

Buidheann Thar-phàrtaidh na Gàidhlig

22 Gearran 2023 18.30

Geàrr-chunntas

Fàilte agus Leisgeulan

Buill

Alasdair Allan, BPA – Aghaidh ri aghaidh

Dòmhnall Camshron, BPA – Air-loidhne

Jenni Minto, BPA (airson puing GISBE) – Aghaidh ri aghaidh

Luchd-aoigheachd le cuireadh

Anna Mhoireach – Air-loidhne

Beathag Mhoireasdan, Eadar-theangair – Air-loidhne

Claire Cullen, Riaghaltas na h-Alba – Air-loidhne

Dùghlas Ansdell, Riaghaltas na h-Alba – Aghaidh ri aghaidh

Dòmhnall MacNèill, Comunn na Gàidhlig – Aghaidh ri aghaidh

Dòmhnall Mhoireasdan, Stòrlann – Air-loidhne

Eileen NicDhòmhnaill, BBC Naidheachdan – Air-loidhne

Fionnlagh MacLeòid – Air-loidhne

Iain Craig – Air-loidhne

Jeff Justice – Air-loidhne

Joan Esson, Foghlam Alba – Air-loidhne

Marilyn Waters, SQA – Air-loidhne

Peigi NicIllinnein – Air-loidhne

Scott Crawford – Air-loidhne

Konstanze McLeod – Air-loidhne

Buill Buidhne nach eil nam Buill

Caoimhín Ó Donnaíle, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – Air-loidhne

DJ Mac an t-Saoir, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean – Air-loidhne

Iain MacAmhlaigh, Comunn na Gàidhlig – Air-loidhne

Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – Air-loidhne

Orla NicDhòmhnaill, Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Aghaidh ri aghaidh

Shona NicIllinnein, Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Aghaidh ri aghaidh

Leisgeulan

Ealasaid NicDhòmhnaill, MG ALBA

Seumas Greumach, An Comunn Gàidhealach

Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh mu dheireadh: 20 Samhain 2022

Dh'aontaich Buill ri geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh.

SpeakGaelic agus Duolingo

Chur an Cathraiche fàilte air Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh. Is e Manaidsear Ionnsachaidh Inbhich aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a th' ann agus thug e seachad cùl-fhiosrachadh air Speak Gaelic. 'S e com-pàirteachas eadar Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, MG ALBA agus BBC ALBA a th' ann an SpeakGaelic a chaidh a mhaoineachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha mar fhrèam nàiseanta airson ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig. Thugadh fios air na goireasan a tha na lùib agus na diofar dhòighean sam urrainn do luchd-ionnsachaidh na goireasan seo a chleachdadh. Thugadh fios gu bheilear an dùil le bhith a' cruthachadh pròiseact agus brannd mar SpeakGaelic a thèid a' cleachdadh air feadh na dùthcha, gun tèid barrachd dhaoine an sàs ann, agus le goireasan iomchaidh aig gach ìre gun cùm iad orra gu ruige fileantas sa Ghàidhlig.

Thugadh fios air cuid de na buannachdan an lùib a' phròiseict, na lùib: Cùrsa ùr-nòsach nàiseanta do luchd-ionnsachaidh, Ionnsachadh air feadh na dùthcha air deagh bhun-stèidh, slighe ionnsachaidh oifigeil shoilleir agus iomadh rud eile.

Chaidh cuid de na goireasan ionnsachadh aig SpeakGaelic a cho-roinnn agus rinn e mineachadh air na diofar ìrean. Thathar an dòchas gum bi am pròiseact a' neartachadh ionnsachadh coimhearsnachd air feadh na dùthcha agus gu bheil am pròiseact gu lèir, goireasan teagaisg, cùrsa air-loidhne, prògraman TBh agus rèidio, susbaint air na meadhanan sòisealta agus pod-chraolaidhean uile a' beartachadh na slighe ionnsachaidh, agus aig a' cheann thall gum bi barrachd dhaoine a' bruidhinn na Gàidhlig mar thoradh air.

Thug Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh cùl-fhiosrachadh seachad air a' chùrsa Duolingo sa Ghàidhlig. Chaidh an cùrsa a chur air bhog san t-Samhain 2019 agus tha 461,000 ga chleachdadh gu cunbhalach tha a-nis agus 1.5millean air tòiseachadh air a chùrsa. Nuair a chaidh Duolingo a chur air bhog mar chompanaidh phoblach ann an 2021, ghabh Sabhal Mòr Ostaig an dleastanas airson a bhith a' leasachadh agus a' cumail a' chùrsa a' dol. Tha dithis luchd-obrach Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ag obair air leasachadh a' chùrsa agus ag amas air grunn sgilean ùra fhoillseachadh ann an 2023 gus na slighean ionnsachadh a bheartachadh.

Chaidh ceist a thogail a bheil dàta ann air na daoine a bha air an cùrsa tòiseachadh. Thug Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh fios nach robh mòran fios ri fhaighinn ach thug e fios seachad bho Shabhal Mòr Ostaig agus chaidh innse nach eil iad an dùil gum bi daoine ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig gu fileantas air Duolingo ach gun toir e misneachd dhaibh gus barrachd ionnsachadh.

Chaidh ceist a thogail a bheilear an dùil gun tig fàs air a' chùrsa nuair a thig barrachd ghoireasan agus thug Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh barrachd fios air na goireasan air a bheil iad ag obair agus mar a thathar an dùil gun toir iad seo buaidh.

Thug an Cathraiche taing do Mhàrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh airson an taisbeanadh.

MG ALBA : Rannsachadh air Mion Chànanan bhon Chomataidh Didseatach, Cultar, Meadhanan is Spòrs

Leis nach robh e comasach do dh'Ealasaid NicDhòmhnaill a bhith an làthair, thug Shona NicIllinnein iomradh air a chuspair.

Thugadh fios gun do thòisich an co-chomhairleachadh san Fhaoilleach 2023 agus gun robh e fosgailte gu 10 Màrt 2023. Bha Comataidh DCMS aig Pàrlamaid na Rìoghachd Aonaichte (RA) a' sireadh fianais sgrìobhte air mion-chànanan sna meadhanan. 'S e cuspair air leth cudromach a th' ann do MG ALBA air sgàth 's gur e cumhachd glèidhte a th' anns na meadhanan is dleastanas aig an RA airson craoladh. Tha MG ALBA air a bhith a' dèanamh argamaid gus tuilleadh maoinachadh fhaighinn leis gu bheil buidseat nach eil air atharrachadh thar nam bliadhnaichean a' toirt buaidh air an obair 's urrainn dhaibh dèanamh. Thugadh fios gu bheil dìth àrdachadh sa bhuidseat a' ciallachadh barrachd ath-sheallaidhean agus nas lugha de phrògraman ùra.

Thugadh fios mu na ceistean san rannsachadh:

- 1) What are the key factors determining whether an indigenous minority language thrives?*
- 2) What lessons can be learned from countries whose populations achieve widespread fluency in both a majority and indigenous minority language?*
- 3) What should be the criteria for judging whether a minority language should receive official status?*
- 4) What should be the role of the UK Government in supporting and developing indigenous minority languages?*

Bheireadh tagradh MG ALBA cunntas air na prìomh phuingeann a chaidh a dhèanamh san Lèirsinn aca, is iad: Solarachadh reachdail airson Meadhanan Seirbheis Poblach Gàidhlig; mCùmhnant tasgaidh ùr do na meadhanan Gàidhlig agus na meadhanan Gàidhlig mar mheadhan air fàs, stèidhichte agus le cumhachd bho na coimhearsnachdan.

Bha MG ALBA a' conaltradh ri raon de bhuidhnean agus dhaoine fa leth gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil feumalachdan nam meadhanan Gàidhlig mar phrìomh chuspair anns na freagairtean a thaobh Gàidhlig na h-Alba. Thugadh fios gum feum àite tèarainite a bhith aig na meadhanan Gàidhlig àite san raon dhidseatach ma tha a' Ghàidhlig gu bhith soirbheachail taobh a-staigh saoghal a tha ag atharrachadh fad na tìde.

Thug Shona NicIllinnein fios gun robh Bòrd na Gàidhlig air moladh san fhreagairt aca gum bu chòir Pàrlamaid an RA inbhe Dualchas Cultarail Do-bheantainn dhan Ghàidhlig, leis gum feum seo tighinn bho Phàrlamaid na RA agus gum biodh an aithne seo cudromach dhan Ghàidhlig.

Chaidh ceist a thogail am biodh an rannsachadh a' dèiligeadh ri cuspairean eile a tha fo smachd na Rìoghachd Aonaichte, mar eisimpleir inbhe oifigeil don Ghàidhlig. Fhreagar Shona NicIllinnein gun do thog Bòrd na Gàidhlig san fhreagairt aca gum bu chòir dhan RA an aon ìre inbhe a thoirt dhan Ghàidhlig ann an Alba 's a th' aig a' Chuimris sa Chuimrigh. Chaidh a' phuuing a thogail cuideachd leis gur e an DCMS a tha a' dèiligeadh ris an rannsachadh, gum biodh iad a' beachdachadh air Èireann a Tuath cuideachd agus gur docha gum bi na tha tighinn às a toirt buaidh air poilitigs an sin cuideachd.

Chaidh puing a thogail mu cho sònraichte math a tha na goireasan air a' BhBC agus gum biodh tuilleadh maoineachadh feumail gus seo a chumail aig àrd-ìre.

Chuir Shona NicIlinnein cudrom air a' phuing gum biodh raon farsaing de fhreagairtean, bho bhuidhnean agus daoine fa leth, air leth feumail gus dèanamh cinnteach gum faic an DCMS cho cudromach 's a tha ceist na Gàidhlig an-dràsta agus san àm ri teachd. Thèid freagairt MG ALBA fhoillseachadh ro dhùnadh na rannsachadh air 10 Mart 2023.

GISBE

Thug an Cathraiche fios, à leth Sgioba na Gàidhlig aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba, gun robh a' cho-chomhairle air tòiseachadh air Plana Gàidhlig ùr na Pàrlamaid agus fios gum biodh seo fosgailte gu 3 Giblean 2023. Bha iad airson beachdan a chluinntinn bho BhPA is an luchd-obrach, bhon phoball agus bho luchd-obrach na Pàrlamaid. Seo an ceangal: [Gaelic Language Plan / Plana Gàidhlig - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#). No faodar faighinn a-mach mu dheidhinn air Twitter @ParlAlba.

Chaidh innse gur e Seachdain na Gàidhlig a bh' ann. Thugadh taing dhan a h-uile duine a bha air tachartasan a chur air dòigh agus a bha trang air na meadhanan sòisealta air feadh an t-saoghail. Bha fàs ri fhaicinn bhon uiridh agus bha seo gu math brosnachail. Thugadh taing gu sònraichte do Hands Up For Trad a chruthaich an t-Seachdain agus a tha ga brosnachadh.

Ceann-là na h-Ath Choinneimh

Thèid an ath choinneamh a chumail air 09 Cèitean 2023 aig 18.30.

Cross-Party Group on Gaelic

22 February 2023 18.30

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Alasdair Allan, MSP – In person

Donald Cameron, MSP – Online

Jenni Minto, MSP (for AOCB) – In person

Invited Guests

Anna Murray – Online

Beathag Morrison, Translator – Online

Claire Cullen, Scottish Government – Online

Douglas Ansdell, Scottish Government – In person

Donald MacNeil, Comunn na Gàidhlig – In person

Donald Morrison, Stòrlann – Online

Eileen MacDonald, BBC Naidheachdan – Online

Finlay MacLeod – Online

Iain Craig – Online

Jeff Justice – Online

Joan Esson, Education Scotland – Online

Marilyn Waters, SQA – Online

Peigi MacLennan – Online

Scott Crawford – Online

Konstanze McLeod – Online

Marilyn Waters – Online

Non-MSP Group Members

Caoimhín Ó Donnaíle, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – Online

DJ MacIntyre, University of the Highlands and Islands – Online

Iain MacAulay, Comunn na Gàidhlig – Online

Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – Online

Orla MacDonald, Bòrd na Gàidhlig – In person

Shona MacLennan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig – In person

Apologies

Ealasaid MacDonald, MG ALBA

Seumas Graham, An Comunn Gàidhealach

Minutes of Previous Meeting: 20 November 2022

Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

SpeakGaelic and Duolingo

The Chair welcomed Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh, who is the Adult Learning Manager at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh provided information on SpeakGaelic, a partnership between Sabhal Mòr Ostaig MG ALBA and BBC ALBA which has been funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government and provides a national framework for learning Gaelic. Information was given on the resources available and the ways in which these could be used. It was noted that by creating a project and brand like SpeakGaelic that can be used throughout the country, it is hoped that more people will get involved and with appropriate resources at all levels, that they will continue to achieve fluency in Gaelic.

Some of the benefits of the project are that it provides: an innovative national course for learners; a basis for learning across the country; a clear official learning path and many more.

He shared some of the learning resources at SpeakGaelic and explained the different levels. It is hoped that the project will strengthen community learning across the country and that the whole project teaching resources; online course; TV and radio programmes; social media content and podcasts all strengthen the opportunities for learning, and that as a result more people will speak Gaelic.

Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh then provided information on the Gaelic Duolingo course. The course was launched in November 2019 and now 461,000 are using it regularly, with 1.5 million having started the course. When Duolingo was launched as a public company in 2021, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig took on the responsibility of developing and keeping the course going. Two employees of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are working on the development of the course and aim to publish several new skills in 2023 to develop routes to learning.

A question was raised as to whether there was data on those who had started the course. Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh informed that there was not much information available, but he provided information from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and it was informed that they do not expect people to learn Gaelic fluently on Duolingo but that it will encourage them to learn more.

A question was raised as to whether growth is expected in the course when more resources are released and Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh provided more information on the resources they are working with and how these are expected to have an impact.

The Chair thanked Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh for the presentation.

MG ALBA: Inquiry on Minority Languages from the Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport Committee

As Ealasaid MacDonald was unable to attend, Shona MacLennan gave an overview of the topic.

Members were informed that the consultation began in January 2023 and was open until 10 March 2023. The DCMS Committee at the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament was seeking written evidence on minority languages and the media. It is a very important topic for MG ALBA because the media is a reserved power, and the UK has a responsibility for broadcasting. MG ALBA has been making its bid for more funding because a static budget over the years affects the work they can do. Members were told that a tight budget meant more reruns and fewer new programmes.

The research questions were outlined:

- 1) What are the key factors determining whether an indigenous minority language thrives?*
- 2) What lessons can be learned from countries whose populations achieve widespread fluency in both a majority and indigenous minority language?*
- 3) What should be the criteria for judging whether a minority language should receive official status?*
- 4) What should be the role of the UK Government in supporting and developing indigenous minority languages?*

MG ALBA's response would describe the main points made in their Lèirsinn, namely: Legislative provision for Gaelic Public Service Media; A new investment contract for the Gaelic media and Gaelic media as a means of growth, established and empowered by the communities.

MG ALBA communicated with a range of organisations and individuals to ensure that the needs of the Gaelic media are a key issue in the responses regarding Gaelic in Scotland. It was noted that Gaelic media needs a secure place in the digital field if Gaelic is to be successful in an ever-changing world.

Shona MacLennan informed that Bòrd na Gàidhlig had recommended in their response that the UK Parliament should provide the status of Intangible Cultural Heritage to Gaelic, as this must come from the UK Parliament and this recognition would be important for Gaelic.

A question was raised as to whether the research would deal with other subjects under the control of the UK Government, for example official status for Gaelic. Shona MacLennan replied that Bòrd na Gàidhlig had recommended in their response that the UK Parliament should give the same level of status to Gaelic in Scotland as Welsh has in Wales. It was also raised that since it is the DCMS who are undertaking the investigation, they may be considering Northern Ireland as well and that any outcome may affect politics there as well.

A point was made about the quality of the resources at the BBC and that more funding would be needed to keep this at such a high standard.

Shona MacLennan emphasised the point that a wide range of responses, from organisations and individuals, would be extremely useful to ensure that the DCMS sees how important Gaelic is now and in the future. MG ALBA's response will be published before the inquiry closes on 10 March 2023.

AOCB

The Chair informed the group, on behalf of the Gaelic Team at the Scottish Parliament, that a consultation on the Parliament's new Gaelic Language Plan had started and informed that

this would be open until 3 April 2023. They wanted to hear views from MSPs and their staff, from the public and from Parliament staff. The link was available here: [Gaelic Language Plan / Plana Gàidhlig - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#). Or more information could be found on Twitter @ParlAlba.

It was noted that it was World Gaelic Language Week. Thanks were given to everyone who had organised events and who were posting on social media around the world. It was clear that the event had grown since last year and this was very encouraging. Special thanks were given to Hands Up For Trad who created the Week and who are promoting it.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 09 May 2023 at 18.30