



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

### **Sgrìobh Beagan [skreev bek-an] 'Write a Little'**

*Simple Gaelic for letters, cards and correspondence*

Using some simple Gaelic in your letters, emails or business cards is a good way of raising the profile of the language.

On the following pages are a number of phrases that might be of use.

### **Letters**

Date:

To put the date on the letter, simply add the day and the month. You don't have to worry about writing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> – just write in the number.

January	- <b>Faoilleach</b>
February	- <b>Gearran</b>
March	- <b>Màrt</b>
April	- <b>Giblean</b>
May	- <b>Cèitean</b>
June	- <b>Ògmhios</b>
July	- <b>Iuchar</b>
August	- <b>Lùnastal</b>
September	- <b>Sultain</b>
October	- <b>Dàmhair</b>
November	- <b>Samhain</b>
December	- <b>Dùbhlachd</b>

So to say 10 January 2017, you would say 10 Faoilleach 2017.

Address:

The address of the Scottish Parliament is as follows in Gaelic:

**Pàrlamaid na h-Alba**

**Dùn Èideann,**

**EH99 1SP**

**Fòn:** *(phone)*

**Post-d:** *(email)*

Generic modes of address:

The traditional mode of address in Gaelic is:

**A charaid (chòir)** = Dear (honourable) Friend (sing.)

**A chàirdean (còire)** = Dear (honourable) Friends (pl.)

If you wish to insert the name of the person to whom you are writing, you would put in the person's name:

**Mr Smith > Mr Smith a charaid**

**Ms Smith > Ms Smith a charaid** or **Ms Smith a bhanacharaid**

(a bhanacharaid is a female form of the word friend but it is rather old fashioned and a charaid works for both sexes now)

Mr & Mrs Smith > **Mr & Mrs Smith a chàirdean**

Sign off:

**Le deagh dhùrachd,** = Yours faithfully/yours sincerely

**Le gach deagh dhùrachd,** = Yours faithfully/yours sincerely

**Le dùrachdan,** = Yours faithfully/yours sincerely

### Addressing letters:

If you wish to use some Gaelic in addressing a letter, perhaps by adding the Gaelic version along with the English one, here are some of the more common place-names.

Aberdeen – Obar Dheathain	Inverness – Inbhir Nis
Dundee – Dùn Dè	Kilmarnock – Cill Mheàrnaig
Dunfermline – Dùn Phàrlain	Kirkcaldy – Cair Chaladain
Edinburgh – Dùn Èideann	Oban – An t-Oban
Dumfries – Dùn Phris	Paisley – Pàislig
Falkirk – An Eaglais Bhreac	Perth – Peairt
Fort William – An Gearastan	Portree – Port Rìgh
Glasgow – Glaschu	Stirling – Sruighlea
Greenock - Grianag	Stornoway - Steòrnabhagh

If you would like any more place-names, you can contact the Gaelic Officers (85395, [gaidhlig@parliament.scot](mailto:gaidhlig@parliament.scot)) or use the [Ainmean-àite na h-Alba](http://www.ainmean-àite.na.h-Alba) website.

### **E-mail:**

If you are leaving an out of office message, why not do it in Gaelic too? You can either insert the dates in numbers or create the date using the months on the previous page.

*I am out of the office at the moment. I will return on [insert date]*

**Chan eil mi san oifis an-dràsta. Tillidh mi [insert date]**

*I will be out of the office between [insert date] and [insert]*

**Cha bhi mi san oifis eadar [insert date] agus [insert]**

### **Social Media:**

If you are writing about something connected with Gaelic, use the hashtag

#Gaidhlig

(Gàidhlig is the Gaelic for Gaelic)

### **Business Cards:**

Bilingual business cards are available with English appearing on one side and Gaelic on the other. These can be ordered in the normal way.

Address:

**Seòmair** [i.e Room - *insert room number*]

**Pàrlamaid na h-Alba**

**Dùn Èideann**

**EH99 1SP**

Tel: **Fòn**

Mob: **Fòn-làimh**

You can find out your job title from the Gaelic Officers: 85395, [gaidhlig@parliament.scot](mailto:gaidhlig@parliament.scot).

If you would like to find out if there is a Gaelic version of your name, you can get this from the Gaelic officers too. This is very much a personal choice as your name is obviously yours to own.

## **Welcoming correspondence in Gaelic**

To say “We welcome correspondence in Gaelic” you would say “Tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air conaltraidhean sgrìobhte anns a’ Ghàidhlig”

### **Greetings cards:**

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

### **Nollaig Chridheil is Bliadhna Mhath Ùr**

*Season’s Greetings*

### ***Beannachdan na Ràithe***

*Happy Birthday*

### **Co-là-breith sona**

### **Spoken Gaelic:**

If you’d like to try a little spoken Gaelic try our accompanying [Abair Beagan](#) resource which features a booklet and soundfiles. This contains some simple Gaelic phrases, terms of address and useful parliamentary terminology

## **Contact Us**

If you require any further information or assistance please contact the Gaelic Officers:

Telephone: 0131 348 5395

Email: [Gaidhlig@parliament.scot](mailto:Gaidhlig@parliament.scot)

Further information can be found at: [www.parliament.scot/gaelic](http://www.parliament.scot/gaelic)

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