

Comments on Draft Guidance on Gaelic Language Plans

The aims of the guidance document are admirable, but if I were a member of a voluntary organisation attempting to produce a plan, I would find it off-putting. That is because the document is wordy and full of jargon, and it is difficult to pick out the really important parts from semi-relevant background material. More of the material should go into the appendix, allowing the detailed advice (pp. 14-19) to stand out in the main document. Readers will presumably have read or have access to the National Plan for Gaelic, so there is no need to duplicate material in that document.

The document would benefit from shortening. On some pages only about a third of the space is used for words. A document can look attractive without wasting so much space. The current document gives the impression that Bòrd na Gaidhlig has infinite funds to spend on paper and postage. There are better ways of spending limited funds.

You ask for comments on the interpretation of 'equal respect' on p.8. The interpretation is fine, but the writing could be improved. The first paragraph is unduly wordy. The second paragraph states what 'equal respect' does not mean. The third paragraph contains the meat. It would be better to put the third paragraph second, and a shortened version of the second paragraph at the end.

In general, the Draft Guidance should assist organisations to draw up a Gaelic Plan; but a clearer and shorter document would be more useful.

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