Bòrd na Gàidhlig: Monitoring Report

Section 6(2) of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 enables Bòrd na Gàidhlig to require a public authority to submit a report on the extent to which it has implemented the measures set out in its plan.

This monitoring report should detail progress on:

- Commitments that have a timescale for completion for each reporting year and;

- Any details on progress on commitments that have been designated as ongoing or throughout the lifetime of the plan.

There is no requirement for public bodies to use this template. Providing evidence is submitted as detailed above, reports can be submitted in a format suitable to individual public authorities.

Name of Organisation:

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Date of report:

06/02/26

Reporting Period (including day/month/year):

08/11/24 - 07/11/25

1. **Please provide a high-level summary of progress made in implementing your Gaelic Language Plan highlighting successes, challenges and areas for improvement.**

This year we have made good progress with our Gaelic language plan. This year has seen a particular focus on communication and engagement work. We expanded our Gaelic internal comms and launched our fortnightly Gaelic newsletter, _An Teachdaire Pàrlmaideach_ and began work on a remodel of our Gaelic webpages. We have also increased our engagement work, participating more fully in Gaelic community initiatives and events, establishing and reestablishing links with the Gaelic communities and other Gaelic development officers and groups.

The Scottish Languages Bill proved to be a major part of our work once again this year with Stage 2 taking place in November 2024 and Stage 3 in June 2025. Overall, through this work, we have seen further mainstreaming of Gaelic in the work of the Parliament and increased awareness of the Parliament's Gaelic services to the Gaelic community. As in the previous reporting year, our work to support scrutiny improved our capability and that of our contractors to deliver quality services. The increased liaison, profile and service support required us to reprioritise our delivery plans – some objectives slowed whilst other accelerated.

We have flagged up two challenges we have encountered as we believe other public bodies may also be experiencing them - good practice for Gaelic web content and the capacity and capability of simultaneous interpreters.

2. Please provide details of commitments that have a timescale for completion in this reporting year.

Targets for Year 2: 2024-2025

Aim/Target:

Add further information to the brand guidelines on the use of Gaelic and other languages and include guidance on "equal respect" for Gaelic visually (1).

Progress:

It should be noted that the equal respect principle is already applied in our publications and other materials. The Parliament's Brand Guidelines contain a section on the use of Languages, with a specific focus on Gaelic. This section contains information such as on the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act, the introduction of the principle of Equal Respect for Gaelic and English and states that the use of Gaelic should be a consideration in all resources. It also provides some practical advice, such as that Gaelic text typically takes more room than the equivalent English text and that this must be considered in the design of a product. The Gaelic Officers are working with the Product and Brand Compliance Manager to expand on this in the next edition of the Brand Guidelines which will be finalised in the next reporting period. The intention is to include further explanation on what equal respect means in practice (i.e. that Gaelic should be of comparable size and prominence to English) as well as some visual examples of how Gaelic can be applied throughout products, whether it is in headers, foreword, or full translation.

Aim/Target:

Investigate the addition of question re: Gaelic speaker (and other languages) into recruitment diversity monitoring forms. Purpose to gather data on whether we are attracting applications from Gaelic speakers. (4)

Progress:

This target has been delayed and is being taken forward to the next reporting year as part of a broader programme of work. We will keep BnG up to date with progress.

Aim/Target:

Produce online sound-files of key Gaelic parliamentary phrases for internal and external use including – signage that visitors might see, constituency/region names, team names, names of Gaelic organisations etc. (21)

Progress:

Files have now been recorded and will be added to website / intranet and will also be linked to the *new Abair Beagan – Speak a Little* product. These will be promoted internally and externally. This will also be linked to our Gaelic awareness posters in the Parliament.

Aim/Target:

Produce FAQs about Gaelic, and Gaelic in the Parliament for internal and external use. (22)

Progress:

A set of FAQs has now been produced and will be added to the website / intranet and linked to our Gaelic awareness poster. This looks at issues such as what is Gaelic, its relationship to other languages, where it is spoken, how it can be used in the Parliament, how to learn Gaelic and other issues. There are versions in Gaelic and English with different focuses due to the different audiences. Additionally, we are working on a Gaelic glossary of parliamentary terms aiming at fluent speakers and learners.

Aim/Target:

The SPICe blog will publish Gaelic versions of some posts, prioritising matters which are of the greatest interest to the general public and those which are of particular interest or relevance to Gaelic speakers (23). We will use our guide to the prioritisation of Gaelic translation (objective 20) to aid this.

Progress:

We have implemented this ahead of target and have posted 5 posts so far. We continue to work with SPICe to choose which best posts to translate.

Aim/Target:

Promote Gaelic awareness internally thorough means such as: Gaelic Awareness stalls/popups/sessions/newsletter content for internal audience. (28)

Progress:

This is a target for the next reporting year but we have made good progress in early implementation and in this period had a stall with a Gaelic/languages focus in our Staff Day, a stall in the MSP lobby with details of language services and a Gaelic drop-in session. The election in May 2026 provides high profile opportunities to raise awareness.

Aim/Target:

In addition to raising Gaelic presence on intranet as per other commitments, we will create a Gaelic presence on the new Scottish Parliament intranet to increase internal awareness about Gaelic and the GLP. (29)

Progress:

We have created a Gaelic resources section on the intranet including links to dictionaries, vocabulary lists, place-name resources and more. This received 133 views in this period. We also have a language services page with details of how to access Gaelic and other language services for use in communication and in parliamentary business which has received over 1,000 views to date.

Aim/Target:

Investigate whether the Gaelic content of the Official Report can be archived in appropriate Gaelic archives. (32)

Progress:

DASG (The Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic) have agreed in principle to archiving Gaelic content from the OR and we are now discussing the best way to facilitate this.

Aim/Target:

Using the agreed guide under objective 20 to produce a guidance document to Committees and Members as to when they might consider Gaelic translation of Committee Reports (in full or part), or other Gaelic materials. (36)

(For context, object 20 in the plan is: We will develop guide to prioritise translation requests to determine which materials we translate [if not already translated as matter of course]).

Progress:

Draft guidance has been prepared for inclusion in the SPCB Language Policy. While the Policy has not yet been finalised, we are using the draft guidance on an interim basis (E.g. it has helped inform decision on which SPICe briefings to translate). Key factors in the guidance are: possible level of demand, possible use in schools or education, precedent on translating similar materials, and whether matters are of major national interest or of particular interest to Gaelic speakers/communities or add to the corpus. We've also contributed material for the updated Clerking Manual on this issue.

Aim/Target:

Create a Gaelic translation for Members on style for questions and motions. (38)

Progress:

These translations have been created and added to the intranet.

3. Please provide progress on commitments that are ongoing or throughout the lifetime of the plan.

As there are many ongoing commitments throughout the plan in addition to the 36 new commitments in the plan overall, rather than commenting on each commitment individually we are reporting on them below under the seven main headings of the plan, reporting on significant progress or issues. All ongoing commitments have been fully implemented unless noted otherwise. We are happy to provide Bòrd na Gàidhlig with any further detail either before or after this report is formally reviewed.

Ongoing Targets Progress – Year 2: 2024-2025

Aim/Target: **Visibility**

Progress: On track

Logos: Various bilingual logos and graphics have been created during the reporting period including graphics for various teams. See below for some examples.

Signage: In line with our Gaelic plan, signage is bilingual in public areas with the languages having equal respect. This includes temporary signage. New signage introduced in this reporting period has included shop opening times signage and signage for lanyard bins. As reported in our previous report, bilingual Gaelic awareness posters have been put up in public areas with some commonly asked questions about Gaelic and with QR code links to information about Gaelic. All visitors in the Scottish Parliament see Gaelic signage, this being more than 170,000 people between the beginning of November 2024 and the end of October 2025. Additionally, our artwork captions are bilingual and this year's new captions included on the portrait of the King, and updated captions on the honours of Scotland and on the portrait of the late Queen and the bust of trade unionist Mick McGahey on which we also with a QR code to a sound file of the Gaelic text. Gaelic was included in signage for the textiles exhibition and the Miralles exhibition during this period.

Aim/Target: **Staffing**

Progress: On track

Training: Two members of SPCB staff undertook the SMO Cùrsa Inntrigidh in this period. Information was distributed regularly about learning opportunities and Gaelic awareness to Scottish Parliament staff, MSPs and their staff.

We have begun to offer tailored sessions to teams and delivered Gaelic awareness to the Parliamentary Communications Office, Visitor Services and to Clerking teams during this period. The first two of these sessions were full sessions and the third of these was a mini-session. These sessions included over 50 people altogether.

We are continuing to promote our Abair Beagan simple parliamentary Gaelic resource for Parliament staff and Members (and which will also publicly available) and are now at advance stages with an updated version which we are planning to launch in tandem with our updated website (see below for details of website). See below for an example of the artwork for the new Abair Beagan.

We carried out a Gaelic staff survey just before the start of this reporting period and will report to BnG on this separately. We are now considering the best options for provision for Gaelic learners and also held a drop-in session to ask learners for their views.

Internal Comms:

We posted six Gaelic related posts on our intranet. Of these, 5 were Gaelic awareness posts and 1 was guidance on using Google Translate. Altogether, these were viewed by 637 times with our post about Gaelic placenames and the Parliament featuring an interview with Ainmean-àite na h-Alba being particularly popular.

Aim/Target: **Day-to-day operations**

Progress: On track

Correspondence: We have continued to encourage and welcome correspondence and forms filled in in Gaelic or bilingually, including committee evidence and petitions, and to promote our Gaelic phone number. We received a range of correspondence in Gaelic during this period, particularly in relation to the Scottish Languages Bill.

In terms of our commitment to monitor bilingual correspondence, we can do this via CitizenSpace for committee evidence and also issue regular reminders to teams which receive correspondence.

Education: In our plan we committed to exploring how we can deliver our education services for GME and GLE in future as we were unable to find candidates to replace our Gaelic speaking education outreach officer. We committed research through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, including consultation with the Gaelic education community, which has now reported We are currently considering how to proceed with the survey recommendations and will engage with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Education Scotland in the coming year.

We had 4 education sessions with a Gaelic component in the reporting period.

Participation in Gaelic community:

In this period we increased our community work.

This included participating in BOAG (Gaelic Corpus Planning Group) and Ainmean-àite na h-Alba (Gaelic Place-names of Scotland) meetings on corpus and also in the Gaelic Community Officers Group to whom we delivered an input in Gaelic and another in English about the Scottish Parliament's work in October. We have also been contributing more fully to Capital Gaelic including being included in their online map of Gaelic Edinburgh and we also arranged a half-day work experience session for three Gaelic speaking young people from James Gillespie's High School through the group.

During this period we made contact with Gaelic centres Culturlann Inbhir Nis and An Taigh Cèilidh, Ionad Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann and with the new Gaelic in Sutherland group. We see the Gaelic centre projects in Inverness, Stornoway, Edinburgh and Glasgow as key stakeholders.

We attended meetings of:

Happy to Translate;

Ceangal / Connect Conference about Gaelic and Irish in the University of Aberdeen in July 2025; and

The Oor Vyce Conference in November 2025. These were good opportunities to share good practice and to learn from other language groups.

We attended Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's online Census workshop in December 2025 and attended the Glasgow University Glasgow Gaelic app launch in May.

We took part in careers events in Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic School) in in March and November 2025 and at Craigton Primary, Glasgow – an English medium primary in Glasgow where we promoted Scottish Parliament and Gaelic jobs.

In January 2025, we welcomed a group of Gaelic and Irish students involved in an exchange trip to the Parliament for a Gaelic session and tour.   There were approx. 10 people in this group.

In October 2025, we delivered an online session with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students studying language planning. There were 5 people in this group.

In the Parliament itself, we took part in the Community Conference in July 2025, being presenters in the Accessibility workshop which also involved useful inputs relating to BSL and other languages. There were 20 people in the group.

Aim/Target: **Communications**

Newsletter: We launched our Gaelic newsletter an *Teachdaire Gàidhlig* in January 2025. We now have over 500 subscribers. It is intended to be a one stop-shop for news and information about the Scottish Parliament including parliamentary business, consultations, participation and visiting opportunities, job opportunities and more. The newsletter is in Gaelic but carries a bilingual introduction and a Gaelic awareness section with a parliamentary flavour in English to ensure it is suitable for learners and the Gaelic curious. We are very happy with the level of popularity and with the excellent level of penetration amongst fluent speakers and we are now working to increase uptake in Gaelic education community and amongst learners.

News releases: 11 news releases were published in Gaelic, this being same number as last year. We have moved away from publishing all news releases and now prioritise which ones to produce and focus on carrying news in our newsletter which reaches a larger audience. We prioritised news releases of major national interest like the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill and ones likely to be of particular interest to sections of the Gaelic community on subjects such as crofting, ferries and more.

Publications: Several publications were produced with Gaelic titles, executive summaries or forewords including the *Gender Sensitising Parliaments: A Practical Guide* report, Incorporating the UNCRC into the work of the Scottish Parliament report, Festival of Politics programme, Procurement Annual Report, Sustainability Annual Report, Carol Service booklet, Lobbing Register Annual report, Sustainable Travel Plan, Code of Conduct in the Chamber guidance leaflet, Guidance on Subordinate Legislation and the Guide for new members. Our complaints leaflet in Gaelic was updated. We didn't produce any new Gaelic or fully bilingual information publications in this reporting year due to the late period in the election cycle where new publications are uncommon, however, this will change in the next reporting year due to the election.

A wide range of education resources are available in Gaelic including comics, games, posters and education packs. Our resources include 10 resources produced in partnership with Twinkl, 5 Kahoot quizzes and 25 further resources including resources on TES. In this period two new Gaelic posters were produced about the work of MSPs and about Parliament and Government aiming at National 5 Modern Studies and these were sent to all Gaelic schools. We don't have statistics for our Twinkl resources at the moment but will report on this in future. For resources hosted on TES and on the Scottish Parliament website, we have had 309 downloads of Gaelic resources and over 27,000 downloads of packages which contain both the Gaelic and English versions of resources over the lifetime of the resources.

Gist translations: summary translations from the Gaelic media were provided to Committees and the Parliament Communication Office on several occasions including on the Scottish Languages Bill, land reform, ferries and crofting.

Website: We are in the process of remodelling the Gaelic section of the website and are currently preparing material for this including the Gaelic FAQs, the Gaelic glossary of parliamentary terms and new Abair Beagan resource. We feel that the previous Gaelic web content needed modernising and remodelling and so are working with the Parliament Communication Office to design a bespoke approach for Gaelic. Our preferred model is a Gaelic hub along the lines of the SNH Gaelic Hub which contains Gaelic resources and information in Gaelic but does not copy the structure of the website. Gaelic web content is a difficult issue as Gaelic is normally in a position where full bilingualism of large websites is not normally feasible for demand and cost reasons but where a

few web pages about the language itself also insufficient. Discussion of and guidance for good practice in Gaelic use for web, social media, applications and consultation platforms could be very useful at national level to help public bodies with their websites.

Social media: In this period we put out 170 social media posts in Gaelic, mainly on Twitter/X. These were mainly on our @ParlAlba account but also included other parliamentary accounts. At the end of the period, we had 3,379 followers for @ParlAlba and tweets on this channel received 26,943 impressions and 941 likes and shares. In line with the overall decline in engagement on Twitter, followers, reach and impressions have all declined. Our newsletter rather than Twitter is now our main way of reaching the Gaelic community and we are in discussions with our Web and Social Media about which social media platforms to use in future.

In addition to content in Gaelic, we also posted Gaelic awareness content on our corporate Instagram (which received 4,778 views, 78 likes and 8 saves) and posted our first ever Gaelic related post on our corporate Linkedin (90 likes, 16 reposts, 3 comments) to tie in with European Day of languages. We also had an Instagram story to promote our Gaelic newsletter which received 906 views and 18 interactions. Our Christmas video from the Presiding Officers included a Gaelic greeting.

Misc: We had a feature about Gaelic and BSL in the Scottish Parliament, with a particular emphasis on the Gaelic newsletter in the quarterly newsletter by SCILT Scotland's National Centre for Languages.

The Scottish Parliament
34,694 followers
3mo • 🌐

🌐 💬 5 things you might not know about Gaelic for European Day of Languages!

1️⃣ There are over 6,000 languages spoken worldwide - and more than 200 indigenous languages in Europe alone.

2️⃣ The most common European language groups are Germanic, Romance and Slavic.

Gaelic belongs to the Celtic family language, alongside its siblings Irish and Manx, and cousins Welsh, Cornish and Breton.

3️⃣ This year's theme is "Languages open hearts and minds":

🟣 Heart ("cridhe" in Gaelic) appears in the placename "Lurg Bhriste-Chridhe", in Ardnamurchan, meaning "broken heart ridge"

🟣 Head, or "ceann", anglicised as "kin", appears in Kinross, Kincardine and Kinlochleven

4️⃣ Gaelic is one of Scotland's four autochthonous languages, alongside British Sign Language, English, and Scots.

5️⃣ According to the 2022 Census, over 130,000 people in Scotland have Gaelic language skills, including 70,000 speakers, a significant increase since the previous census.

📣 Want to learn more? Sign up to our Gaelic newsletter: https://ow.ly/BEzU50X26We

#EuropeanDayOfLanguages #Gaelic #Gàidhlig #LanguageDiversity #ScottishCulture #LinkedInLearning

An Teachdaire Pàrlamaideach

Thall is a-bhos / Out and about

Dealbh/Photo: Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu

Tha sgioba na Gàidhlig air a bhith a-mach sa choimhearsnachd gu tric bho chionn ghoirid. Bho chaidh an litir-naidheachd mu dheireadh fhoillseachadh, tha sinn air tadhal air latha dhreuchdan ann an Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (faic an dealbh gu h-àrd) agus tha sinn cuideachd air bruidhinn ri Buidheann nan Oifigearan Gàidhlig, buidheann nàiseanta dhaibhsan a tha ag obair ann an leasachadh na Gàidhlig gus deagh chleachdadh a dheasbad agus naidheachdan a cho-roinn. Tha sinn cuideachd air pàirt a ghabhail ann an seisean le oileanaich Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a tha ag ionnsachadh mu phlanadh cànain. Chaidh sinn cuideachd dhan Our Vyce Gaitherin mu dheidhinn na Scots an-diugh gus faicinn an toir e ideathan math dhuinn airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus gus coimeas a dhèanamh eadar na tha a' dol ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig agus saoghal na Scots.

Aim/Target: **Corpus**

Progress: On track

We have continued to participate fully in Ainmean-àite na h-Alba and the BOAG corpus planning group.

We have worked with Ainmean-àite na h-Alba to create Gaelic forms of the new Parliamentary constituencies and regions for the 2026 elections.

The decision in this reporting year that BOAG will cover vocabulary as well as grammar will be very useful to us and we look forward to working with BOAG and other groups on this.

We continue to liaise closely with our translation contractors to ensure consistency and quality of translation.

Aim/Target: **Mainstreaming**

Progress: On track

We produce a compliance report biannually for our Director and review plan progress each six months to draw up work plans.

The Head of Public Engagement Services Office wrote to all office heads in August to remind them of Gaelic plan commitments for inclusion of office plans and to remind them of commitment about Gaelic officer to attend all team meetings to give Gaelic input and to encourage uptake of bilingual email sign offs. Teams signing up for bilingual signs offs included the Futures Forum and Finance. One particularly important team meeting session arranged was the Clerking Team Leaders meeting which we spoke to in September, emphasising key points of the Gaelic plan (e.g. making witnesses aware in advance they can use Gaelic [subject to convener's agreement], factors to consider in considering which enquiries to consider for Gaelic use including calls for evidence, newsletters, reports, engagement work.)

Information about using Gaelic, BSL and other languages has been included in the guide for new Members which will be issued after the election. We will also support MSP induction sessions and activities when they take place in 2026.

Use of Gaelic has been added to the Death of a Member guidance and Gaelic was used on the books of condolence for Christina McKelvie MSP and for former Presiding Office Sir George Reid.

Aim/Target: **Parliamentary Business**

Progress: On target

We used the Scottish Languages Bill as an opportunity to remind committee staff and Members about opportunities to use Gaelic in committee and chamber business. Witnesses were made aware that they may use Gaelic in giving evidence to committees (subject to the convener's agreement)

2 MSPs chose to use Gaelic in Parliamentary business during the Chamber for Stage 3 of the Scottish Languages Bill. This is down from 2 MSPs using 5 times in the previous reporting period which included stage 1 on the Scottish Languages Bill. Stage 1 involves more speeches than Stage 3's so this is not unexpected.

SPICe briefings and materials for debate for the Bill were produced in Gaelic and the Gaelic Officers publicised progress with the bill via social media and the newsletter.

Much thought was given to simultaneous interpretation during this period due to the use of Gaelic in the Bill in order to make sure quality is as high as possible, working closely with interpreters and that and the Official Report has now adopted a procedure for correcting any omissions or mistakes. Lack of Gaelic interpreters and lack of training for interpreters remains an issue and we are taking the actions within our remit to address by offering training, experience, guidance and support to those interpreters who are working in Scotland at the moment. The Parliament remains committed to working in partnership with BnG and others to support the development pipeline and continuous development of interpreters working in Gaelic.

Five motions were submitted bilingually in English and Gaelic by three different Members. This compares with three motions submitted bilingually in the previous reporting period. When a Member submits a Gaelic related or similar question in English, we contact the Member to remind them that motions may be submitted bilingually and offer advice about how to arrange translation.

We produced two Calls for Views in Gaelic in this period – the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill and Scottish Languages Bill and ADHD and ASD Pathways and Support. No responses were received in Gaelic this time round. We continue to publicise all Calls for Views in Gaelic and to mention that we welcome views in Gaelic. We remain committed to normalising being able to submit in Gaelic by promoting Gaelic Calls for Views.

Details of parliamentary business published in the newsletter, including all upcoming business and mentions of Gaelic in Parliament.

4. Any other relevant information.

We have launched a demo of our virtual tour which is available in English, Gaelic and BSL. It is a work in progress and we are seeking feedback.