



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01795

Name of petitioner

Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh on behalf of Misneachd

Petition title

Maoineachadh do Spòrs Gàidhlig - Funding for Spòrs Gàidhlig

Petition summary

Airson gun iarr Pàrlamaid na h-Alba air Riaghaltas na h-Alba coinneachadh ri Bòrd na Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn mu mhaoineachadh seasmhach nas fhaide-ùine do Spòrs Gàidhlig, iomairt shòisealta a' libhrigeadh ionnsachadh air a' bhlàr a-muigh do dh'òigridh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to meet with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to discuss longer term and sustainable funding for Spòrs Gàidhlig, a social enterprise delivering outdoor learning to young people through the medium of Gaelic.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Tha sinn air bruidhinn ri Bòrd na Gàidhlig, air sgrìobhadh do Riaghaltas na h-Alba is cuideachd air bruidhinn ris an fheadhainn a bha ag obair do Spòrs Gàidhlig.

We have spoken to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, written to the Scottish Government and spoken to those who worked for Spòrs Gàidhlig.

Petition background information

1. Chaidh dùnadh Spòrs Gàidhlig a ghairm faisg air deireadh 2019. Às dèidh seo, tha mi a' tuigsinn gun tug Bòrd na Gàidhlig dhaibh maoineachadh de £45,000 anns an t-Samhan 2019, a tha a' ciallachadh gun urrainn do Spòrs Gàidhlig cumail a' dol airson mu 18 mìosan eile.

2. 'S e amas an Riaghaltais foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FMG) a chur am meud thairis air na bliadhnaichean a tha romhainn, agus tha sin a' fàgail gum bi barrachd iartais ann airson sheirbhisean mar Spòrs Gàidhlig. Tha co-dhùnidhean a' Bhùird agus an Riaghaltais gun a bhith a' toirt taic dhan bhuidhinn tro àm doirbh, gus am bi i air stèidh nas daingne, a' sealltainn dìth lèirsinn agus a' dol calg-dhireach an aghaidh amasan an Riaghaltais a thaobh foghlam agus an cànan a bhrosnachadh am measg dhaoine òga. Tha am poileasaidh a th' ann an-dràsta a' glasadh Gàidhlig san t-seòmar-

teagaisg mar dàrna cànan. Bidh seirbheisean mar Spòrs Gàidhlig riatanach ma tha buaidh gu bhith aig FMG ann a bhith a' cruthachadh ginealach ùr de luchd-labhairt gnìomhach. Air sgàth a' chion lèirsinn a sheall dùnadh Spòrs Gàidhlig, agus cion lèirsinn san fharsaingeachd aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig, bu chòir don Riaghaltas coimhead gu geur air an dòigh anns a bheil Bòrd na Gàidhlig ga ruith gus taic do thar-chur cànan am measg an t-sluaigh a neartachadh.

3. Tha e follaiseach gum feum am fuasgladh a thighinn bhon Riaghaltas fhèin aig an ìre seo is bhiodh e air leth feumail nan deigheadh a' chùis seo a thogail sa Phàrlamaid. Chan e an duilgheadas dìreach an aon cho-dhùnadh seo, ach pàtran fada de bhuidhnean cudromach a' dol à bith fo stiùir Bhòrd na Gàidhlig. Chan eil an structar a th' againn an-dràsta ag obair agus tha luchd na Gàidhlig a' call earbsa ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus ann an Riaghaltas na h-Alba a thaobh chùisean Gàidhlig.

4. Tha mòran air nochdadh sna meadhanan Gàidhlig mu seo:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49796478>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49825948>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49811139>

<http://ow.ly/Bqo550xkXAO>

5. Tha cuideachd tòrr air nochdadh mun chuspair air na meadhanan sòisealta.

Faic: Alt air Facebook mu Spòrs Gàidhlig le Misneachd, 24 Sultain 2019

6. Anns an alt seo, tha Misneachd ag innse gun do chuir Bòrd na Gàidhlig grunn cheistean air Spòrs Gàidhlig a thaobh cothrom air tuilleadh maoinachaidh, agus gun do fhreagair Spòrs Gàidhlig na ceistean sin. An uair sin thug Bòrd na Gàidhlig am maoinachadh air falbh bho Spòrs Gàidhlig, a chionn nach robh iad sàsaichte leis na freagairtean a fhuair iad. Ach, tha Misneachd den bheachd gu robh freagairtean Spòrs Gàidhlig iomchaidh, agus, air an adhbhar sin, nach robh còir aig a' Bhòrd stad a chur air a' mhaoineachadh.

7. Mar eisimpleir, nuair a dh'fhaighnich iad mu àireamhan chom-pàirtichean mu choinneamh nan cosgaisean agus teachd-a-steach (sruth-airgid) airson nan 18 mìosan ri thighinn, a rèir coltais cha do thuig oifigich a' Bhùird nach urrainnear fiosrachadh deimhinnte a libhrigeadh airson 18 mìosan. Tha e stèidhichte air ro-shealladh air cò na sgoiltean a ghabhas pàirt. Chaidh innse do na h-oifigearan cò na sgoiltean ris an robh dùil againn agus àireamhan.

1. The closure of Spòrs Gàidhlig was announced in late 2019. Following this, I understand that a £45,000 funding package was provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in November 2019, which means that Spòrs Gàidhlig can continue for approximately 18 months.

2. The Scottish Government's aim is to increase Gaelic-medium education (GME) over the next few years, which will lead to an increased demand for services such as Spòrs Gàidhlig. The decisions of the Bòrd and the Scottish Government not to support the organisation through a difficult period, until it is on a firmer footing, reflect a lack of vision and is at odds with the Scottish Government's aims regarding education and promoting the language among young people. The current policy ghettoises Gaelic in the classroom as a second language. Services such as Spòrs Gàidhlig will be essential if GME is to create a new generation of active speakers. Given the lack of vision demonstrated by the recent near closure of Spòrs Gàidhlig, and the general lack of vision shown by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Scottish Government should examine carefully the way in which Bòrd na Gàidhlig is run, with a view to strengthen language transmission amongst the population.

3. Clearly, a solution must come from the Scottish Government at this stage and it would be extremely helpful to have this issue raised in Parliament. What is at issue is not just this one decision, but a long pattern of significant organisations disappearing under the stewardship of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The present structure is not working and Gaelic speakers are losing confidence in Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government regarding Gaelic matters.

4. Much has appeared in Gaelic media on this subject:

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49796478>

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<http://ow.ly/Bqo550xkXAO>

5. The subject has also gained a lot of attention on social media.

See: Facebook article on Spòrs Gàidhlig by Misneachd, 24 September 2019

6. In this article, Misneachd explains that Bòrd na Gàidhlig asked Spòrs Gàidhlig various questions with regard to the possibility of their continued funding, which Spòrs Gàidhlig answered. Bòrd na Gàidhlig subsequently removed the funding for Spòrs Gàidhlig, as Bòrd na Gàidhlig perceived the answers to be inadequate. However, Misneachd believes that Spòrs Gàidhlig adequately answered the questions, and therefore that the funding shouldn't have been removed.

7. For example, in asking the question about numbers of participants against costs and income (cash flow) for the next 18 months, apparently Bòrd officials did not understand that guaranteed information cannot be given for 18 months. It is based on a forecast of which schools might participate. The officers were given information on which schools we were expecting and numbers.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/fundingSporsGaidhlig>

Related information for petition

Brath naidheachd sa Ghàidhlig:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jEo0fZ_m2DGIL0dxgjCuJ2Hyhr9afY6K/view?usp=sharing

Press release in English:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q_YoQpGN2VEKab3zYoxXDtkmazrPZcIf/view?usp=sharing

Petition Text:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eg-1NHXKrF4vYBk6vMhH0u3OG30GiOM6/view?usp=sharing>

Misneachd air Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/misneachd/sp%C3%B2rs-g%C3%A0idhlig/1164497340400797/>

Naidheachd air a' BhBC:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49796478>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49811139>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/49825948>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

Closing date for collecting signatures online

17 / 03 / 2020

Comments to stimulate online discussion

1. A bheil thu ag aontachadh gu bheil seirbheisean mar Spòrs Gàidhlig deatamach ma tha buaidh sam bith dol a bhith aig Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig air ginealach ùr de luchd-labhairt gnìomhach na Gàidhlig a chruthachadh agus a chur am meud, a rèir poileasaidh Riaghaltas na h-Alba?

2. A bheil thu a' smaoinichadh gum bu chòir do Riaghaltas na h-Alba ath-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air obair a' Bhùird le sùil ri taic a neartachadh airson tar-chur a' chànain gu ginealach ùr?

1. Do you agree that services such as Spòrs Gàidhlig are vital if Gaelic Medium Education is to have any impact in creating and increasing a new generation of active Gaelic speakers in line with Scottish Government policy?

2. Do you think the Scottish Government should review the operation of the Bòrd with a view to strengthening support for the grassroots transmission of the language to a new generation?