

1. **Is it right that Gaelic be recognised as one of the languages of Scotland in statute?** Yes, but only when our education and government systems can afford it. That is clearly not the case today. Until then Gaelic must prove its sustainability in the linguistic market place, without State subsidy. Surely a language and culture of it's supposed merit will rise to that challenge?
2. **Should Bòrd na Gàidhlig have the functions provided in Section 1 of the draft Bill?** No. Too expensive.
3. **Should the requirements in Sections 2 and 3 of the draft Bill be placed on Bòrd na Gàidhlig?** Only when we, as a nation, can properly afford it.
4. **Should Bòrd na Gàidhlig be given the powers in Schedule 1, paragraph 11 of the Bill?** No
5. **Are there other matters beyond those in Section 5(5) of the draft Bill that public bodies should have regard to in determining whether to prepare a Gaelic language plan?** Consideration must be given to Adult Basic Education in the Nations primary language as a priority before public money is spent on unnecessary Gaelic initiatives
6. **Should public bodies be required to consider whether it is appropriate to prepare and publish a Gaelic language plan describing the services they will offer in Gaelic?** Not until we have a fully comprehensive Adult Basic Education programme in the Nations current first language
7. **Should the Bill provide for Bòrd na Gàidhlig to assist and advise public bodies in the preparation of Gaelic language plans?** No. This is a luxury the exchequer can not currently afford. The effort and the finance can, and should, be used on more obvious priorities.
8. **Should the Bill require Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare guidance on Gaelic language planning?** This would only be useful if it recognised the practical (fiscal and educational) parameters within which the development of the language must currently take place.
9. **Should Bòrd na Gàidhlig have a role in advising education authorities and the Scottish Executive on plans for Gaelic medium education flowing from the 2000 Act?** Obviously, but only after we have in place a fully comprehensive Adult Basic Education programme in our first language.
10. **Would you like to comment on any other aspects of the draft Gaelic Language Bill?** This is a premature luxury catering to an absurdly romantic notion of our heritage. We can not afford good Adult Basic Education in our first language yet we are to spend many millions on a linguistic foible. These Gaels effected ethnic

cleansing of many of my Pictish ancestors. Why not re-establish the much more noble Pictish language(s) and culture instead of that of the invading Irish Gael, who swept in through Dalriada and put a halt on a very, very old song?