



# ACPOS

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**ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND**

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 655b/CD/LM/03  
Date: 3 December 2003

Scottish Executive  
Area 1-A, The Gaelic Unit  
Sport, Art and Culture, SEED  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

**By EMail**

Dear Sir/Madam

**THE GAELIC LANGUAGES BILL - CONSULTATION PAPER**

I refer to your correspondence dated October 2003 regarding the above, which has been considered by members of our General Policing Standing Committee and can now offer the following by way of comment.

There is no doubt Gaelic continues to play a fundamental part in Scottish life and legitimately claims its place as one of our national languages. Whilst the language and culture is spread predominately throughout Northern Constabulary and part of Strathclyde Policing areas, within the other Scottish forces the percentage of persons who speak, read, write and understand it is low. Therefore, within these latter forces Gaelic is included in languages available to them through current interpreting and translation provision.

The indication that the requirements within the proposed legislation will allow public bodies to determine whether it is appropriate to prepare, publish and implement Gaelic language plans in relation to the services it provides and the duties carried out is welcomed. This decision will take account of the number of Gaelic speakers making use of their services and representations made to them on the use of the Gaelic language.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, slight concern was expressed by members regarding the potential for additional expenditure to be incurred. If every public body has to arrange translations in response to specific requests from members of the public this could prove extremely costly to the public purse. A possible solution would be for public bodies to be required to send copies of their English language plans to 'Bord na Gaidhlig' who could employ translators to provide the service. This would result in:

Hon Sec : William Rae QPM

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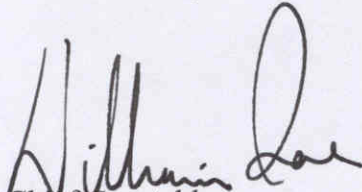
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- Members of the public only having to contact one public body to obtain any Gaelic language plan
- The translations would be of a consistent high standard, which in turn will assist in the promotion of the Gaelic language
- The principles of 'Best Value' would be promoted

Questions were also raised by members in relation to what will happen to public bodies who fail to meet the requirements stated and who will monitor the performance of 'Bord na Gaidhlig' against the parameters set in the Bill? Also, as 'Bord na Gaidhlig' has no powers over any of the bodies in the draft bill, how effective will this make them as a statutory body?

I trust you find the foregoing to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



William Lee  
Chief Constable  
(Hon. Secretary)

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