Submission from Allan Campbell

THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL

Like all users and supporters of Gaelic I welcome the proposal that a statutory process should be put in place to enable authorities to assess and respond to parental requests for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) within a reasonable timescale. However, as Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s corporate response details this proposal fails to live up to pre-election commitments in both 2007 and 2011 which generated the impetus for this Bill.

I fully support Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s view that a clear entitlement to GME would significantly aid the delivery of the Scottish Government’s commitment to grow and strengthen Gaelic Education.

In addition Statutory Guidance is required to address various details and some of the most important of these are listed in Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s submission.

Ten years on from the historic recognition which the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act granted the language in 2005 we urge the Education and Culture Committee to bear pre-election commitments in mind, as well as the need for carefully prepared statutory guidance. We would ask members to consider recommending amendments to the Bill that will ensure an entitlement to GME for those parents who wish it for their children.

Allan Campbell,