1. Tha am Bile a’ stèidheachadh dleastanas gus Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean fhoillseachadh agus a chur air beulaibh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba. Dè ur beachdan air sin?
'S e deagh rud a th’ ann san fharsaingeachd a bhith a’ dion agus a’ toirt fa-near an suidheachadh sònraichte a tha aig muinntir nan Eilean. Bu chòir do ro-innleachd àraidh a bhith ann airson leasachaidhean anns na h-Eileanan agus airson a bhith a’ toirt dhaibh nan aon chothroman a tha aig muinntir na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd a bhith ag obair, a’ fuireach agus a’ togail clann anns an àite far an do rugadh iad ma thogras iad.

Ge-tà, bu chòir iomradh sònraichte air a’ Ghàidhlig a bhith anns a’ bhile agus bu chòir leasachadh na Gàidhlig a bhith mar phàirt de Phlana Nàiseanta nan Eilean leis cho cudromach ’s a bha is a tha i anns na h-eileanan air a’ Ghàidhealtachd (i.e na h-Eileanan a-muigh, na h-Eileanan a-staigh agus Eileanan Chluaidh). Ma ’s e rud cudromach a th’ ann a bhith a’ glèidheadh na Gàidhlig, agus tha Rìaghltas na h-Alba fhèin ag aontachadh gur e, seo aon de na chothroman as fhearr sin a dhèanamh. Cha shàbhail foghlam a’ Ghàidhlig idir na aonar, oir ’s iad na coimhearsnachdan tradaiseanta a tha deatamach.

2. Fon Bhile bidh aig Ministean na h-Alba agus cùid a dh’ughdarrasan poblach Albannach ri measaidean a dhèanamh air a’ bhuaidh a dh’fhaoadadh a bhith aig poileasaidhean air na h-eileanan. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh ris a’ chumha sin? Ciamar a bu chòir dha obrachadh gu pragtaigeach nur beachd-se?
Bu chòir dhan Ghàidhlig a bhith mar phàirt den dleastanas a thaobh ’iomchaidheachd eileanach’ (island proofing). Mar phàirt de dh’iomchaidheachd eileanach’, bu chòir dhan Rìaghltas a bhith a’ coimhead air a’ bhuaidh a dh’fhaoadadh a bhith aig gach poileasaidheachd/pìos reachdais air a’ Ghàidhlig airson gach eilean (ach a-mhàin Arcaibh is Sealtainn) gus dèanamh cinnteach nach eil droch bhuaidh air a’ Ghàidhlig agus gu bheil e a’ cur ri leasachadh na Gàidhlig far a bheil sin iomchaidh.

Bu chòir gum bi an dleastanas seo air Comhairlean ionadail eileanach cuideachd a thaobh riaghailtean cead-dealbhaidh, leasachadh eaconomaigeach agus a leithid a tha an urra riutha.
3. Tha am Bile a’ moladh gun tèid dion a dhèanamh air crìochan na roinne- phàrlamaid, Na h-Eileanan an lar, gus nach tèid atharrachadh. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh ri sin?
Bu chùr criochn fhàrlamaid nan Eilean an lar a dhìon mar a tha air a mholadh sa bhile (gus nach tèid na h-eileanan a chur a-steach le àite far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig nas laige ma thuiteas an sluagh an sin).
Bu chùr gum bi taic fhoirmeil do sgirean “Gàidhealtachd aithnichte” air am measadh le coimisean úr. ‘S e na h-àiteachan far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig fhathast na cànan coimhearsnachd a tha fa-near dhuinn an seò agus bhiodh inbhe oifigeil a’ dion seò san às às teachd. Bu chùr an uairsin “Urras nan Gàidhealtachdan” a bhith stèidhichte mar mheur de riaghaltas ionadail a rìochdachadh na sgìrean a thèid a mheasadh nan Gàidhealtachdan. Bu chùr dhuibh coimhead air an t-suidheachadh ann an Èirinn agus an “Údaráis na Gaeltachta” a th’ aca.

4. Tha am Bile a’ moladh saoradh bho na riaghailtean airson uàrdan-taghadh riaghaltais ionadail gus an urrainn do sgìrean, sa bheil eileanan air a bheil daoine a’ fuireach, a bhith taghadh 1 no 2 bhall (an àite 3 no 4 mar a bhios a’ tachairt gu h-àbhaisteach). Dè ur beachdan air a’ mholadh sin?
Tha seo reusanta agus b’ urrainn do buill de dh’”Urras nan Gàidhealtachdan” a bhith a’ cunntadh an neach ann a’ cuideachd.

5. Cruthaichidh am Bile cumhachd laghail do Mhinistearan na h-Alba far an urrainn dhaibh sgeama ceadaich mar a stèidheachadh airson uisgeachan faisg air a’ chosta. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh ris a’ chumhachd sin? A bheil beachdan agaibh air mar a bu chùir dha a bhith air a chleachadh?
Bu chùir do na coimhearsnachd fhèin cothrom thaighinn na cumhachdan seo a ghabhail os làimhe gus nach bi iad a’ dol direach dhan Chomhairle, gu h-àraid anns na h-Eileanan Siar far a bheil astar mòr eadar Steòrnabhaigh agus na sgìrean mu dheas.

6. A bheil am Bile a’ coileanadh nan amasan aige agus a bheil sibh a’ toirt taic dha san fharsaingeachd? A bheil dad eile ann a tha sibh a’ smaoineachadh a bu chùir a bhith sa Bhile, no a bheil dad ann a bu chùir a thoirt às?
Chun eil, às aonais torr a bharrachd dion air a’ Ghàidhlig agus mineachadh air mar a tha am Bile seo a’ coileanadh amasan an Riaghaltais a thaobh na Gàidhlig agus na tha ann am Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

7. A bheil beachdan agaibh mun Bhile a thaobh chòraichean daonna no chùisean co-ionannachd?
Bu chùir dhuibh chòraichean cánain a mheasadh mar chòraichean daonna agus bu chùir coimheadair air luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig mar bhuidheann mhì-leasaichte coltach ri buidhnean eile a tha air an gabhail a-steach fo phoileasaidhean co-ionannachd. Chan eil leisgeul ann gun a bhith a’ toirt iomradh sònraichte air a’
Ghàidhlig ann am Bile a tha a' buitainn cho mòr ris na h-Eileanan Siar far a bheil an cànan an impis a dhol à bith.
1. The Bill creates a duty to publish a national islands plan and lay it before the Scottish Parliament. What are your views on this provision?  
In general, it is good to protect and take account of the particular situation facing the people of the Islands. There should be a special strategy both for developments in the islands and to give islanders the same opportunities that the people of Scotland have in general to work, live and raise children in the place where they were born, if they so wish.

However, there should be specific mention of Gaelic in the bill and the development of Gaelic should be a part of the National Islands Plan, given how important the language was and is in the islands of the Gàidhealtachd (i.e. the Outer Hebrides, the Inner Hebrides and the islands of the Clyde). If it is important to maintain the Gaelic language—and the Scottish Government agrees that it is—this is one of the best opportunities for doing so. Education alone will not save Gaelic, as traditional communities are crucial.

2. The Bill will require Scottish Ministers and certain Scottish public authorities, to prepare island impact assessments. Do you agree with this provision? How do you think it should work in practice?  
Gaelic should form part of the ‘island-proofing’ duty. As part of this ‘island-proofing’, the Government should consider the potential impact that each policy/piece of legislation will have on the Gaelic language in each of the islands (except Orkney and Shetland) to ensure that there is no negative impact on Gaelic and to ensure that it contributes to the development of Gaelic where that is appropriate.

This duty should also apply to local island councils in terms of their rulings on planning permission, economic development and other such matters for which they are responsible.

3. The Bill proposes to protect the Scottish Parliamentary constituency boundary of Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) from change. Do you agree with this?  
The constituency boundaries of the Western Isles should be protected as proposed in the bill (so that the islands are not combined with another place where Gaelic is weaker, should their population fall).

There should be formal support for “recognised Gàidhealtachd” areas, as assessed by a new commission. We have in mind here those places where Gaelic is still a community language, and an official status would protect this for the future. An “Urras nan Gàidhealtachdan” (a “Gàidhealtachds Trust”) should then be established as a branch of local government that would represent all the areas assessed as Gàidhealtachd. You should look at what happens in Ireland, where they have “Údarás na Gaeltachta” (the Gaeltacht Authority).
4. The Bill proposes to make an exception to the rules for local government electoral wards to allow areas with inhabited islands to return 1 or 2 members (instead of the usual 3 or 4). What are your views on this proposal? This is reasonable and could also be applied to members of any “Urras nan Gàidhealtachdan”.

5. The Bill will provide a regulation-making power for the Scottish Ministers to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters. Do you agree with this power? Do you have any comments on how it should be used? The communities themselves should have the opportunity to take up these powers, instead of them just going to the council, especially in the Western Isles where there is a great distance between Stornoway and the southern districts.

6. Does the Bill achieve its aims and are you in favour overall? Is there anything else that you feel should be included or excluded from the Bill? No, unless there is much more protection for Gaelic and explanation of how the Bill fulfills the Government’s ambitions for Gaelic and the contents of the National Gaelic Language Plan.

7. Do you have any comments on the bill in relation to human rights or equalities? Linguistic rights should be considered human rights and Gaelic speakers should be seen as a disadvantaged group similar to other groups who are included under equality policies. There is no excuse for not making specific mention of Gaelic in a Bill that pertains so much to the Western Isles, where the language is on the point of extinction.