

Dear Sir / Madam,

Gaelic Language Bill.

The Gaelic language is the most valuable asset of Scotland's national culture; therefore, it is essential that this Bill employ every means possible to ensure the future security of Gaelic. A Gaelic Act should agree the principal of equal validity for Gaelic & English in Scotland.

It should be a requirement on all public bodies throughout Scotland to prepare Gaelic language plans in consultation with Bord na Gaidhlig (Alba) . These should reflect the need for Gaelic provision at a national level as well as responding to differing community requirements at a local level. The public bodies should not make decisions as to the appropriateness of a Gaelic language plan themselves.

It is essential that Bord na Gaidhlig be given the powers that will enable them not only to assist & advise public bodies in the preparation of Gaelic language plans, but also powers to ensure implementation of these plans. They must also have similar powers with regard to local authorities and their development plans for Gaelic medium education.

Although the Executive, in the consultation document, agrees that Gaelic medium education is of critical importance for the future of the language in Scotland, there is no reference to education in the Bill. Parents were not granted any rights to Gaelic medium education in the Education Act (Scotland) 2000 and the Act has not enhanced the position of Gaelic medium education in any way. I would like to see provision made in the Bill to secure Gaelic education, especially Gaelic medium education at all levels and parents given a legal right to Gaelic medium education on an equal status with English medium education.

Is mise le meas / Yours faithfully,







