they are being denied access to the opportunities created by insisting that Gaelic is essential in many public and voluntary sector employment opportunities.

The small numbers of Gaelic speakers leads to opportunities for some very ordinary people who in other places would be a joke:- and can foster corruption and nepotism.

I feel that in 50 years even 30 years Gaelic will have died completely. The way of life has moved on and Gaelic does not relate to life anymore. It does not come naturally therefore is no longer pure or necessary.

I was more open to the Gaelic language before I came here.

Gaelic alone is not going to revive our island culture which was based on our relationship with God and our relationship with one another.

Is Gaelic really necessary now that Scotland is becoming a more multi cultural society? Public money should be concentrated on rural housing/employment to retain young people in the Western Isles not to support or finance an initiative that will create little employment or encourage people to return to the North West of Scotland.

Gaelic’s future is more secure in the nature of Art but has a poor prospect if any as a living language.

Encourage the Gaelic divinity students to preach Gaelic.

The two part (use female) harmonies and the ever more intricate choiral harmonisation evident in the mod enamour the language profoundly.

Grandparents all spoke Gaelic. Paternal side went south to become Policeman in Glasgow as croft went to oldest and on maternal side, the great grandparents had emigrated to Chile! All from the Highlands. All had felt ashamed of their native tongue. (It was cultural genocide!)

I’m glad that organisations are taking an interest and making an effort to keep our language alive, I wish every success.

Must provide Gaelic nurseries – essential for Stornoway.

It will survive if we want it to survive.
I really feel if the Gaelic speakers wish to develop and strengthen the language on the island they need to embrace incomers, become their friends and realise those people and their children will carry the language on, but they need help to learn it and this is the best way.

Bilingualism must be an advantage in any workplace! Opportunities and rewards must be created in the professions and careers to encourage students at school and college level to become proficient in at least the spoken word.

GMU, media, Gaelic arts, Gaelic in the community, Bord na Gaidhlig, Gaelic Language Bill and Western Isles Language Plan all needed if Gaelic is to survive.

Always maintain that wherever possible Gaelic should be spoken in the home to have a first language.

Cum Gàidhlig beò.

It is delightful to hear children speaking Gaelic. What a shame us adults can’t stop arguing about it.

Gaelic is vital for social and cultural identity – economic self esteem cultural/artistic celebration, bilingualism.

The Welsh have a reputation for being rude and speaking their language in the presence of a non speaker. They are not, they just have a real pride in their language, which is why it is still so strong there.

Parents to make sure that Gaelic is spoken in the home if not it is certainly a dying language which is a disgrace.

Should be taught at every opportunity.

Gravestones may bend with the wind. Their engravings may fade and they may slowly return to the earth. Twas always thus and twill always be. To keep any language alive is the greatest gratitude to show your forefathers and the greatest gift to your descendants.

All pluses for all of these questions.

Gaelic has to have secure status and be seen as equal to English to encourage more people to realise the value of a language which was spoken throughout Scotland at one time.
Language Interest Survey Comments

Give any opinions you may have as to how people who come to live in the Western Isles could contribute to the development of the Gaelic language and culture.

Need to be patient for long while, so islanders realise we’re nice people and hopefully accept that we are willing to help them keep the language going.

To encourage their children to learn the language and to try to learn it for themselves.

Gaelic compulsory in school – as in Wales.

To support local events and promote language, through children’s learning if not yourself.

Involve themselves in a dialogue which emphasises exchange and/or sharing. Stand up to the prejudicial and racist (especially towards the English) views of outsiders/mainlanders. Make ties with other island/minority language communities.

Smack ‘em ‘till they promise to learn something Gaelic or refuse ‘em entry – ok, only kidding, but you do need to ‘reach out and touch someone’ (without the big stick!).

A willingness to speak Gaelic, even though not very fluent. This may demand some patience from the listener.

Children could have immersion classes like they do in Wales, and adults could too. G.M. education should be compulsory. The language should be valued and respected as equal to any other language.

Language opportunities in day-to-day activities (i.e. a parallel parent group for playgroup/school Gaelic medium could be contributed to by Gaelic/non-Gaelic community members.

By learning it, crofting and taking part/undertaking in traditional activities/learning about the Gaelic landscape.

Maybe the new ones (residents) would have some new ideas of how to promote language and make it interesting - not to present it as a dead language.

The speaking of Gaelic is an integral part of the local culture. All who come here should cherish this culture as a whole.

I think people who come to live here can feel excluded from things, and should be made to feel more welcome and be encouraged to participate more in Gaelic events

Sending children to Gaelic-medium education. Trying to take part in cultural events. Helping locals realise how valuable and irreplaceable their language is, and that incomers can help preserve their way of life, not spoil it.
I think that just showing more interest in it and hopefully hearing the language is the best contribution they could give, if they’re not interested, why come and live here? It’s not just about the beautiful scenery, when in Rome as they say ……

Involve themselves in ways of helping the local people or children. ie Voluntary Action or Hospital, Charities.

Basic Gaelic classes should be promoted and widespread in community centres and/or local schools.

Local people could encourage us (incomers) by speaking in Gaelic slowly as the French would in France.

If you learn in Ness – Stornoway folk criticise you or visa-versa. If you learn in Arnol Bru – Ness & Stornoway folk criticise you. This makes it impossible to learn. Anti-English feeling on the island restricts learning.

By learning the language. Putting their children in Gaelic medium classes. Getting their children to learn traditional instruments and entering them in the mod. By going to ceilidhs. Through learning history of area and folklore and so having more interest in and respect for the people and culture.

To be able to pass on to other people who come to the Western Isles about the love I have for Ness and other areas of the isles.

They could contribute to the development by being aware of the importance of the language and the impact it has had on making the Western Isles the unique place it is today. Having a sense of the history of Gaelic is also important – for locals as well as incomers – in understanding and valuing it as a rich resource worth sustaining, promoting and keeping alive. As an incomer, I can talk about and raise issues (re Gaelic) with my circle of family, friends and work colleagues who do not live in Gaelic speaking Scotland.

People should be allowed to make their own choice as to whether or not they participate and more could be done in some places to make accessible to non-Gaelic speakers e.g signs in schools, colleges etc.

More encouragement needs to be made by Gaelic agencies – especially Council – to promote Gaelic education - it is a real struggle against the Council. Children are so important and opinions formed at a young age are most important but the Council has a total lack of commitment to pre-school and primary Gaelic education, you have to start at the very beginning to ensure Gaelic language and culture lasts for many generations to come.

Language Interest Survey – General Comments

I cannot get the jobs I want because I do not speak Gaelic.

After two years of learning, my ability to converse with locals is poor.
Everyone should be at least bilingual.

Whether Gaelic features as a language or not, it’s an important feature of Scots cultural identity (though no less than other Scots language forms).

Want to become Gaelic medium primary teacher.

Consider myself a Gael, but not in a narrow way.

Fluent speakers don’t know how to speak to learners – often finish phrases, etc – you feel you are imposing on them to listen to you.

Gaelic TV is always on too early – haven’t sat for the evening yet – OR too late!

What about short stories/ novels in Gaelic for adult learners?

Learners’ discussion group would be good.

Accessibility is only part of the issue – acceptance into the culture is a different matter – easier for newcomers than ‘returners’.

It is more than a language – it is a people, a culture, a history and a legacy.

Ability in Gaelic would also give better understanding, as many words (in many languages) do not have exact English translation (e.g. ‘chagrin’ in French is more than ‘regret’ in English).

Most TV programmes are not geared towards ‘learning’ or ‘understanding’ the language. Also local newspapers could have weekly ‘language class’ section????

Has a tendency to stay within ‘closed’ circles – you need to be more welcoming to ‘outlanders’, many of whom came here wanting to become ‘locals’.

Look what happened to other forms of Celtic-Gaelic: Manx, Cornish, Breton, driven west into the sea – and either drowned or on last gasp SOS – save our Scottish!

I have no intention of learning Gaelic as it only seems to be spoken on the Western Isles – if it was Scotland-wide then perhaps.

I’m not sure that it is part of the national identity. It seems closely linked to Irish and even Welsh culture – music, songs, etc.

Sometimes feel people deliberately talk in Gaelic to each other, so you don’t know what they’re saying!

Personally, I do not feel good when Gaelic speakers around me have to speak English to me. If I had moved to France or Spain, I would not expect them to speak to me in English.
There should be many more children’s programmes on at ‘children’s hour’, i.e. 4pm to 5pm.

I think it is very dangerous and only causes death of the language, if it stays as language of small community only. And it should be done more appealing to young people, not only traditional music and Scottish culture programmes, but more things like Rapal and current affairs programmes.

Scots, Lalands, Doric, Orcadian, etc. are all part of Scotland’s identity which can coincide with Gaelic in Scottish identity.

Reading English translations of Gaelic poetry as reading any translation you lose something of the poetry. I want to read the poetry as it was written, it is my birthright.

You cannot get any of the Scots radio stations in England, but you can get continental radio, e.g. French. Please encourage the BBC to make Radio Scotland and Radio nan Gàidheal NATIONWIDE.

The Gaelic culture has been portrayed to me as only music. I am not a musician – I like the music but am interested to find out if the culture has any visual art – did the people only sing?!

Gaelic is a part of Britain’s heritage, along with Welsh, and are/ should be more important than later imported languages. So, should be NATIONWIDE.

Please make poetry more widely available in Britain with the English translation. You cannot get Gaelic poetry books in English libraries or book shops. I did not know of them until I came to the islands.

Large parts of Scotland seem never to have been entirely Gaelic. It is not (to me) realistic to bring it back – in the Western Isles, it is still truly alive and should be fought for.

People say Gaelic is a difficult language and try to put you off learning it. It is a vital and distinctive cultural identity. I’m English but I hope my children will be Gaels. Gaelic feels like an exclusive club that incomers aren’t allowed to join. My 4-year old is in Gaelic-medium nursery. BUT- learners never seem to be accepted like native speakers. Television is easy as it is subtitled. I talk about Gaelic with neighbours but not in Gaelic. Would learners/outiders be welcome at Gaelic events or would we be a hindrance? I am aware of the history but I am surprised how many locals reject the Gaelic culture and especially the language. The language will always be stronger in its heartlands.

No thanks. No way. Not at all. Never. True. There are important languages one should learn. Would not like it to survive because it’s only a very few people that show off with it and don’t want others to understand their gossip. I’m ENGLISH and proud of it : I’m definitely not a Gael : People in this day’s age should rather unite than creating language boundaries to hide their gossip behind. Gaelic-speakers think they’re being tourist attractions when they show that language off when there are so-called “outsiders” about. I would definitely not send my child to Gaelic medium school. No way would my children become so hostile towards others. I want them to become tolerant world citizens. I am missing out on what people talk about right in front of me. One never can be certain
what’s said if one goes into shops and the conversation immediately changes from English into Gaelic. I don’t want to learn Gaelic. The attitudes of certain people shows 2-faced hostilities and makes me feel hostile in return.

With English being the world’s language, everyone can speak and understand if also on an international level, that means communication throughout the world to be possible for everyone. Great Britain is being honoured for their language being chosen as the world’s language. English is the language throughout the British Isles one communicates in and to show some respect for other nations it would be an act of courtesy to learn a language that’s also widely spoken by other nations. Money should rather be invested in that than blown into Gaelic. Why can’t it (Gaelic events) be in English? Neighbours shouldn’t speak Gaelic in front of non-Gaelic speakers. The ones who do are just being hostile and ignorant. I’m not interested in the Gaelic culture. They are showing off with it as tourist attractions and alas it has become “all the rage” just now. I hope this is short-lived and over and done with within a few years. Some particular people try to stimulate me into learning Gaelic but I’m not interested. They don’t really want others to understand everything they say because it would dismantle their secrets. I hope Gaelic won’t spread all over Scotland. Actually the biggest part of Scotland is occupied by the Picts, not Gaels. They’ve got their own dialects and they are understood by English-speaking people as well. Why not just let Gaelic die its natural death, like Latin – a great language of it’s times & go with the times of modern society, rather growing together than falling apart.

I’m quite interested in what’s going on in the island. It’s most important to keep your language and traditions. I’m not a Gael because I moved up here late in life. I think ability in Gaelic would be great in all aspects. It would be good to speak with others in their own tongue. Friends I know tried to learn Gaelic but gave up as it was too difficult. I think more encouragement of the Gaelic language. I find home and work taking up a lot of my time. With not speaking Gaelic it is difficult to participate in/attend Gaelic events. I’m aware of a distinctive Gaelic culture in the islands and may it continue to be that way.

On the whole I think we (incomers) interact very well. It is important to make sure that Gaelic is a Scotland wide issue. I can give support in any way to help.

I feel it would help if there were more local classes, I also think cheaper classes would encourage more people to learn. Too many of the British languages have been lost, people are losing their identity. The only true Gaels are the ones born here surely? Why do they have to put Gaelic T.V programmes on so late at night? I would like to do most of these (Gaelic events) but am unable to through lack of transport and not being able to leave my animals for too long. I’m not religious (so I wouldn’t attend any church service at all). My attendance (at Gaelic discussion group) would depend on what they were discussing. I would feel I had more access to the culture if I could speak the language. I feel the more traditional places like the Western Isles and the more rural parts of the Highlands seem true to the Gaelic language, it seems out of place in cities and more commercialised places.

I find it easier to learn by ear. Natural rhythm. Culture. I am a Gael in my lifestyle. Ability in Gaelic would give me greater acceptance and communication. All children speaking Gaelic in kinder-gartens. I would like to learn Gaelic through music. Gaelic T.V programmes are on too late. The Stornoway library is very good (for Gaelic). I like the Gaelic singing in church. Gaelic culture has a strong under-lying influence. I’ve had
access to the Gaelic culture thanks to my neighbours. Gaelic should be a Highlands and islands issue.

My son will be starting croileagan in August but only as it’s the nearest playgroup.

Each Gaelic event requires an understanding of Gaelic. Attendance by a non-Gaelic speaker would be pointless. There is no point as I do not speak or understand Gaelic. I would be keen to learn Gaelic if I felt it would make me feel part of the community. Unfortunately there is a definite ‘Them and Us’ attitude within the island ‘incomers’ and local people. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency if non-indigenous people are to be encouraged to learn.

All minority identities should be fostered. I consider myself to be a Gael re the culture and attitude but not the language. I would consider sending my child to G.M.E a possibility because of better pupil/teacher ratio fostering linguistic ability. I have attempted to learn Gaelic with success as a learner. Gaelic is not welcoming to incomers. They have to make all the effort.

Money is better spent on the poor and it is infinitely more important to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Ability in Gaelic would give me the pleasure of speaking a little known language, like a secret code. You need to concentrate on giving Gaelic to all children, not just those in Gaelic-medium schools, as this creates an unhappy division in the community. I think Lewis should follow the Welsh pattern: making all schools (apart from Welsh-medium schools) bilingual. I don’t feel my children get enough Gaelic in the English medium. Also, there are so many more resources put into the Gaelic-medium section than into the English-medium section that a comparative poverty is blindly obvious; a “super Gael” culture is created, and resentment among the non-Gaelic-speaking community is the inevitable result. Is this what you want? I have a child of two so i am unavailable for Gaelic lessons for another 3+ years. I am tied to the house in the evenings. I think the point is more: “How could the Gaelic community embrace newcomers and welcome them as language learners, making it (much) easier to pick up Gaelic”

Start Gaelic classes at Barvas Taigh Ceilidh with elderly discussing old times.

I’ve tried to learn Gaelic with help from the library but found it too difficult. I’m an adopted Scot.

It is very, very important that the Gaelic language survives. English has one word for love – Gaelic has fifty-two. It’s a very rich language. People have little patience to teach. Great fear that incomers will take away culture if they learn language. Gaelic T.V. comedy programme was very enjoyable. I do not have enough Gaelic to read Gaelic books and newspapers. There are not enough Gaelic books for the very young. I am not welcome at Gaelic church services. The English are hated in Ness church services. There is too much criticism. We should encourage pupils to use the language in the playground e.g “stop the bus” in Gaelic.

I started to learn Gaelic in 1986 after visiting Barra. I would definitely have sent my child to G.M.E if my daughter had been younger when we arrived in 2002. I read Gaelic literature using a dictionary.
I have a child in Gaelic medium. I am presently trying to learn Gaelic agus tha beagan agam! Native speakers should be more proud of their Gaelic heritage and not switch to English so quickly when in English-speaking company. Gaelic should be promoted in areas of Scotland which have a history of Gaelic – i.e. Highlands and Islands (but not Orkney and Shetland).

Have tried to learn but found it difficult to relate the spoken word with the written. As an incomer and English it is easier to think of ourselves as Niseachs. The Gaelic I learnt was soon forgotten-mainly by “age” and also by non-usage. I find my interest in Gaelic has diminished somewhat because of the difficulty of the language.

I have learnt a little Gaelic using books and tapes. One reason I have been unsuccessful learning Gaelic is that people always speak to me in English, knowing that I am not a Gaelic speaker, so there is less incentive to learn. It is easy to be lazy about it! I am more likely to watch Gaelic TV than to read Gaelic books, as the subtitles help me to understand and learn. I do occasionally try to understand the Gaelic articles in the local papers. The only Gaelic church services I attend are the occasional funerals. I have had some access to the culture mainly through musical events, (ceilidhs, dances, piping events). Gaelic should not be promoted so much in areas which have not had Gaelic for many years if at all e.g. Borders, East Coast, which have their own distinct culture and in some cases their own language.

Define what a Gael is. I’ve got 2 children already attending G.M.E. The “fèis” both in North and South Uist is testament to the commitment of people to encourage Gaelic culture to children – the “next generation” – long may it last. The Western Isles is the heart of “Gaeldom” but the council has a poor commitment of Gaelic education from pre-school through to secondary. I feel totally “let down” by the attitude of the Council – just look at Highland, Glasgow & Aberdeenshire council their commitment to Gaelic is fantastic. I would like to see a survey of all the Gaelic teachers in the Southern Isles just to let the Council know if the teachers felt supported by the Education Committee and Council. I am already involved in Gaelic playgroup – but lack of commitment from council lead us to closure in October.

I’ve started to learn and have a little understanding. I could do with regular practise for speaking. Survival of Gaelic language is very important for the culture of the islands and Scottish identity. My experience in talking to local people about the language is that people in the over 50 age bracket use Gaelic all the time, but think there is no benefit in having it. The 15s – 50s can understand it, but don’t speak it, although they probably did when they were little. Again, they see no relevance to it and perhaps it is “uncool”. Of course, this by no means is the view of everyone, but I think promotion of the benefits of the language could be done more and this would also help numbers in G.M.E. I was unsuccessful in learning Gaelic as I did not keep up the practice after my daughter was born. I attend Gaelic events when they are on. We could do with more of these to aid learning. Gaelic should be promoted as part of the national identity of Scotland as a whole for tourism and a selling point that has something different to offer. Welsh is an example, although I know the history of the Welsh language is very different.

As the space for comments is too small I thought I’d add a couple of points separately – we desperately need to help Gaelic now or it will be lost. I’m a mum with two young children, one about to begin school and I have some Gaelic, my
husband a little. I know all the values of having more than one language as I have
studied in this area but the support is simply not here in the Outer Hebrides. The
‘perceived value’ depends too much on what the child’s peer group is doing – it is
far more influential than all the reports give credit. When you buck a trend in a
small community you have to be strong for both your child and yourself and the
only way to change this attitude is to continually pump the message out about
Gaelic and it will eventually be believed – the leaflet on Gaelic Medium Education
has to reach parents when their child/ren is 2 not 4 – it’s too late then. The
second point is related, but from the other side of the fence – there is an anti-
Gaelic stance by some teachers (who are Gaelic speakers!!) and it is almost
impossible to comprehend but it does exist – and as they are in a position that is
highly regarded by some, their attitude does prevail and no amount of argument
can dissuade them. They regard the language as an unnecessary part of school
curriculum and grudgingly allow it to have to have the little space it has – unless a
positive spin is emphasised from all angles and quarters these people do a lot of
harm. The last point is funding – unless there are enough resources and the
Executive are made to carry out their promises by a strong lobby, Gaelic will limp
along and fade away. Now is the last real chance, so please don’t lose it.

Classes aimed at beginners would be beneficial. Gaelic should be retained as it
identifies a people. Lack of local resources has made learning difficult. Listening
to Gaelic radio can sometimes assist in pronunciation. Language classes for
beginners would be good. Classes attended have been more suited to
conversational Gaelic.

If you do think you are missing out on anything if you cannot speak Gaelic, what
is it exactly?

A sense of belonging to the community.

Local gossip and chit-chat.

Speaking with my partner’s Gaelic-speaking relatives, reading Gaelic articles in
newspapers, etc, and listening to Gaelic radio.

Poetry and song.

To be able to converse with family and friends without them politely reverting to English.

Total acceptance by the local community and being a full part of it.

You miss out on chat in local shop, pub, post office and at ceilidhs and the humour in all
these situations. You cannot really understand a people unless you know their language.

Cultural/ historical events and information. There is a wealth of information re place
names on maps which are not clear to the English speaker.

The language is a significant part of the culture in the Western Isles, and without
understanding the language, one cannot understand the culture.
New Residents: What attracted you to relocate in the Western Isles?

My mother is from the Western Isles and we thought it would be a nice place to bring up children (I was wrong)!!

Better quality of life and current obsession to create theatre from the Western Isles.

Parents moved up while I was still at school.

We had a croft and decided to come while the children were young.

Back to my roots.

A better quality of life for all the family.

Desire to get back to civilisation (as it should be) and leave behind “the madness” that is Sasuinn, and PLEASE stop messing with Sundays – SHUT the pubs, CANCEL the flights – you have opened Pandora’s Box – the “madness” will surely follow!! Shut it quick!!

Pace of life, security of island and people who live here and their culture.

My mother lives here and I needed somewhere to live so I came.

The peace and quiet and unpolluted environment.

Gaidhlig (Scottish Gaelic)

The environment.

Invited to set up local printing of Gazette and also to establish commercial side of business thus giving local employment and skills.

Family connections linked to job.

Nice area to live in, people are friendly, suits my lifestyle.

Culture, family, quality of life, employment.

Environment, space and natural beauty.

Holidays, friends and family here/beautiful place/opportunity to live rurally.

Peace, tranquility, quieter way of life, scenic beauty, educational facilities for children, healthy atmosphere, friendly people, less people and traffic etc etc.

I never found a better place to settle in, after a number of years travelling around the world.
Affinity with the culture (my father was Irish) also a better place in which to bring up children.

Peacefulness, old-fashioned values, slower pace of life.

A better quality of life for my family.

Lifestyle, had two young children and wished for them to be part of the community/culture.

We wanted to live in a low crime rural area and had visited Lewis on holiday for many years.

The property was cheap and had plenty of ground with it.

To learn and be immersed in Gaelic and culture.

Peace and quiet and Sunday bliss – don’t ruin it by ‘following the herd’, as they stampede over the cliff!

Managed to buy a cheap cottage, couldn’t afford anywhere else

A calling

Low population density, stunning environment.
VI
An t-Sultain 2003

Ainm
Buidheann
Seòladh 1
Seòladh 2

A Mhgr ..

Tha mi a’ sgriobhadh as leth a’ bhuidheann-stiùiridh a chaidh a stèidheachadh airson plana càinain Gàidhlig a dheasachadh airson nan Eilean Siar. Tha mi air dreuchd fhaighinn mar cho-òrdanaiche air a’ phlana agus tha Comhairle nan Eilean, Comunn na Gàidhlig agus Colaisde a’ Chaisteil air an riochdachadh air a’ bhuidheann-stiùiridh.

An ceann bliadhna tha sinn an dùil plana a bhith againn airson an t-slighe air adhart airson Gàidhlig a shoilleireachadh anns na coimhearsnachdan air feadh nan eilean. Bhiodh sinn an dòchas an uair sin gum biodh e cothromach am plana a chur an gniomh thairis air còig bliadhna.

Mar phàirt den phróiseact a tha seo tha sinn airson fiosrachadh fhaighinn air ciamar a tha na buidhnean poballach a’ dèitigeadh ris a’ Ghàidhlig. Le sin, bhiodh sinn gu mòr nur comainn nam b’ urrainn dhuibh leithbheac den phoileasaidh Gàidhlig agaibh a chur

Dear

I am writing on behalf of the steering group developing a Gaelic language plan for the Western Isles. I have just taken up the post of co-ordinator for the plan and the steering group comprises representatives from Comhairle nan Eilean, Comunn na Gàidhlig and Lews Castle College.

Following a year of research we hope to have achieved a plan for the development of the Gaelic language in the Western Isles. As part of this project, we wish to obtain information on how public bodies in the islands support the language.

As part of the exercise we would be extremely grateful if you could send us a copy of your current policy on Gaelic and any appropriate information which you feel would be of assistance to me.
thugainn no fiosrachadh sam bith a tha freagarrach mur eil poileasaidh agaibh

Cuideachd, 's dòcha gum biodh e math cothrom fhaighinn coinneachadh ri cuideigin bhon bhuidheann agaibh airson barrachd fiosrachaidh fhaighinn. Tha mi an dòchas gu bheil seò iomchaidh. Ma tha ceistean sam bith agaibh cuiribh fùn gu 01851 770459, no cuiribh post-dealain gu maggie.mackay@lews.uhi.ac.uk.

Le dùrachd

Yours truly,

Mairead NicAoidh
Co-òrdanaiche Plana Cànain

Margaret Mackay
Gaelic Language Plan Co-ordinator
Pictured, in January 2004, are some of the Home-Visitors who distributed the questionnaires in the islands.

Representatives from Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge in Galway pictured with Catriona Murray from Lews Castle College (far right) during their visit in June 2004.