

PE1795/B

COSLA submission of 25 September 2020

COSLA is the voice of Scottish Local Government's political leadership, representing all 32 of Scotland's Councils. We welcome the opportunity to provide a response.

We note the position of Spòrs Gàidhlig as detailed in the Scottish Government response to the Petitions Committee. As your committee members will be aware, local authorities across the country are facing significant financial pressures as a result of the pandemic. This will have knock on effects on both the range of sports and other physical activities than can safely be carried out with young people, as well as the funding of 3rd sector non-statutory provision. We face considerable uncertainty over the next year, and possibly longer as we work through the current crisis and its impacts.

Nonetheless, we recognise the point arising from the Spòrs Gàidhlig meeting with **sportscotland** and believe it will still be possible for Spòrs Gàidhlig and some individual councils to work together. It is welcomed that the Bòrd na Gàidhlig has agreed to continue supporting Spòrs Gàidhlig until the end of this financial year. It would be useful if the Bòrd were willing to continue their funding into the year beyond, as councils address the ongoing and longer term effects of the public health current crisis.

As a membership organisation COSLA is not in a position to advise members to fund such activities. However, I am happy to draw members councils' attention to the petition, and the Scottish Government response, through an update report at the next meeting of our Children and Young People Board, while encouraging Spòrs Gàidhlig to continue to approach councils and schools directly.