

Dear Sirs

This draft Bill holds out little hope for serious development in any aspect of Gaelic. The language in which the Bill is written is indeterminate, indecisive and, in its hedging about of clauses, unable to give any promise of firm commitment to meeting the requirements of a people deeply in need of official recognition and fiscal support of Gaelic. These people may be relatively few - but they have rights, or they should have, in their own country.

Within the glaring omission of a proposal to give Gaelic official status or of any intent to give Gaelic education status in funding equal to that given to other languages in Scottish schools lurks the truth, i.e. that this is a mere paper exercise.

Yours faithfully