According to the Policy Memorandum, the Bill places various duties on education authorities and on Bòrd na Gàidhlig and I would like to ask the committee to consider the following five points (A, B, C, D and E, below) which, if legislated for, would make Scotland a world leader in this element of education rights as human rights.

Having read the Explanatory Notes ‘Part 2 – Gaelic medium education’ and with specific reference to ‘Section 8 – Duties of education authorities’, I would like to make comments on paragraphs 6, 10 and 11 of the Bill. For ease of reference, the Chapter headings of the Bill are written here in bold.

A]

At 6 ‘GMPE assessment areas’,

Add new sub-section (4) (c)

‘Ensure, when considering designation of an area as a GMPE assessment area, that all such designation analyses be carried out by appropriately qualified personnel with experience of Gaelic education and that any recognised Gaelic parent’s group in the prospective assessment area be consulted.’

B]

At 8 ‘Duties of education authorities’

Add, new sub-section, as recommended at A] above, where appropriate, in order to align the responsibilities of the local authorities.

C]

At 10 ‘Full assessments’

After the words (b) ‘Bòrd na Gàidhlig’, at (3) b add, ‘who will employ suitably qualified and experienced Gaelic education personnel for such purposes.’

D]

At 11 ‘Procedure following full assessment’

(2) (c), the use of the words ‘within which’ as a prepositional may make the sentence ambiguous.

E]

At 11 ‘Procedure following full assessment’

Amend para. (7) to read ‘In taking those steps, the authority must ensure GMPE is provided in the GMPE assessment area.’ This would have the effect of ensuring that a local authority must make new Gaelic provision when the conditions prevail.