



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2026 Consultation: Summary

We asked

From 8 March to 19 April 2023, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) sought views on our draft *Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2026*.

Our plan sets out how we intend to increase the use, learning and promotion of Gaelic through the work of our organisation and those that we support and work in partnership with.

As a public body we are required under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 to prepare and publish a Gaelic Language Plan.

You said

We received a total of 33 responses: 1 from a university, 2 from organisations and 30 from individuals. This included 5 responses in Gaelic and 28 responses in English.

75% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the ten high-level aims outlined in the draft Gaelic Language Plan.

82% of respondents were of the view that our draft Gaelic Language Plan does enough to help safeguard and promote Gaelic language and culture.

17 out of 33 respondents answered the question 'What impact do you think our Gaelic Plan might have on people in island communities?'. An overwhelming majority of respondents considered that our draft Gaelic Language Plan will have a positive impact on people in island communities.

Positive impacts included:

- Creating opportunities for these communities related to education, employment and recreational activities
- Demonstrating a value for the language and culture of many island communities
- Encouraging the use and learning of Gaelic
- Strengthening the identity of these communities and pride in their heritage

Comments were also made about developing our understanding of these island communities and that not all island communities have many Gaelic speakers.

We did

There were three amendments made to the draft Gaelic Language Plan as a result of comments received during the consultation:

1. We specified the number of sites with existing interpretation related signage with Gaelic elements or that is bilingual.
2. We expanded the 'Signage' related Corporate Service Aim to include interpretation related signage as well as signage related to office buildings.
3. Under the current practice section of the Corporate Service Aims related to 'Information', specific examples of interpretation formats were added.

Responses to the question 'What impact do you think our Gaelic Plan might have on people in island communities?' were used to inform our Island Communities Impact Assessment which can be found on our website alongside our Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2026.

The Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2026 can now be found on our website.