

Alasdair Laing submission of 16 March 2022

PE1922/D - Cancel all Local Authority expenditure on Gaelic expansion

I write to you today to ask that the Committee and Parliament disregard this petition.

Government spending on Gaelic remains frozen at just £28m out of a Government budget of some £75bn (0.03%). This is a real time budget cut of almost 30% since 2006. Meanwhile, Gaelic is understood by some 2%+ of the population throughout Scotland and Gaelic Medium Education is more successful than ever before.

It is important to remember that the Gaelic Language Act 2005 was passed unanimously and each and every party in the Scottish Parliament supports the Act as it stands and indeed advocated for further support in their most recent 2021 manifestos. If Gaelic is ever to be a healthy vibrant language again, as it once was, it requires support - arguably more than the meagre amount spent up until now.

In my view, there is bigotry and ignorance shown towards the Gaelic language and community in Scotland, issues which have sadly become more commonplace over the last few years.

In conclusion, it is my view that the Committee and Parliament should not listen to the hypocritical arguments of those who wish the language well on one hand, yet with the other wish to remove all forms of support available. The Gaelic language must be supported and limited frozen funding increased, not decreased.