

<p><b>Sgrùdadh Buidseit 2024-25: Maoineachadh airson Cultair</b></p> <p><b>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>14 Lùnastal 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Budget Scrutiny 2024-25: Funding for Culture</b></p> <p><b>Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>14 August 2023</b></p>
<p><b>1. Anns an aithisg ro-bhuidseit againn an-uiridh, thug a’ Chomataidh cunntas air àrainneachd obrach roinn a’ chultair mar a bhith a’ fulang bho shuidheachadh far a bheil grunn duilgheadasan a’ tighinn còmhla aig an aon àm: cuideam buidseit fad-ùine, nas lugha de theachd a-steach, agus cosgaisean obrachaidh nas àirde. Ciamar a tha an suidheachadh seo air atharrachadh thairis air na 12 mìosan a dh’fhalbh? Dè a’ bhuidheann a bh’ aig Buidseit 2023-24 air roinn a’ chultair?</b></p> <p><b>Ro-ràdh</b></p> <p>Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, ’s e buidheann poblach neo-roinneil de Riaghaltas na h-Alba a th’ ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Is e a’ phrìomh bhuidheann ann an Alba air a bheil dleastanas gus leasachadh Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus gus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba mu chùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>’S e amas a’ Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23<sup>1</sup> gun tèid “a’ Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsainge de shuidheachaidhean”. Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a’ cuimseachadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. In our pre-budget report last year, the Committee described the operating environment of the culture sector as facing a “perfect storm” of long-term budget pressures, reduced income generation, and increased operating costs. How has this evolved over the last 12 months? What impact has the Budget for 2023-24 had on the culture sector?</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23<sup>13</sup> is “that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations”. This will be achieved by focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the use of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Increasing the learning of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.</li> </ul>

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

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bhith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt am buil nam buannachdan eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Tachraidh sin tro bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach. 'S e ar n-amas gum faicear is gun cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras nàiseanta.

Thathar a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na dùthcha. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus 57,600 dhiubh a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Tha iarrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtMG) a' leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth nan 32 ùghdarrasan ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan sa bhun-sgoil. A-nis tha còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlaim Thràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile is Àrd-sgoile. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas bidh feum air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.

Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha a' mhòr-chuid (71%) bho thaobh a-muigh na RA, le 36% anns na Stàitean Aonaichte a-mhàin.

Tha cur air bhog goireas craolaidh agus teagaisg air-loidhne SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'inbhich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh. Tha timcheall air 400,000 neach-ionnsachaidh air fhaicinn bho chaidh a chuir air bhog.

This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through fully realising the social and economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national asset.

Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic, social, and cultural benefits.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The majority (71%) are from outside the UK, with 36% in the United States alone.

The launch of SpeakGaelic in October 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language. It has seen around 400,000 learners since its launch.



Fhuair “Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Pòball na h-Alba air a’ Ghàidhlig”<sup>2</sup>, gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012:

- A’ cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.
- Gu bheil a’ cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun tuig iad co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig air a dhol am meud bho 25% gu 41%.

A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine a’ smaointinn gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig an dàrna cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.

Lorg suirbhidh de dhaoine òga (iadsan eadar 11 agus 26 bliadhna a dh’aois)<sup>3</sup> gun robh trian (33%) den luchd-fhreagairt ag ràdh gu robh iad ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an dòigh air choreigin. Thuir tuilleadh air leth (59%) den luchd-fhreagairt aig nach robh a’ Ghàidhlig gun robh ùidh aca ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh a’ chàinain. Cuideachd, 72% den luchd-fhreagairt gu lèir a’ meas cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig mar rud luachmhor no fìor-luachmhor.

### Cudromachd Cultar na Gàidhlig

Tha a’ Ghàidhlig na stòras cultarach air leth agus na pàirt mhòr de dhearbha-aithne chultarach na h-Alba. Is iomadh cruth dualchasach agus ùr-nòsach de dh’ealainean na h-Alba a bhios a’ tarraing air cultar na Gàidhlig: ged nach bi iad uile air an toirt seachad sa chàinain. Mar eisimpleir, tàirnidh iomadh còmhlan-pìoba is còmhlan folk, buidhnean dannsa Gàidhealach, geamaichean Gàidhealach agus cèilidhean air cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig.

Tha ealainean is cultar na Gàidhlig rim faotainn air feadh na h-Alba. Gheibhear iad chan ann a-mhàin ann an coimhearsnachdan dùthchail traidiseanta air a’ Ghàidhealtachd is sna h-Eileanan, ach tha iad an làthair gu ìre mhòr ann an coimhearsnachdan bailtean-mòra na h-

The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland”<sup>14</sup> found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.
- The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.

Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland’s cultural heritage.

A survey of young people (those aged between 11 and 26 years)<sup>15</sup> found that one third (33%) of respondents stated that were learning Gaelic in some form. More than half (59%) of the respondents who could not speak Gaelic stated that they were interested in learning the language. Also, 72% of all respondents rated Gaelic culture and heritage as quite or very valuable.

### Significance of Gaelic Culture

Gaelic is a unique cultural asset and a major part of Scottish cultural identity. Many traditional and new forms of Scottish arts draw upon Gaelic culture: although not all will be expressed in the Gaelic language. For example, many pipe bands, folk bands, Highland dancing groups, Highland Games and cèilidhs will draw upon Gaelic culture and heritage.

Gaelic culture can be found across Scotland. Not only is it in the traditional island and rural communities in the Highlands and Islands; it also has a strong presence in communities in Scotland’s cities. It is important that its

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>



<p>Alba cuideachd. Tha e cudromach gu bheil ag aithneachadh na bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ri beatha chultarach na h-Alba.</p> <p>Tha Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig ag ràdh gu bheil "Buaidh mhòr aig na h-ealainean Gàidhlig an dà chuid air coimhearsnachd a' chànan agus gu nàiseanta". 'S e fear de phrìomh raointean a' Phlana a' brosnachadh luach cultarail na Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Tha Ro-innleachd Cultair Riaghaltas na h-Alba airson Alba<sup>4</sup> a' comharrachadh àite cultar na Gàidhlig ann a bhith a' cumail taic ri, agus a' toirt fàs air, a' chànan. Tha e ag ràdh gur e amas Riaghaltas na h-Alba - "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 de seo".</p> <p>Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh gu bheil "dreuchd riatanach aig MG ALBA ann a bhith a' toirt taic agus ag adhartachadh na Gàidhlig agus a cultar". Tha cuid nach beag de na prògraman a bhios MG ALBA a' toirt seachad a' tarraing air gnìomhachd chultarach nan coimhearsnachdan, leithid ceòl, dannsa agus seachas, agus bidh iad a' cur cuideam air beartas agus iomadachd cultar na Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Gu goirid, is fhiach e taic a chumail ri ealainean is cultar na Gàidhlig air a sgàth fhèin agus tha e cuideachd a' cumail taic ri bhith a' toirt fàs na Gàidhlig.</p>	<p>contribution to the cultural life of the nation is recognised.</p> <p>The National Gaelic Language Plan states that "The impact of the Gaelic arts is immense both for the language community and nationally". One of the Plan's Priority areas is Promoting the cultural value of Gaelic.</p> <p>Scottish Government's Culture Strategy for Scotland<sup>16</sup> highlights the role of Gaelic culture in supporting and growing the language. It states that Scottish Government's aim is "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".</p> <p>The Strategy also states that "MG ALBA... has a critical role in supporting and promoting Gaelic language and culture". A significant portion of the programming offered by MG ALBA draws on cultural activity, such as music, dance, and storytelling, and highlights the richness and diversity of Gaelic culture.</p> <p>In summary, supporting Gaelic arts and culture is intrinsically worthwhile and also supports the growth of the Gaelic language.</p>
<p><b>Buaidhean Eaconamach</b></p> <p>Tha fianais a tha a' sìor fhàs ann air cho mòr 's a bhios gnìomhachasan cultarail agus cruthachail a' cur ri eaconamaidh na h-Alba.</p> <p>Tha rannsachadh ann an Glaschu<sup>5</sup> a' sealltainn gu bheil buaidh eaconamach na Gàidhlig air tachartasan leithid Celtic Connections, FilmG, Farpais Còmhlan Pìoba na</p>	<p><b>Economic Impacts</b></p> <p>There is a growing body of evidence on the significant contribution of Gaelic culture and creative industries to Scotland's economy.</p> <p>Research<sup>17</sup> in Glasgow shows that the economic impact of Gaelic on events such as Celtic Connections, FilmG, World Pipe Band</p>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2020/02/culture-strategy-scotland/documents/culture-strategy-scotland/culture-strategy-scotland/govscot%3Adocument/culture-strategy-scotland.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/29502>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2020/02/culture-strategy-scotland/documents/culture-strategy-scotland/culture-strategy-scotland/govscot%3Adocument/culture-strategy-scotland.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/29502>



<p>Cruinne agus Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba timcheall air £7.2m gach bliadhna.</p> <p>Thug an sgrùdadh tuairmse iomlan seachad co-ionann ri 700 obair làn-ùine a mar thoradh air a' Ghàidhlig a rèir na h-anailis a bh' air a taisbeanadh san aithisg, le timcheall air £21.6 millean de làn-luach cuirte-ris (GVA) sa bhliadhna. Thàinig mu 40% de na h-obraichean seo bho na Gnìomhachasan Cruthachail (23% den t-suim iomlan) no bho Thurasachd agus Tachartasan (16%). Thàinig mu dhà-thrian den GVA bho na Gnìomhachasan Cruthachail (56% den t-suim iomlan) no bho Thurasachd agus Tachartasan (10%). Cho-dhùin an aithisg “nach biodh roinn chruthachail Ghlaschu a ceart cho beothail às aonais na Gàidhlig”.</p> <p>Tha am measadh buaidh eaconamach as ùire aig MG ALBA<sup>6</sup> a' sealltainn gu bheil 340 obraichean FTE ann an Alba a' faighinn taic bho obair na buidhne a' toirt seachad GVA de £17.2 millean - £1.34 airson gach £1 a chaidh a thasgadh agus gu bheil comas soilleir ann airson fàs a bharrachd.</p> <p>Tha Rannsachadh<sup>7</sup> air sealltainn cuideachd gu bheil gluasad nam Fèisean (fèisean teagaisg ealainean Ghàidhlig stèidhichte sa choimhearsnachd) a' cumail taic ri mu 116 obraichean FTE air feadh na h-Alba – a' gabhail a-steach 75 FTE air a' Ghàidhealtachd is anns na h-Eileanan – a' cruthachadh teachd a-steach bliadhnail de mu £3m bho chosnadh ann an Alba.</p> <p>Bidh gnìomhachdan cultarach Gàidhlig a' tàladh barrachd air daoine a tha a fuireach ann an Alba. Bidh iad a' brosnachadh luchd-turais a thighinn a dh'Alba. Tha Roinnleachd turasachd na Gàidhlig do Dh'Alba<sup>8</sup> a' cur an cèill gu bheil “A' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar ... mar Fheartan Margaidheachd Sònraichte ... agus faodaidh iad a bhith nam pàirt dùthchasach is brìoghmhor de thuras a ghabhas luchd-tadhail a dh'Alba”.</p>	<p>Championships and the Scottish Gaelic Awards is £7.2m annually.</p> <p>That study gave an overall estimate of more than 700 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) jobs that can be attributed to Gaelic based on the analysis presented in the report, with around £22 million of GVA per annum. Around 40% of the jobs come from either Creative Industries (23% of the total) or Tourism and Events (16%). Two thirds of the total GVA come from Creative Industries (56% of the total) or Tourism and Events (10%). The study concluded that “Without Gaelic, Glasgow's creative sector would not be as vibrant”.</p> <p>MG ALBA's most recent economic impact assessment<sup>18</sup> shows 340 FTE jobs in Scotland are supported by the organisation's work providing GVA of £17.2 million - £1.34 for every £1 invested and clear potential for further growth.</p> <p>Research<sup>19</sup> has also shown that the Fèis movement (community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals) supports around 116 FTE jobs across Scotland - including 75 FTE in the Highlands and Islands - generating an annual income from employment in Scotland of around £3m.</p> <p>Gaelic cultural activities attract not only Scottish residents. They encourage tourists to visit Scotland. The Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland<sup>20</sup> states that “The Gaelic language and its associated culture...(is)...a Unique Selling Point differentiator and authentic part of the experience of visiting Scotland”.</p>
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<sup>6</sup> <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.feisean.org/wp-content/uploads/Westbrook-Report.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.visitscotland.org/about-us/what-we-do/working-in-partnership/gaelic-tourism-strategy>

<sup>18</sup> <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.feisean.org/wp-content/uploads/Westbrook-Report.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.visitscotland.org/about-us/what-we-do/working-in-partnership/gaelic-tourism-strategy>



Tha an Ro-innleachd 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". Tha rannsachadh eile<sup>9</sup> air faighinn a-mach gu bheil "1 às gach 3 neach-tadhail ag ràdh gu bheil ùidh aca ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh barrachd mun Ghàidhlig nuair a thig iad a dh'Alba".

### An t-àite aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig

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' libhrigeadh ghnìomhan a tha a' cuideachadh ann a bhith a' coileanadh amasan Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

Tha a' mhòr-chuid den mhaoinachadh seo a' dol gu com-pàirtichean libhrigidh (agus tha cultar aig cridhe an luachan agus an rùn aca uile), a' gabhail a-steach:

- Ceòlas Uibhist. A' cur air adhart cothroman bogadh sa Ghàidhlig ann an Uibhist a Deas a' gabhail a-steach prògram ealanta de thachartasan bliadhnaile agus clasaichean Gàidhlig cunbhalach.
- Comhairle nan Leabhraichean. A' tabhann stiùireadh agus taic foillseachaidh do roinn litreachais na Gàidhlig, 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 Rioghail gach bliadhna agus a' toirt taic do Mhòdan ionadail air feadh Alba.
- Fèisean nan Gàidheal. A' cumail taic ri bhith a' ruith fèisean ionadail air feadh na h-Alba a bhios a' gabhail a-steach ceòl is oideachadh ealain sa Ghàidhlig.
- Ionad Chaluim Cille Ìle. Ionad Gàidhlig ann an Ìle agus cuideachadh le bhith a' cleachdadh agus ag

The Strategy notes that Scotland has a "dynamic, contemporary Gaelic cultural scene spanning music, festivals such as Celtic Connections and fèisean, regional and national Mòds, literature, drama". Other research<sup>21</sup> has found "1 in 3 visitors stating they have an interest in learning more about Gaelic when they come to Scotland".

### Role of Bòrd na Gàidhlig

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

This funding is mostly to delivery partners (all of which have culture central to their values and mission), including:

- 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 which provide Gaelic music and arts tuition.
- Ionad Chaluim Cille Ìle. Provides a Gaelic hub in Islay to help support the usage and

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-life-working-group-economic-social-opportunities-gaelic-report-cabinet-secretary-finance-economy/documents/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-life-working-group-economic-social-opportunities-gaelic-report-cabinet-secretary-finance-economy/documents/>



ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig do luchd-tadhail an ionaid agus tro bhith ag ionnsachadh aig astar.

- An Lòchran. Ionad Gàidhlig ann an Glaschu a tha a' lìbhrigeadh prògram ealain Gàidhlig.
- Theatre Gu Leòr. A' tabhann taic phroifeiseanta don roinn dràma Ghàidhlig le cuairtean, cothroman trànaidh do luchd-ealain agus taic choitcheann agus adhartachadh den roinn.
- Acair. A' foillseachadh litreachas na Gàidhlig, a' toirt taic leasachaidh do dh'ùghdaran agus eadar-theangairean agus a' brosnachadh litreachas na Gàidhlig aig tachartasan air feadh na h-Alba.

Aig an àm seo tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt maoinachadh iomadh-bliadhna do ochd buidhnean com-pàirteachaidh lìbhrigidh anns an earrainn ealain/cultair. Tha na com-pàirtichean lìbhrigidh air rèiteachaidhean maoinachaidh trì-bliadhna aig an àm seo. Nas fhaide air adhart ann an 2023/24 gluaisidh iad gu dòigh-obrach nas sùbailte le aontaidhean suas ri 5-bliadhna. Cuiridh seo ris na buannachdan bho mhaoineachadh ioma-bhliadhna leis gum bi e:

- A' leigeil leis na buidhnean 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.
- Tha seo a' cruthachadh comas gnìomhan a th' air am planadh a ghluasad eadar bliadhnaichean mar tha feum air seo.
- Is urrainn do mhaoineachadh ioma-bliadhna a tha barantaichte cuideachadh ann a bhith a' lìbhrigeadh airgead a-steach bho bhuidhnean eile.

**Tha còmhraidhean le ar buidhnean com-pàirteachais lìbhrigidh air an fhreagairt againn dhan cho-chomhairle seo fhiosrachadh mar a tha air a mhìneachadh gu h-ìosal.**

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.
- Acair. Publishes Gaelic literature, provides development support to authors and translators and promotes Gaelic literature at events across Scotland.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig currently provides multi-year funding to eight delivery partner organisations in the arts/culture sector. The delivery partners are currently on three-year funding arrangements. Later in 2023/24 they will move to a more flexible approach with up to 5-year agreements. This will further increase the benefits from multi-year funding in that it will:

- Allow the organisations to plan with more certainty, including staff retention and recruitment.
- Reduce administration from not having to make an annual funding application. That is particularly beneficial for organisations with a small number of staff.
- Offer the ability to move planned activities between years as required.
- Provide guaranteed funding that can help lever in funding from other organisations.

**Discussions with our delivery partner organisations have informed our response to this consultation as set out below.**



## Cuideaman Buidseit

Bha Bòrd na Gàidhlig comasach air àrdachadh maoineachaidh cuibhrichte bliadhna gu bliadhna a sholarachadh. Bha seo gus dèiligeadh ri cosgaisean bunaiteach a tha a' sìor fhàs – agus àrdachadh ann an ìrean tuarastail luchd-obrach gu sònraichte. Bidh sinn a' toirt feart air Stiùireadh Obair Chothromach an Toiseach aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba<sup>10</sup>. Ach, leis a' bhuidseit a tha ri fhaighinn tha an ìre de mhaoineachadh a bharrachd air a bhith nas ìsle na ìre na h-atmhorachd.

Tha grunn de na buidhnean cuideachd a' faighinn maoineachadh bho Alba Chruthachail a tha ann an suidheachadh an-dràsta a tha a' fàgail gum bi na buidseatan aca fhathast fo chuideam mòr. Tha iad ag obair air an stèidh gum fuirich am buidseat a tha ri fhaotainn airson taic-airgid ioma-bliadhna aig an aon ìre no gun lughdaich seo. Tha seo ann an co-theacs far a bheil mòran bhuidhnean a' faighinn ìrean maoineachaidh nach eil air atharrachadh fad grunn bhliadhnaichean. Tha seo na ghearradh ann am maoineachadh do bhuidhnean bho bhliadhna gu bliadhna a' gabhail a-steach na h-atmhorachd do na buidhnean a tha a' faighinn taic chunbhalach an-dràsta. Chan eil seo a' toirt aghaidh air mar a tha cosgaisean obrachaidh ag èirigh.

Aig an àm nuair a bhathar a' sgrìobhadh na freagairt seo, bha na buidhnean a' feitheamh ri fosgladh iarrtasan gu prògram maoineachaidh ùr ioma-bliadhna Alba Chruthachail .

Dh'aithris iad:

- Gum bidh seo gu math farpaiseach leis an àireimh de bhuidhnean a dh'fhaodadh tagradh a dhèanamh.
- Gu bheil mì-chinnt ann mun ìre maoineachaidh iomlan a bhios ri fhaotainn agus mun ìre is gum b' urrainn seo a' ciallachadh gum biodh gearradh anns a' mhaoineachadh aca.
- Gu bheil mì-chinnt mu dè na suimeannan a bu choir iarraidh - agus iad a' faicinn cunnart nach

## Budget Pressures

For the relevant organisations Bòrd na Gàidhlig have managed to provide limited year on year funding increases. That is to address growing core costs - and increased staff wage levels in particular. We refer to Fair Work First Guidance provided by Scottish Government<sup>22</sup>. However, with the budget that is available the level of additional funding has been less than the level of general inflation.

A number of the organisations also receive funding from Creative Scotland whose current position is that budgets will continue to be under severe pressure. They are working on the premise that the budget available to support multi-year funding will remain static or reduce. That is in a context where many organisations have received unchanged nominal levels of funding for a number of years. This represents year-on-year real terms cuts for organisations currently supported on a regular basis. This does not address rising operating costs.

At the time of writing this response, the organisations were awaiting the opening of applications to Creative Scotland's new multi-year funding programme.

They reported:

- That it will be very competitive given the number of organisations likely to bid.
- Being uncertain over the total level of funding that will be available and the extent to which this could mean a real terms decrease in their funding.
- How much to bid for - with a perceived risk that bidding too high could mean ending up receiving no funding at all.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance-2/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance-2/>





fhaighear maoinachadh idir ma nithear tagraidhean ro àrd.

Ach, nochd cuid de na buidhnean misneachd gum faigh iad maoinachadh. Tha sin a' nochdadh na tha iad a' faicinn mar neartan agus/no obair shònraichte na buidhne aca, a bharrachd air eachdraidh de bhith a' libhrigeadh thoraidhean a' cleachdadh maoinachadh làithreach aig Alba Chruthachail.

Sa chumantas, bheir tobraichean maoinachaidh seach Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Alba Chruthachail suimean tòrr nas ìsle. Chaidh aithris gu bheil ùghdarrasan ionadail san fharsaingeachd a' lùghdachadh maoinachadh do bhuidhnean cultarach, agus nach eil Ro-innleachd Chultarach aig mòran a-nis - ged nach eil seo fìor a thaobh a h-uile comhairle.

Bu chòir toirt fa-near cuideachd nach eil a' mhòr-chuid de na buidhnean ann an suidheachadh far a bheil iad gu mòr an eisimeil aon tobar maoinachaidh – m.e., tha grunn dhiubh a' faighinn maoinachadh an dà chuid bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Alba Chruthachail.

### A' togail teachd a-steach

A thaobh teachd a-steach bhuidhnean bho na gnìomhan aca chaidh aithris:

- Mar as trice 's e cuibhreann beag den teachd a-steach iomlan aca an taca ri maoinachadh bho threas-phàrtaidh.
- Tha an ìre de reic nach eil stèidhichte air tachartas air a bhith seasmhach sa chumantas no a' dol am meud beagan.
- Aig cuid de thachartasan tha na daoine a tha an làthair a' cosg nas lugha de dh'airgead na bha iad roimhe agus mar sin ged nach eilear a' dèanamh call, chan eilear a' dèanamh prothaid..
- Tha àireamhan luchd-èisteachd math sa chumantas, ged tha àireamhan nan com-pàirtichean ann an seiseanan ciùil, is msaa, uaireannan fhathast beagan nas ìsle na na h-ìrean ro-Chovid.
- Tha gluasad air a bhith ann bho libhrigeadh/com-pàirteachadh ann an cuirmean aig àm Covid air ais gu tachartasan aghaidh ri aghaidh. Ach, cuid de

However, some of the organisations expressed confidence that they will receive funding. That reflects what they see as the strengths and/or unique activities of their organisation, plus a track record of delivering outputs using current Creative Scotland funding.

Funding sources other than Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland generally provide much lower amounts. It was reported that, in general, local authorities are reducing funding to cultural organisations, while few now have a Cultural Strategy - although there are some exceptions.

It should also be noted that most of the organisations are not in a position where they are heavily dependent on a single funding source - e.g., a number receive funding from both Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland.

### Income Generation

In terms of organisations' income from their activities it was reported that:

- These generally form a small share of overall income compared to third party funding.
- The level of sales that are not event-based have generally been steady or increasing slightly.
- At some events customers are spending less money than before and thus the events only break even.
- Audience numbers are generally good, although in some cases participants in music sessions, etc., remain slightly below pre-Covid levels.
- There has been a move away from the Covid era online delivery/participation in performances back to in-person. However, some organisations have



<p>bhuidhnean air comas air-loidhne a chumail gus leigeil le farpaisich à thall thairis pàirt a ghabhail.</p> <p>Tha na h-àireamhan de chleasaichean ann an tachartasan/farpaisean aig ìrean ro-Covid no beagan nas ìsle na sin, agus chaidh aithris gu bheil àireamhan luchd-oideachaidh làidir. Ach, tha e uaireannan doirbh cuid de sgilean sònraichte fhaighinn, le aon fhèis a' strì gus sgiobaidhean PA fhaighinn mar eisimpleir.</p> <p>Leis an t-suidheachadh ionmhais dùbhlanaich a th' ann an-dràsta, tha grunn de na buidhnean air a bhith a' feuchainn ri cothrom fhaighinn air tobraichean/goireasan maoinachaidh eile. Nam measg bha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bhith a' dol gu for-ghnìomhach do dh'Alba Chruthachail airson gus maoinachadh pròiseact iarraidh.</li> <li>• A' coimhead air com-pàirteachasan airson sponsarachd choimeirsealta.</li> <li>• A' luchd-comhairleachaidh seach a bhith a' fastadh luchd-obrach gus dèiligeadh ri barran is lagan ann an gnìomhachd.</li> <li>• A' coimiseanadh treas-phàrtaidh gus ro-innleachd togail-airgid ullachadh.</li> </ul> <p>Ach, chan eil na goireasan ionmhais no comas luchd-obrach aig cuid de bhuidhnean nas lugha gus dòighean maoinachaidh ùra a rannsachadh.</p> <p>Dh'fhosgail Maoin Cultar is Gnìomhachas na h-Alba a-rithist ann an 2023 ach chan fhada gus an robh barrachd iarrtasan ann na bh' ann de dh'airgead. Dh'fhaodadh seo a bhith a' fàgail gu bheil am maoinachadh air a riarachadh dìreach dhaibhsan a chuir a-steach an toiseach. Tha sinn cuideachd a' tuigsinn nach fhaod a' bhuidheann urrasachd a bhith air na h-ealainean a mhaoineachadh anns na 12 mìosan a dh'fhalbh gus a bhith airidh air pàirt a ghabhail ann.</p> <p>Faodaidh seo ana-cothrom a thoirt air sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail (far a bheil mòran bhuidhnean cultarach Gàidhlig stèidhichte) aig a bheil nas lugha de ghnìomhachasan na sgìrean bailteil agus far am faodadh gnìomhachasan nas motha a bhith a' maoinachadh phròiseactan cultarail gu leantainneach mar-thà.</p>	<p>retained online to allow overseas competitors to participate.</p> <p>Numbers of performers in events/competitions are at or slightly below pre-Covid levels, with tutor numbers reported as strong. However, obtaining some specialist skills can be challenging, with one festival struggling to get PA crews.</p> <p>With the challenging financial climate, a number of the organisations have been looking to access other funding sources/resources. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proactive approach to Creative Scotland for funding a project.</li> <li>• Potential partnerships for corporate sponsorship.</li> <li>• Use of consultants rather than employing staff in order to manage peaks and troughs of activity.</li> <li>• Commissioning a third party to produce a fund-raising strategy.</li> </ul> <p>However, some smaller organisations do not have the financial resources or staff capacity to research new funding avenues.</p> <p>The Culture &amp; Business Scotland Fund reopened in 2023 but it was very quickly oversubscribed. This could mean the funding is allocated simply to those who applied first. We also understand that to qualify the sponsor organisation cannot have funded the arts in the previous 12 months.</p> <p>This can act to disadvantage remote and rural areas (where many Gaelic cultural organisations are based) which have fewer businesses than urban areas and where larger businesses may already be funding cultural projects on an ongoing basis.</p>
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## Cosgaisean Obrachaidh ag èirigh

Tha seo na chùis chudromach do na buidhnean. Tha coltas ann gun robh na h-àrdachaidhean cosgais as motha ann an lùth (àrdachadh suas ri 70%) agus ann an cosgaisean àite-fuirich airson oifigearan tachartais agus feadhainn eile (thathar an dùil gun àrdaich seo 50%). Ann an cuid de chùisean, bha aig buidhnean ri cuotaichean ath-sgrùdaichte fhaighinn leis gu bheil na prìsean làithreach tòrr nas àirde na bha nuair a rinneadh buidseatadh an toiseach.

Am measg àrdachadh cosgais eile a chaidh aithris tha:

- Stuthan na h-oifis.
- Clò-bhualadh - àrdachadh de 30%.
- Cuairean ciùl/cluich - stuthan airson seataichean, cosgaisean connaidh agus àite-fuirich.
- Pàighidhean do threas-phàrtaidhean - m.e, àrdachadh 11% ann an cosgaisean luchd-labhairt do thachartasan.
- Cosgais de bhith a' cur ionad air dòigh, a' gabhail a-steach sgoiltean agus tallaichean baile.

Tha seo ann a' cho-theacsa a leanas:

- Àrdachaidhean maoinachaidh a tha nas ìsle na ìre na h-atmhorachd no gun àrdachadh sam bith ann fiù 's.
- Tha grunn bhuidhnean air buidseit a dhèanamh airson tachartasan a' cleachdadh modal cothromachaidh airgid ach tha na cosgaisean an da-rìribh nas àirde na bha dùil.

Mar thoradh air seo, tha grunn bhuidhnean a' lughdachadh na h-àireimh de na gnìomhachdan a tha iad a' cur air dòigh. Mar eisimpleir:

*Tha àireamh nas lugha de ghnìomhachdan anns a' bhuidseit ùr againn. Bha an t-airgead tùsail nas lugha na dh'iarr sinn agus tha e buailteach a bhith a' leantainn aig na h-aon suimean a' ciallachadh gu bheil nas lugha de dh'airgead ri cosg.*

*Mar sin, tha brùthadh mòr ann - tha e a' lughdachadh nas urrainn dhuinn libhrigeadh. Sgoil Shamhraidh air a*

## Rising Operating Costs

This is a very significant issue for the organisations. The most significant increases in magnitude appear to have been in energy (up to 70%) and in the costs of accommodation for event officials and others (expected to increase by 50%). In some cases, organisations have had to get revised quotes as current prices are much higher than had been originally budgeted for.

Other reported cost increases include:

- Office consumables.
- Printing - increase of 30%.
- Touring performances - materials for sets, fuel costs and accommodation.
- Payments to third parties - e.g., event speakers 11% increase.
- Cost of venue hire, including in schools and village halls.

This is in a context of:

- Funding increases that are below the rate of inflation or no increase in even nominal terms.
- A number of organisations having budgeted for events using a break-even model but actual costs being greater than forecast.

This has led to a number of the organisations reducing the number of activities they undertake. For example:

*Our new budget contains a reduced amount of activities. Initial funding was less than we asked for and has tended to continue at the same nominal amounts resulting in less spend available.*

*So, there is a big squeeze - it reduces what we can deliver. Summer School cut from two weeks to*



*ghearradh bho dhà sheachdain gu seachdain a-mhàin. Bha prògram mòran na bu lugha aig an Fhèis.*

*Ma tha feum air, b' urrainn dhuinn an tachartas a lùghdachadh bho naoi latha gu ochd no seachd.*

### **Luchd-obrach**

Sa chumantas tha glè bheag de lùghdachadh air a bhith ann an ìrean luchd-obrach anns na buidhnean, no chan eil lùghdachadh sam bith air a bhith ann. Tha seo ann an co-theacs far a bheil a' mhòr-chuid dhiubh air àrdachadh pàigheadh a thoirt do luchd-obrach - ged a tha iad aig ìrean nas ìsle na an atmhorachd choitcheann.

### **Geàrr-chunntas**

- Tha lùghdachadh leantainneach ro bhuidhnean anns na prìomh stòran maoinichaidh aca.
- Tha tòiseachadh farpais maoinichaidh ùr Alba Chruthachail a' cruthachadh mì-chinnt do na buidhnean.
- Tha àrdachaidhean mòra ann an cuid de chosgaisean obrachaidh ann an co-theacs far a bheil lùghdachaidhean air a bhith ann am maoinichaidh a' gabhail a-steach na h-atmhorachd.. Airson cuid de bhuidhnean, chaidh buidseatan airson gnìomhachdan ath-sgrùdadh le nas lugha de ghnìomhachdan is pròiseactan a bhith air an dèanamh.
- Tha grunn bhuidhnean air a bhith a' coimhead gu gnìomhach airson tobraichean maoinichaidh agus sruthan teachd a-steach ùra. Ach, tha seo dùbhlanach, no chan eil e comasach idir, dhaibhsan aig a bheil ìrean luchd-obrach agus stòrasan ionmhais nas lugha.
- Chan eil atharrachadh mòr air thighinn air àireamhan luchd-obrach ach tha seo air a bhith ann an co-theacs de lùghdachaidhean leantainneach ann am pàigheadh a' gabhail a-steach na h-atmhorachd.

**2. Cho-dhùin an aithisg againn cuideachd gu bheil an suideachadh èiginn seo a' toirt cothrom dhuinn**

*one week. Festival had a significantly smaller programme.*

*If needed, we can reduce the event from nine days to eight or seven.*

### **Workforce**

There has general been very little reduction or no change in staffing levels in the organisations. This is in a context where most of them have provided staff with pay increases - albeit at levels below general inflation.

### **Summary**

- Organisations are facing an ongoing real terms reduction in their main funding sources.
- The commencement of Creative Scotland's new funding competition is creating uncertainty for the organisations.
- Significant increases in some operating costs are in a context of real terms funding reductions. For some, this had led to budgets for activities being revised and a reduced amount of activity and projects being undertaken.
- A number of organisations have been actively looking for new funding sources and revenue streams. However, this is challenging or not possible for those with smaller staffing levels and financial resources.
- Staff numbers are little changed but this has been in a context of ongoing real terms pay reductions.

**2. Our report also concluded that this crisis provides an opportunity to accelerate**



fuasglaidhean ùr-ghnàthach a thaobh cuideaman buidseit san roinn a thoirt air adhart nas luaithe. Dè an t-adhartas a rinneadh air seo anns na 12 mìosan a dh' fhalbh? Agus aig àm far nach eil mòran stòrsasan ann, dè na dòighean ùr-ghnàthach eile a dh' fhaodadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba a thoirt air adhart gus taic a thoirt do roinn a' chultair?

Is tè de na cùisean a tha a' nochdadh uair is uair mar a bheirear fàs air na ceanglaichean eadar ealain is cultair (a' gabhail a-steach na Gàidhlig agus a cultair) agus slàinte is sunnd. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air grunn phròiseactan a mhaoineachadh co-cheangailte ri seo. Tha iad seo air Gàidhlig agus na h-ealainean Gàidhlig a chleachdadh gus taic a chumail riuthasan le seargadh-inntinn/Alzheimer's no gus aire a thoirt air na cùisean. Tha sin air gabhail a-steach:

- Bùth-obrach stèidhichte air cluich beò air seargadh-inntinn agus dà-chànanas a chaidh a chumail ann an Oilthigh Shrath Chluaidh.
- Sgoil cànan ann an Glaschu ag obair le inbhich nas sine, agus leis an fheadhainn a tha a' fuireach le seargadh-inntinn.
- Tha pròiseact air a ruith le Alzheimer's Scotland e air taic a chumail ri daoine le seargadh-inntinn san Eilean Sgitheanach le bhith a' dol còmhla ri sgoil gus còmhradh agus seiseanan òrain a ruith, le sgoilearan a' gabhail pàirt anns na seiseanan cuideachd.

Tha rannsachadh<sup>11</sup> cuideachd air a' bhuidhe shòisealta agus sunnd a shealltainn air daoine a bha an sàs ann an gnìomhachd nam Fèisean:

- Bidh iad a' fighe a-steach cànan agus nan ealainean traidiseanta ann an gnìomhan a tha spòrsail agus tlachdmhor.
- Nithear tòrr chàirdeasan aig na Fèisean.
- Bidh iad a' togail misneachd a thig bho bhith ag ionnsachadh rudan ùra – ionnstramaidean, ealain, dràma – agus cuideachd bho bhith a' cluich.
- Bidh iad a' toirt na coimhearsnachd còmhla, a' togail sgilean agus a' cur ri faireachdainn de

innovative solutions to the budgetary pressures within the sector. What progress has been made on this in the last 12 months? And at a time of limited resources, what other innovative approaches could the Scottish Government take forward to support the culture sector?

One of the recurring issues is how to grow the links between arts and culture (including Gaelic language and culture) and health and wellbeing. Bòrd na Gàidhlig have funded a number of projects in this area. These have included using the Gaelic language and arts to support those with dementia/Alzheimer's or raise awareness of the issues. They have included:

- A performance-led workshop on dementia and bilingualism which took place at Strathclyde University.
- A Glasgow language school's work with older adults, and those living with dementia.
- A project run by Alzheimer's Scotland which has supported people in Skye with dementia by linking up with a school to run conversation and song sessions, with school pupils also participating in the sessions.

Research<sup>23</sup> has also highlighted the social and wellbeing impacts of individuals' involvement in Fèisean activities in that:

- They embed language and the traditional arts in activities which are fun and enjoyable.
- Many friendships are made at the Fèisean.
- They instil confidence which comes from learning new things – instruments, art, drama – and also from performing.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.feisean.org/wp-content/uploads/Westbrook-Report.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.feisean.org/wp-content/uploads/Westbrook-Report.pdf>



shunnd a chuidicheas gus daoine a ghlèidheadh san sgìre ionadail aca.

Bho chionn goirid, choimiseanaich Bòrd na Gàidhlig rannsachadh air ceanglaichean eadar sunnd agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig. Thèid na toraidhean a chleachdadh gus leasachaidh a bharrachd a dhèanamh air na ceanglaichean eadar cultar na Gàidhlig agus sunnd.

Bha an t-àite aig luchd-ealain agus cultar airson slàinte agus sunnd, agus cho cudromach 's a bha seo, ri fhaicinn gu soilleir aig àm Covid. Ach, tha e coltach nach deach oidhirp mhòr a dhèanamh gus na ceanglaichean sin a thoirt air adhart ann an dòigh cho-òrdanaichte agus nas fharsainghe. Tha cuid de bhuidhnean mothachail air na ceanglaichean ach chan eil an t-eòlas, na sgilean, no an comas-libhrigidh aca airson togail orra agus gus maoinachadh fhaighinn - i.e., dè am maoinachadh a dh'fhaodadh a chleachdadh agus ciamar a bu chòir a' chùis airson pròiseact agus maoinachadh a chur an cèill.

Tha seo a' ciallachadh gu bheil cuid de bhuidhnean air fàs teagmhach mu na thèid a thoirt air adhart. Thuirt aon neach gur e "dìreach dòigh air an t-uallach a chur air cuideigin eile" a th' ann a bhith a' feuchainn ri maoinachadh fhaighinn bho bhuidseatan slàinte agus gur e a' cheist cheart nach robh maoinachadh gu leòr ann airson cultar.

Tha seo a' sealltainn gur dòcha gu bheil tha feum air pìos obrach a mhìneachadh an suidheachadh làithreach a thaobh ceanglaichean agus maoinachadh airson gnìomhan cultarail a bheir taic do bhuilean slàinte is sunnd (a' gabhail a-steach nan eisimpleirean air an tug sinn cunntas gu h-àrd) agus mar a ghabhas iad sin a leasachadh agus a chur air bunait nas fhoirmeile. Dh'fhaodadh seo a bhith air a dhèanamh eadar Alba Chruthachail agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba còmhla.

Tha cuid de bhuidhnean cultarach Gàidhlig a' faicinn gur dòcha gum bi cothrom ann airgead fhaighinn bhon mholadh Cìs Luchd-tadhail no bho atharrachaidhean a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann air ìrean na Cìse Comhairle air dachaighean falamh. Ach, bhathar a' faireachdainn gu bheil ùghdarrasan ionadail dualtach a chleachdadh airson

- They bring the community together, build skills and contribute to a feeling of wellbeing which can help to retain people in their local area.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has recently commissioned research into links between wellbeing and use of the Gaelic language. The findings will be used to further develop the links between Gaelic culture and wellbeing.

The role/importance of artists and culture for health and wellbeing was clearly evident during Covid. However, there appears to have been no concerted effort to progress these links in a co-ordinated and more extensive manner. Some organisations are aware of the links but do not have the knowledge, skills, or capacity to develop them and obtain funding - i.e., what funding might be accessed and how the case for a project and funding should be expressed.

This has meant that some organisations have become sceptical about what will actually be taken forward. One said that looking to access funding from health budgets is "just a way of passing the buck" whereas the real issue is simply a lack of sufficient funding for culture.

This suggests that a concerted piece of work is required that would set out the current position on links and funding for cultural activities that support health and wellbeing outcomes (including the examples we describe above) and how these can be developed and put on a more formalised basis. This could be undertaken jointly between Creative Scotland and Scottish Government.

Some Gaelic cultural organisations see potential for accessing funds generated by the proposed Transient Visitor Levy or potential changes to the levels of Council Tax on empty homes. However, it was felt that local authorities are likely to use it for their own activities-and, in the Highlands and



an gnìomhan fhèin – agus, air a’ Ghàidhealtachd is sna h-Eileanan gu sònraichte, airson tasgadh a dhèanamh ann am bun-structar. Mar sin, chan eil misneachd ann gun tèid an dà thùs maoineachaidh seo a chleachdadh gus buidhnean agus gnìomhan cultarail a mhaoineachadh.

**3. Dh’iarr a’ Chomataidh gum biodh am Plana Gnìomh ath-nuadhaichte a tha gu bhith ann airson Ro-innleachd a’ Chultair a’ toirt seachad tuigse shoilleir agus ro-innleachdail air mar a tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag obair gus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi an roinn nas seasmhaiche san àm ri teachd. Ciamar a bu chòir do Phlana Gnìomh ùraichte Ro-innleachd a’ Chultair cuideachadh le bhith a’ fiosrachadh co-dhùnaidhean buidseit san àm ri teachd taobh a-staigh roinn a’ chultair?**

Bu chòir do Phlana Gnìomh Ro-innleachd a’ Chultair ath-aithris a dhèanamh air dealas Riaghaltas na h-Alba a thaobh taic a thoirt do roinn a’ chultair, a’ cur air adhart na h-argamaid airson cultar, agus ag aithneachadh a luach agus na tha e a’ cur ris a’ chomann-shòisealta.

Feumaidh am Plana Gnìomh a bhith air a dhealbhadh ann an co-theacs na buaidh a tha air a bhith aig lùghdachaidhean leantainneach ann am buidseatan cultair a’ gabhail a-steach na h-atmhorachd air an roinn, agus cuibhreann na roinne de bhuidseit iomlan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

Bu chòir do mheudachadh taic do na h-ealainean agus cultar na Gàidhlig a bhith na phrìomhachas. Leigeadh seo leis a bhith a’ cumail air a’ fàs, a’ meudachadh a bhuidhean sòisealta agus eaconamach. Bheir e taic cuideachd do dh’amasan Riaghaltas na h-Alba mu bhith a’ meudachadh cleachdadh a’ chàinain.

Is e aon toradh aig na cuingeadan maoineachaidh a th’ ann an-dràsta gu bheil cus iarrtais ann airson maoineachadh cultar an taca ris an t-suim a tha ri faighinn. Mar eisimpleir, tha Maoin Ealain na Gàidhlig air a chomhaoineachadh le Alba Chruthachail agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig le buidseat iomlan de £75,000. Ach, bha iarrtas ann airson a dhà uimhir sin anns na tagraidhean sia chiad chuairt a-mhàin. Thuirt aon bhuidheann Ghàidhlig “Tha

Islands, particularly to invest in infrastructure. Thus, there is not confidence that these two funding sources will be used to help fund cultural organisations and activities.

**3. The Committee called for the forthcoming refreshed Culture Strategy Action Plan to provide a clear and strategic sense of how the Scottish Government is working to ensure a more sustainable future for the sector. How should the refreshed Culture Strategy Action Plan help to inform future budgetary decisions within the culture sector?**

The Culture Strategy Action Plan should reiterate Scottish Government's commitment to supporting the culture sector, restating the case for culture, and acknowledging its contribution and value.

The Action Plan needs to be framed in the context of the impacts that recent ongoing real terms decreases in culture budgets have had on the sector, and the sector's share of the overall Scottish Government budget.

Increasing support for Gaelic arts and culture should be a priority. That will allow its continued growth, increasing its social and economic impacts. It will also support Scottish Government's objectives around increasing the use of the language.

One result of current funding constraints is excess demand for culture funding compared to the amount that is available. For example, The Gaelic Arts Fund is co-funded by Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig with a total budget of £75,000. However, the first-round bids alone totalled twice that amount. One Gaelic organisation noted that “There are lots of groups



tòrr bhuidhnean ann a tha airson obair a dhèanamh.... ach chan eil maoinachadh gu leòr ann.” Ann am Plana Gnìomh Ro-innleachd Ro-innleachd a’ Chultair, bu chòir aghaidh a chur air mar a tha cus iarrtas ann airson cuid de shruthan maoinachaidh - m.e., tro bhith a’ suidheachadh shlatan-tomhais nas cuingealaichte, a’ toirt còmhla cuid de sgeamaichean a th’ ann mar-thà.

A thaobh cultar na Gàidhlig, bu chòir do Phlana Gnìomh Ro-innleachd a’ Cultair beachdachadh air na molaidhean a chaidh a chur air adhart ann am Buidheann-obrach Ghèarr-ùine air Chothroman Eaconamach agus Sòisealta airson na Gàidhlig. Aithisg do Rùnaire a’ Chaibineit airson Ionmhais agus na h-Eaconamaidh.<sup>12</sup> Gu sònraichte:

“Bu chòir Ro-innleachd Ealain Ghàidhlig nàiseanta a chruthachadh, a’ cur air adhart dòighean gus taic a thoirt do chothroman eaconamach, agus gus an leasachadh, dhaibhsan a tha ag obair ann an gnìomhachasan nan ealan agus sgrion far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig mar mheadhan libhrigidh no co-cheangailte ris an obair a thathar a’ gabhail dèanamh sa chruth ealain.”

Bu chòir sin a bhith a’ gabhail a-steach aithne gu leòr air buidhnean cultarail aig ìre coimhearsnachd, gu sònraichte ann an sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach, agus an comas a bhith a’ nochdadh nan seòrsaichean gnìomhachd a tha na coimhearsnachdan aca ag iarraidh. Bidh na buidhnean sin a’ cuideachadh le bhith a’ toirt choimhearsnachdan còmhla agus a’ toirt sgilean dhaibhsan a tha an sàs ann an cultar a ghabhas cleachdadh ann an gnìomhachdan eile sa choimhearsnachd.

Tha dùbhlain mu choinneamh nam buidhnean sin a thaobh seasmhachd, gu sònraichte an fheadhainn as lugha. Tha feum air maoinachadh gu leòr gus cleasaichean, beul-aithris, sgilean agus eòlas a ghlèidheadh. Dh’fhaodadh gun cuideachadh sealbh coimhearsnachd air ionadan gus slighean fhosgladh gu maoinachadh calpa.

who want to do work.... but there is not enough funding”. How excess demand for certain funding streams could be tackled - e.g., through setting more restricted criteria, combining some existing schemes - should be addressed in the Culture Strategy Action Plan.

In terms of Gaelic culture, the Culture Strategy Action Plan should consider the proposals put forward in the Short Life Working Group on Economic and Social Opportunities for Gaelic: Report to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy<sup>24</sup>. In particular:

“a national Gaelic Arts Strategy be developed outlining ways to support and enhance the economic opportunities for those working in the arts and screen industries where Gaelic is the medium of delivery or is related to the work being undertaken in the art form.”

That should include sufficient recognition of community level cultural organisations, particularly in rural and remote areas, and their ability to reflect the types of activities that their communities want. These organisations help to bring communities together and provide those involved in culture with skills that can be used in other community-based activities.

These organisations face challenges in terms of sustainability, particularly the smaller ones. There is a need for sufficient funding to retain, in particular, performers, folklore and skills and knowledge. Community ownership of venues may also open routes to capital funding.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-life-working-group-economic-social-opportunities-gaelic-report-cabinet-secretary-finance-economy/documents/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-life-working-group-economic-social-opportunities-gaelic-report-cabinet-secretary-finance-economy/documents/>





San dàrna àite, “mar aithneachadh air cudromachd eaconamach, shòisealta agus foghlaim a’ chraolaidh agus nam meadhanan didseatach, bu chòir barrachd maoinachaidh a bhith ri fhaighinn do MG ALBA, agus do bhuidhnean eile, gus raon de phrògraman ùra a chruthachadh, agus bu chòir co-roinn nas motha a dhèanamh. ann am Prìomh Choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig, airson craoladh air telebhisean, rèidio agus air àrd-ùrlaran didseatach”.

Second, “in recognition of the economic, social and educational importance of the broadcast and digital media, increased funding should be made available to MG ALBA, and others, to enable the development of a range of new programmes, a larger proportion to be made in Key Gaelic Communities, for broadcast on television, radio and on digital platforms”.

