

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Written Submission to Inquiry into Budget Scrutiny 2023-24

1. Ciamar a tha co-dhùnaidhean buidseit a' toirt taic do ath-shlànachadh an earrainn bho COVID agus gu dè a bu chòir a bhith mar thùs-amasan aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba ann a bhith a' toirt taic don fheabhas tro Bhuidseat 2023-24?

Bu chòir do mheudachadh taic do na h-ealain agus cultar na Gàidhlig a bhith mar thùs-amas. Leigeadh seo leis a bhith a' cumail air a' fàs, a' meudachadh a bhuidhean sòisealta agus eaconamach. Bheireadh seo taic do dh'amas Riaghaltas na h-Alba "tha meudachadh fhaicinn san àireamh de dhaoine a tha a' bruidhinn, a' cleachdadh agus ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig agus àrdachadh air cultar na Gàidhlig mar phrìomh eileamaid dhen seo"¹.

Bu chòir do thaic mheudaichte a bhith a' gabhail a-steach meudachadh anns a' mhaoineachadh airson *MG ALBA* – am buidheann meadhanan Gàidhlig agus com-pàirtiche san t-seanail BBC ALBA – gu sònraichte gus taic a thoirt do choimiseanadh phrògraman ùra. Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh gu bheil "dreuchd riatanach ann a bhith a' toirt taic agus ag adhartachadh cànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig"² aig a' bhuidheann tro obair craolaidh agus air-loidhne.

Cuidichidh meudachadh taic a bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil cothrom aig a h-uile neach ann an Alba air na h-ealain Ghàidhlig. Comharrachaidh sin àite na Gàidhlig mar chànan nàiseanta. Is urrainn dhan sin a bhith air a choileanadh le bhith ag àbhaisteachadh na Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh obair bhuidhnean nàiseanta mar Alba Chruthachail. Tha na gnìomhan seo a' cur ri ìomhaigh na h-Alba mar dùthaich eadar-mheasgte agus tarraingeach.

Cuidichidh meudachadh taic airson na h-ealain agus cultar na Gàidhlig le ath-shlànachadh eaconamaidhean eileanan na h-Alba agus coimhearsnachdan iomallach air tìr-mòr. Ann am mòran chùisean is e àiteachan a tha annta far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast mar a' chiad chànan a tha aig cuibhreann mòr den t-sluagh. Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach sna ceàrnaidhean sin. Tha seasmhachd eaconamach nan ceàrnaidhean sin riatanach airson seasmhachd agus fàs leantainneach na Gàidhlig fhèin.

Chaidh na buaidhean a tha air a bhith aig a' ghalar mhòr-sgaoilte air eileanan agus air ceàrnaidhean eile den

1. How are budgetary decisions supporting the recovery of the sector from COVID and what should be the Scottish Government's priorities in supporting recovery through Budget 2023-24?

Increasing support for Gaelic arts and culture should be a priority. That will allow its continued growth, increasing its social and economic impacts. This will support Scottish Government's objective- "to see an increase of people speaking, using and learning the Gaelic language and the promotion of the Gaelic culture is a key element of this"⁸.

Increased support should include increased funding for *MG ALBA* - the Gaelic media organisation and partner in the BBC ALBA channel - particularly to support the commissioning of new programmes. Scottish Government recognise that the organisation "has a critical role in supporting and promoting Gaelic language and culture"⁹ through its broadcasting and online activities.

Increased support will help to ensure that everybody in Scotland has access to Gaelic arts. That will reflect Gaelic's place as a national language. This can be achieved by normalising Gaelic within the work of national level organisations such as Creative Scotland. That, in turn, will enhance Scotland's image as a diverse country.

Increased support for Gaelic arts and culture will aid the recovery of the economies of Scotland's islands and remote mainland communities. In many cases they are places where Gaelic remains the first language for a sizeable proportion of the people. The Gaelic language is not only important to these areas. These areas' economic sustainability is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language itself.

The impacts of the pandemic on islands and other parts of the Highlands and Islands have been covered

¹ www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/documents

² www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/documents

⁸ www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/documents

⁹ www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/documents



<p>Ghàidhealtachd 's na h-Eileanan a chur an cèill ann an grunn aithisgean eile³. Sheall iad gun robh buaidh shònraichte aig Covid air na h-eaconamaidhean aca. Tha sin a' comharrachadh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bha buaidh neo-chuimseach mhòr aig a' ghalar mhòr-sgaoilte air cuibhreann an ìre mhath mòr de ghnothachasan – gu sònraichte cultar, na h-ealain agus fèistean. • Brisgeachd eaconamach iomadh eilean is sgìre dhùthchail san fharsaingeachd. • Ìrean an ìre mhath àrd de fhèin-fhastadh, ris nach robh an Riaghaltas a' toirt uiread de thaic an taca ri companaidhean is an luchd-cosnadh aca. <p>Cuiridh meudachadh ann an taic cuideachd ri bhith a' cur ris an ath-shlànachadh eaconamaiceach thar Alba. Tha fianais a tha a' sìor fhàs ann air cho cudromach sa tha a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ri eaconamaidh na h-Alba. Tha rannsachadh⁴ ann an Glaschu a' sealltainn gu bheil buaidh eaconamach na Gàidhlig air tachartasan leithid Celtic Connections, FilmG, Farpais Còmhlan Pioba na Cruinne agus Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba timcheall air £7.2m gach bliadhna.</p> <p>Faodaidh cultar na Gàidhlig cuideachd luchd-tadhail ùra a thàladh a dh'Alba.⁵ Tha Ro-innleachd Turasachd Ghàidhlig na h-Alba a' toirt iomradh air "saoghal beòthail an latha an-diugh aig cultar na Gàidhlig, a' gabhail a-steach ceòl, fèisean leithid Celtic Connections agus fèisean, Mòdan ionadail agus nàiseanta, litreachas, drama".</p> <p>Tha feum ann cuideachd dèiligeadh ris na nithean sònraichte a leanas.</p> <p>Bu chòir do ìrean maoineachaidh a bhith ag aithneachadh nan cosgaisean a tha air meudachadh gu mòr an lùib na roinne chultarail. Tha sin a' gabhail a-steach luchd-obrach, pàipear a tha air a chleachdadh le luchd-foillseachaidh leabhraichean agus àite-fuirich ann an taighean-òsta airson tachartasan nas motha.</p>	<p>in various reports¹⁰. They showed that their economies were particularly affected by Covid. This reflects the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively high share of businesses in sectors disproportionately affected by the pandemic - particularly culture, arts and entertainment. • General economic fragility of many islands and rural areas. • Relatively high levels of self-employment, where Government support was lower than for companies and their employees. <p>Increased support will also contribute to the economic recovery across Scotland. There is a growing body of evidence on the significance of Gaelic's contribution to Scotland's economy. Research¹¹ in Glasgow shows that the economic impact of Gaelic on events such as Celtic Connections, FilmG, World Pipe Band Championships and the Scottish Gaelic Awards is £7.2m annually.</p> <p>Gaelic culture can also attract new visitors to Scotland. Visit Scotland's Gaelic Tourism Strategy¹² refers to "a dynamic, contemporary Gaelic cultural scene spanning music, festivals such as Celtic Connections and fèisean, regional and national Mòds, literature, drama".</p> <p>There is also a need to address the following specific issues.</p> <p>Funding levels should recognise the significantly increased costs facing the culture sector. That includes staff, paper used by book publishers and hotel accommodation for larger events.</p>
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³ Mar eisimpleir: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-islands-plan-through-covid-lens-survey-results/documents/>; <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/9646/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-highlands-and-islands.pdf>; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/REC_S5_20_IB_41.pdf; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/RECC_COMHAIRLE_NAN_EILEAN_SIAR.pdf

⁴ www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=57005&p=0

⁵ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>

¹⁰ For example: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-islands-plan-through-covid-lens-survey-results/documents/>; <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/9646/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-highlands-and-islands.pdf>; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/REC_S5_20_IB_41.pdf; https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/RECC_COMHAIRLE_NAN_EILEAN_SIAR.pdf

¹¹ www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=57005&p=0

¹² <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>



Taic do phàirtean sònraichte den earrann chultarail a tha fhathast a' faireachdainn buaidh a' ghalar mhòr-sgaoilte. Mar eisimpleir, ionadan a tha a' cur feum air taic gus a dhèanamh comasach dhaibh fosgladh às ùr ann an dòigh shàbhailte, a' toirt misneachd dhan luchd-amais tilleadh.

Pàirtean den earrann le luchd-amais agus/no luchd-gnìomh nas sine – me cuid de chòisirean – tha àireamhan aca a tha fhathast nas ìsle na na h-ìrean ron ghalar mhòr-sgaoilte. Airson nam buidhnean sin “Chan eil Covid seachad”. Feumar sùil a chumail air a' chùis seo leis gu faodadh buaidh ionmhasail a bhith aige air cuid de bhuidhnean.

Tha co-roinn bhrìgheil den luchd-obrach ealain/cultar an dàrna cuid ag obair air an ceann fhèin no nan luchd-obrach eaconamaidh gìog. Mar sin, tha feum ann tuigse nas fheàrr a bhith ann air mar a thug a' ghalar mhòr-sgaoilte buaidh orra agus mar a tha iad a' faighinn thairis air a' mhòr-ghalair.

Tha feum ann cuideachd tuigse a bhith aca air a' bhuidhnean a tha air a bhith aig lùghdachadh sam bith ann an àireamhan air na buidhnean a tha gan cleachdadh. Tha sinn mothachail air cuid de riochdachaidhean a tha a' cur chriochan air an àireamh de thaisbeanaidhean a bhios aca air sgàth gainnead de luchd-obrach teicnigeach neo-cheangailte – me, ann am fuaim, riochdachadh, solais agus fastaidhean PA (Labhairt Poblach).

Dh'fhaodadh seo togail air rannsachadh a bha ann a cheana le luchd-neo-cheangailte – me, le Literature Alliance Scotland. Chuidicheadh e ann a bhith a' cur ri beachdan air mar a dh'fhaodadh luchd-neo-cheangailte a bhith air an duaiseachadh nas fheàrr/nas tèarainte gus an cumail san earrann. Bu chòir dhan sin a bhith a' gabhail a-steach na tha air a dhèanamh ann an dùthchannan eile – me Èirinn, An Fhraing. Agus, na buidhnean sin a tha a' coimhead ri bhith “a' fàs an cuid fhèin” gus beàrnan a lìonadh a thaobh luchd-obrach a dh'fheumadh taic ionmhasail airson sin a dhèanamh.

2. A dh'aindeoin aithneachadh a tha a' sìor mheudachadh de na buannachdan slàinte agus sunnd de chultar a tha stèidhichte a-cheana, tha a' Chomataidh air cluinntinn ron seo nach eil seo air a dhol air adhart gu gluasad cruth-atharrachail an dà chuid a thaobh modh-obrach tar-raon taobh a-staigh an Rìghaltais agus meudachadh san taic buidseit airson cultar thar ghrunna raointean coisg – dè a dh'fheumas atharrachadh gus cultar agus slàinte agus sunnd fhisge a-steach thar an rìghaltais agus an earrainn phoblach?

Tha Rìghaltas na h-Alba air a ràdh gu bheil an lèirsinn airson Alba a' gabhail a-steach “a bhith ag adhartachadh slàinte agus

Support for particular parts of the culture sector that are still feeling the effects of the pandemic. For example, venues requiring support to enable them to reopen in a safe fashion, providing audiences with confidence to return.

Parts of the sector with audiences and/or performers of an older demographic - e.g., some choirs - have numbers that are still below pre-pandemic levels. For these organisations “Covid isn't over”. This issue needs to be monitored given its potential financial implications for some organisations.

A significant proportion of the arts/culture workforce are either freelance or gig economy workers. Thus, there is a need to better understand how they were affected by and are recovering from the pandemic.

There is also a need to understand how any reduction in freelance numbers has affected the organisations that use them. We are aware of some productions limiting the number of shows due to a shortage of technical freelance staff - e.g., in sound, production, lighting and PA (Public Address) hires.

This could build on existing research with freelancers - e.g., by Literature Alliance Scotland. It would help inform ideas on how freelancers might be better/more securely remunerated to retain them in the sector. That should include looking at what is done in other countries- e.g., Ireland, France. Also, those organisations looking to “grow their own” to fill staffing gaps may require financial support to do so.

2. Despite an increasing recognition of the established health and wellbeing benefits of culture, the Committee has previously heard that this had not led to transformational change in terms of both a cross-cutting approach within Government and increased budgetary support for culture across a number of spending areas - what needs to change to embed culture and health and wellbeing across government and the public sector?

Scottish Government have stated that their vision for Scotland includes “promoting health and wellbeing



sunnd tro chothrom air cultar”.⁶ Tha an fheadhainn a tha san raon cultair làn mhothachail air an dreuchd a bha aige ann a bhith a’ toirt taic do shunnd dhaoine rè nan glasaidhean. Tha sin an dà chuid tron mheudachadh mhòr ann an coileanaidhean air-loidhne, agus an uair a thill coileanaidhean beò. Mar sin, tha a’ chùis airson buannachdan slàinte agus sàbhailteachd a tha an cois cultar a’ coimhead follaiseach.

Ach, is e ar fèin-fhiosrachadh gur e glè bheag mothachadh ma tha mothachadh sam bith idir aig a’ mhòr chuid de bhuidhnean cultarail air maoinachadh a tha stèidhichte air amasan slàinte agus sunnd. Far a bheil mothachadh ann, is e a’ bheachd gur e glè bheag de mhaoineachadh den t-seòrsa sin a tha ri fhaotainn. Tha seo a’ moladh an fheum a tha ann an àireamh de mhaoin a mheudachadh agus an fheadhainn a tha rim faotainn a shanasachadh.

Tha cuid de bhuidhnean cultarail a’ faicinn gu bheil dreuchd ann dhan earrann – is dòcha tro Alba Chruthachail – a bhith mar thagraiche de na ceanglaichean eadar cultar agus slàinte agus sunnd agus an fheum a tha ann airson maoinachadh airson seo. Dh’fhaodadh seo a bhith mar phàirt den tagradh a thaobh buaidhean na h-earrainn chultarail – a’ gabhail a-steach cultar na Gàidhlig – gus cùis a dhèanamh airson barrachd maoinachaidh.

5. Is e beachd na Comataidh gu bheil e riatanach, far a bheil sin practaigeach, gum bi maoinachadh ioma-bliadhna airson nam buidhnean cultarail dham bheil Riaghaltas na h-Alba a’ toirt taic air a thoirt do na buidhnean agus na daoine fa leth a bhios a’ faighinn maoinachadh, agus a bu chòir, far a bheil sin iomchaidh, cuideachd a bhith a’ faighinn rèite ioma-bliadhna – dè an t-adhartas a tha air a bhith air a dhèanamh ann a bhith a’ gluasad gu maoinachadh ioma-bliadhna, dè na prìomh bhacaidhean a tha ann agus ciamar a gheibh sinn thairis orra?

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a mhaoinachadh le Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Bidh sinn a’ pàigheadh airgead do raon de bhuidhnean cultarail a bhios a’ lìbhrigeadh ghnìomhan a tha a’ cuideachadh ann a bhith a’ coileanadh amasan cultarail Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig⁷. Mar eisimpleir:

through access to culture”.¹³ Those in the culture sector are keenly aware of the role it played in supporting people’s wellbeing during lockdowns. That is through both the huge increase in online performances, and when live performances returned. Thus, the case for the health and wellbeing benefits of culture appears evident.

However, our experience is that most cultural organisations have little or no awareness of funding that is based on health and wellbeing objectives. Where there is an awareness, the view is that there are few such funds in operation. This suggests a need to increase the number of funds and publicise those that are in place.

Some cultural organisations see a role for the sector – perhaps via Creative Scotland – to be an advocate of the links between culture and health and wellbeing and the need for funding for this. That could be part of advocacy of the impacts of the culture sector – including Gaelic culture – to make the general case for greater funding.

5. The Committee’s view is that it is essential that, wherever practical, multi-year funding for the cultural organisations the Scottish Government supports is passed on to the groups and individuals being funded who should, where appropriate, also receive a multi-year settlement – what progress has been made in moving towards multi-year funding, what are the main barriers and how do we overcome them?

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is funded by Scottish Government. We disburse funding to a range of cultural organisations which deliver activities that help achieve the National Gaelic Language Plan’s¹⁴ cultural objectives. For example:

⁶ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-scotlands-future-resource-spending-review/documents>

⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23-1.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-scotlands-future-resource-spending-review/documents>

¹⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23-1.pdf>



- **Ceòlas Uibhist.** Ag adhartachadh fèin-fhiosrachaidhean bogadh sa Ghàidhlig ann an Uibhist a Deas a' gabhail a-steach prògram ealanta de thachartasan bliadhna agus clasaichean Gàidhlig cunbhalach.
- **Comhairle nan Leabhraichean.** A' tabhann stiùireadh agus taic foillseachaidh don earrann litreachais Ghàidhlig, le tabhartasan agus taic leasachaidh proifeiseanta do dh'ùghdaran agus taic airson reic agus margaidheachd do luchd-foillseachaidh.
- **An Comunn Gàidhealach.** A' ruith a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail gach bliadhna agus a' toirt taic do Mhòdan ionadail air feadh Alba.
- **Fèisean nan Gàidheal.** A' toirt taic do bhith a' ruith fèisean ionadail air feadh Alba a bhios a' gabhail a-steach ceòl is oideachadh ealain sa Ghàidhlig.
- **Ionad Chalum Chille Ìle.** A' tabhann ionad Gàidhlig ann an Ìle gus cuideachadh le bhith a' cleachdadh agus ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig do luchd-tadhail an ionaid agus tro bhith ag ionnsachadh aig astar.
- **An Lòchran.** A' tabhann ionad Gàidhlig ann an Glaschu agus a' libhrigeadh prògram ealain Gàidhlig.
- **Theatre gu leòr.** A' tabhann taic proifeiseanta don earrann dràma Ghàidhlig le cuairtean, cothroman trèanaidh do luchd-ealain agus taic choitcheann agus adhartachadh den earrainn.

Aig an àm seo tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt maoinachadh iomadh-bliadhna do naoi buidhnean com-pàirteachaidh libhrigidh anns an earrainn ealain/cultair. Bha iad sin an toiseach air an suidheachadh airson trì bliadhna ach chaidh an leudachadh gu ceathramh bliadhna ri linn a' mhòr-ghalair. Tha sinn an-dràsta a' beachdachadh air ar modh-obrach san àm ri teachd a thaobh maoinachadh ioma-bliadhna, a' gabhail a-steach an àireamh de bhliadhnaichean a bu chòir dha na h-aontaidhean a bhith air an son.

Tha na buidhnean a tha a' faighinn ar maoinachadh ioma-bliadhna, air grunnan shochair a chomharrachadh:

- A' leigeil leis a' bhuidheann a bhith a' planadh le barrachd cinnt, a' gabhail a-steach a bhith a' cumail luchd-obrach agus a' fastadh luchd-obrach.
- A' lùghdachadh rianachd leis nach fheumar iarrtas maoinachaidh a dhèanamh gach bliadhna. Tha sin gu sònraichte buannachdail do bhuidhnean le àireamh bheag de luchd-obrach.

- **Ceòlas Uibhist.** Promotes Gaelic immersion experiences in South Uist including an artistic programme of annual events and regular Gaelic classes.
- **Comhairle nan Leabhraichean.** Provides guidance and publishing support to the Gaelic literature sector, with grants and professional development support for authors and sales and marketing support for publishers.
- **An Comunn Gàidhealach.** Running the annual Royal National Mòd and supporting local Mòds across Scotland.
- **Fèisean nan Gàidheal.** Supports the running of local fèisean across Scotland that incorporate Gaelic music and arts tuition.
- **Ionad Chalum Cille Ìle.** Provides a Gaelic hub in Islay to help support the usage and learning of Gaelic for visitors to the centre and through distance learning.
- **An Lòchran.** Provides a Gaelic hub in Glasgow and delivers a Gaelic arts programme.
- **Theatre Gu Leòr.** Providing professional support to the Gaelic drama sector with tours, training opportunities for artists and general development and promotion of the sector.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig currently provides multi-year funding to nine delivery partner organisations in the arts/culture sector. These were originally set for three years but were extended to a fourth given the pandemic. We are currently considering our future approach to multi-year funding, including the number of years the agreements should cover.

The organisations that receive our multi-year funding have identified several benefits:

- Allows the organisation to plan with more certainty, including staff retention and recruitment.
- Reduced administration from not having to make an annual funding application. That is particularly beneficial for organisations with a small number of staff.



- The ability to move planned activities between years as required.
- Is urrainn do mhaoinichadh ioma-bliadhna a tha barantaichte cuideachadh ann a bhith a' libhrigeadh airgead a-steach bho bhuidhnean eile.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig cuideachd a' faighinn buannachd bho bhith a' tabhann maoineachadh ioma-bliadhna, a' gabhail a-steach:

- Barrachd cinnt mu ghnìomhan san àm ri teachd.
- A' dèanamh planadh airson an ama ri teachd comasach agus lèirsinn airson àm nas fhaide air adhart.
- Càirdeas nas misneachail airson an àm ri teachd le com-pàirtichean libhrigidh.

Tha na buidhnean a bhios a' faighinn maoineachadh ioma-bliadhna bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig a' sgaoileadh cuid dhen seo gu buidhnean eile. Ach, gu coitcheann chan eil seo air a dhèanamh air bhunait ioma-bliadhna. Tha seo mar gum biodh mar sgàthan air na h-ìrean beaga de mhaoinichadh a tha air a thoirt seachad agus cho beag 's a tha na buidhnean a tha ga fhaighinn (is dòcha, ann an cuid de chùisean, aon neach).

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig an-dràsta a' faighinn Tabhartas gus Cuideachadh bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba a h-uile bliadhna. Chuireadh sinn fàilte air planaichean cosg iomadh bliadhna. Bheireadh seo dhuinn barrachd dearbh-chinnt ionmhasail agus mar sin ar cuideachadh a' planadh agus a' toirt gu buil ar libhrigeadh de amasan Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Chitheadh sinn cuideachd dè na seòrsaichean bhuanachdan a tha an-dràsta an-lùib nan com-pàirtichean libhrigidh againn, mar a tha air a mhìneachadh gu h-àrd.

Tha cuid de ar com-pàirtichean libhrigidh cuideachd a' faighinn maoineachadh ioma-bliadhna bho Alba Chruthachail. Thathar a' sùileachadh gun tigear gu co-dhùnadh mun mhodh-obrach a thaobh am maoineachadh san àm ri teachd nas fhaide air adhart ann an 2022. Thathar a' miannachadh gu mòr gun lean maoineachadh ioma-bliadhna agus gum faodar a leudachadh gu barrachd air àm a mhaireas trì bliadhna. Bhiodh lùghdachadh gu maoineachadh nas giorra na trì bliadhna na fìor cheum air ais, a' toirt air falbh nam buannachdan a chaidh an ainmeachadh ron seo san fhreagairt againn.

Chuireadh cuid de ar com-pàirtichean libhrigidh fàilte air Alba Chruthachail a bhith a' toirt a-steach pròiseas iarrais nas èifeachdaiche.

- The ability to move planned activities between years as required.
- Guaranteed multi-year funding can help lever in funding from other organisations.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig also benefits from providing multi-year funding, including:

- Greater certainty on future activities.
- Enabling forward planning and a longer-term view.
- A more confident ongoing relationship with its delivery partners.

The organisations who receive multi-year funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig disburse some of this to other organisations. However, this is generally not done on a multi-year basis. This appears to reflect the small levels of funding being given and the small size of the receiving organisations (which may, in some cases, be an individual).

Bòrd na Gàidhlig currently receives Grant in Aid from Scottish Government on an annual basis. We would welcome multi-year spending plans. This would give us greater financial certainty and thus help us plan and realise our delivery of Scottish Government objectives. We would also see the types of benefits that currently accrue to our own delivery partners, as described above.

Some of our delivery partners also receive multi-year funding from Creative Scotland. There is an expectation that they will decide their future approach to funding later in 2022. It is very much desired that multi-year funding continues-and possibly extended to more than a three-year period. A reduction to less than three-year funding would be a very retrograde step, removing the benefits referred to earlier in our response.

Some of our delivery partners would welcome Creative Scotland introducing a more streamlined application process.



6. Tha a' Chomataidh air innse a-cheana gum bu chòir an t-ionnsachadh co-obrachail a thathar air fhaighinn bho bhith a' rianachd an fhreagairt a thaobh COVID a bhith air a chleachdadh agus gum bu chòir togail air; mar eisimpleir, ann a bhith a' sgrùdadh mar a dh'fhaodas dòighean ùr-ghnàthasach mu a bhith ag obair mar a bhith ag atharrachadh gu ùrlaran didseatach àrdachadh cothrom air gnìomhan cultarail agus aig an aon àm a bhith a' leasachadh slàinte agus sunnd – dè an t-adhartas a tha air a bhith air a dhèanamh ann a bhith a' fighe a-steach an t-ionnsachadh co-obrachail bho bhith a' rianachd an fhreagairt a thaobh COVID, dè na prìomh bhacaidhean a tha ann agus ciamar a gheibh sinn thairis orra?

Rè a' ghalair mhòr-sgaoilte, mheudaich mòran bhuidhnean Gàidhlig an làthaireachd air-loidhne gu mòr, a' gabhail a-steach cuirmean agus co-labhairtean. Thug seo cothrom nas motha do iomadh neach - gu h-àraidh luchd-amais eadar-nàiseanta.

Tha buidhnean cultarail Gàidhlig a' faicinn luach ann a bhith a' cumail suas co-dhiù cuid de na gnìomhan air-loidhne a leasaich iad rè a' mhòr-ghalair. Tha iad air buannachd fhaighinn tron oidhirp a rinn iad co-cheangailte ri seo agus na dh'ionnsaich iad mar thoradh air seo.

Airson cuid 's e a' chùis cumail a' dol air-loidhne mar phàirt den obair gnothachais. Mar eisimpleir:

- Coinneamhan air-loidhne.
- Co-labhairtean agus tachartasan eile a tha a-nis gu coitcheann rim faotainn air-loidhne.
- Ag obair bhon dachaigh far a bheil seo a' freagairt air luchd-obrach.
- Planadh agus gnìomhan ro-shaothrachadh.

Airson feadhainn eile tha e mu bhith a' leantainn air adhart a' sealltainn cuid de nithean agus thachartasan air-loidhne. Tha sin air sgàth is gun urrainn dhaibh seo a mhaoineachadh tro na buidseatan a tha aca a-cheana agus leis gu bheil na sgilean a dh'fheumar agus an teicneòlas aca.

Ach, bha cuid de bhuidhnean le bacaidhean a thaobh cosgais agus comas luchd-obrach. Dh'fhaodadh cosgais gu math mòr a bhith an lùib a bhith a' toirt a-steach luchd-obrach neo-eisimeileach gus a bhith a' coileanadh gnìomhan spèisealaichte, no airson a bhith a' leasachadh càileachd an toraidh.

San dàrna àite, bidh bacaidhean a thaobh eòlais ro chuid. Mar eisimpleir:

6. The Committee has previously stated that the collaborative learning from managing the response to COVID should be harnessed and built upon; for example, in exploring how innovative ways of working such as the shift to digital platforms can enhance the accessibility of cultural activities while at the same time improving health and wellbeing – what progress has been made in embedding the collaborative learning from managing the response to COVID, what are the main barriers and how do we overcome them?

During the pandemic, many Gaelic organisations increased their online presence significantly, including performances and conferences. This provided greater access for many people - particularly international audiences.

Gaelic cultural organisations see value in retaining at least some of the online activities they developed during the pandemic. They have benefited from the effort they put into this and the significant amount they learned as a result.

For some it is a case of continuing to use online as part of their business operations. For example:

- Meetings online.
- Conferences and other events which are now generally available online.
- Homeworking where this suits staff.
- Planning and pre-production activities.

For others it is about continuing to show some performances and events online. That is because they can fund this within their existing budgets and have the requisite skills and technology.

However, some organisations face cost and staff capacity barriers. There can be a very significant cost of bringing in freelance staff to undertake certain specialist tasks, or to improve the overall quality of the product.

Second, some face knowledge barriers. For example:



- A' tuigsinn sùileachaidhean luchd-amais – me càileachd no cruth craolaidh.
- Am modh as fheàrr a thaobh a bhith a' toirt an t-susbaint do luchd-amais. Am bu chòir dìreach pìosan a bhith ann, no bhidio slàn le fo-thiotalan, no tasglann – agus mur a biodh sgrionadh beò ann, dè cho fada an dèidh an tachartais a bu chòir an t-susbaint a bhith ri fhaighinn?

San treas àite, is dòcha gum feumar comhairle mu na dòighean as fheàrr air a bhith a' dèanamh airgead às an t-susbaint air-loidhne.

Dh'fhaoidte faighinn thairis air na bacaidhean sin tro:

- Maoineachadh
- A' clàr-sheòladh bhuidhnean gu tùsan comhairle/ealantais.
- A' misneachadh bhuidhnean cultarail a bhith a' tighinn còmhla gus fèin-fhiosrachadh agus am modh-obrach as fheàrr a cho-roinn.

- Understanding audience expectations-e.g., broadcast quality or format.
- The best approach to providing the content to audiences. Should it be simply clips, or full video with subtitles, or archive - and if not a live screening, then how soon after the event should the content be made available?

Third, advice may be required on the best ways to monetise the online content.

These various barriers could be overcome through:

- Funding.
- Signposting organisations to sources of advice/expertise.
- Encouraging cultural organisations themselves to come together to share experience and best practice.

