

## **Scottish Parliament translation guidelines:**

### **Gaelic Orthographic Conventions**

All translators should follow the most recent version of the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45356.html>

### **Stiùireadh Gràmair**

The LEACAG grammar guidance produced for Bòrd na Gàidhlig is available at:

<https://dasg.ac.uk/grammar/>

A range of other translation and language resources are available at:

<https://parliament.scot/gd/visitandlearn/40900.aspx>

### **Spellcheckers**

Translators should consider using Gaelic spell checkers which can be downloaded free of charge for use:

<http://www.igaidhlig.net/en/category/spellchecking/>  
<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/wentworth/litreachadh/english.html>

### **Name of the Scottish Parliament**

The Gaelic name for the Scottish Parliament is *Pàrlamaid na h-Alba* and this should always be used.

*A' Phàrlamaid Albannach*, *Pàrlamaid Alba* and any other variants should never be used.

### **Prepositions:**

- Avoid double use of the article. Use *mun Ghàidhlig*, *don tràigh* etc rather than *mun a' Ghàidhlig*, *don an tràigh* etc.
- When using *do* and *de* before a noun beginning with a vowel, *dh'* should be inserted. (*Do dh'Alba*, *de dh'achd*, etc).

### **Is / 'S / Agus**

To avoid confusion:

- *Is e* or *'s e* should be used for the copula.
- *Is* should be used as the short form for *agus*.

### **Apostrophes**

When using apostrophes in the copula (*'s e*) or in verbal nouns (*a' dèanamh*) etc, smart quotes should be used and apostrophes should be those shown here shaped like the number 9 and NOT those shaped like the number 6.

● 'S e — correct

● ‘S e — incorrect

### Ampersands

Ampersands (&) should not be used. *Agus* or *is* or the character ᵹ (the Gaelic ampersand) should be used instead.

### Vowels

Where one word ends with a vowel and the following word begins with a vowel, the words should be written in full. Vowels should not be replaced with an apostrophe. E.g. *bliadhna ùr / baile ùr / tha mi an dòchas* NOT *bliadhn' ùr, bail' ùr, tha mi 'n dòchas* etc.

### Language names:

Regular names: Welsh, French / the Welsh language, French language, etc should be translated as *Cuimris/a' Chuimris, Fraingis/an Fhraingis* etc and NEVER as *Cuimreach / cànan na Cuimrigh / cànan na Cuimris* etc

Irregular language names:

- “The Gaelic language” should be translated as *Gàidhlig / a' Ghàidhlig*, NOT as *a' chànain Ghàidhlig* or *cànain na Gàidhlig* etc. e.g. Gaelic Language Act = *Achd na Gàidhlig*.
- “The English language” should be translated as *Beurla / a' Bheurla*, NOT as *a' chànain Bheurla* or *cànain na Beurla* etc.
- “The Scots language” should be translated as *a' Bheurla Ghallda* or *Scots*, NOT as *Albais, a' chànain Albannach* etc.
- “The Irish language”, Irish or Irish Gaelic should be translated as *Gaeilge* or *Gàidhlig na h-Èireann*.

### Place-names:

All Scottish place names should be translated where possible. Uncertain or obscure place names may be glossed or left in English.

Translators should use the versions of place-names recommended in the [Ainmean-àite na h-Alba](#) database. If the name in question is not on the database, the

translator can leave the name in English or provide a Gaelic name from another reliable source. If the translator flags up a word not in the Ainmean-àite na h-Alba database with the Gaelic team, we can send this to AÀA for translation so that it will appear in the database in future.

Use constituency names as they appear on the Scottish Parliament website.  
<https://parliament.scot/gd/visitandlearn/40900.aspx>

*Dùn Èideann* = genitive is *Dhùn Èideann* (not *Dhùn Èidinn*).

*Alba* = *Alba* should be used as dative and *na h-Alba* as genitive.

### **Names outwith Scotland:**

England: London (*Lunnainn*), Newcastle (*An Caisteal Nuadh*), Berwick (*Bearaig*) should be translated. All other names should be left as in English.

Ireland: names should appear in Irish if translator wishes to use the Irish version of the names. For common names known by most Scottish Gaelic speakers (e.g. *Baile Átha Cliath/Beál Feirste/Doire* etc) the name can appear in Irish only. For names less commonly recognised in Scotland, the name should be written in Irish with the name in English afterwards in brackets (e.g. *Loch Garman [Wexford]*). The best source of Irish Placenames is [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie):

Some common examples are: Dublin = *Baile Átha Cliath*, Belfast = *Beál Feirste*, Derry/Londonderry = *Doire*, Cork = *Corcaigh*, Galway = *Gaillimh*, Limerick = *Luimneach*.

For Ireland, *Éirinn* should be used as nominative and dative and *na h-Éireann* should be used as genitive.

Country names: should be translated where possible. The country names used in the Stòrlann map for schools are available at: <http://www.anseotal.org.uk> but these are sometimes inconsistent so translators should exercise their own discretion.

Postal addresses should be translated where possible. Street names can be wholly or partly left in English if difficult to translate

### **Personal names:**

Use Gaelic versions of MSP names as they appear on the Scottish Parliament website: <https://parliament.scot/gd/visitandlearn/40900.aspx>

For other people, use Gaelic version of both first names and surnames if these are easily recognisable to Gaelic speakers. The translator should use their own discretion on this.

### **Organisation names:**

If a group has a Gaelic version of its name which it uses (e.g. *Foghlam Alba*, *Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd*) this should be used. If the group doesn't have an official Gaelic version of its name, names can be translated if easy to understand but can be left in English if not. The translators should use their own discretion on this.

### **Committee names:**

Use Gaelic versions of committee names as they appear on the Scottish Parliament website: <https://parliament.scot/gd/visitandlearn/40900.aspx>

### **Acronyms:**

Acronyms should be left in English normally unless there is a commonly used Gaelic acronym in use for the group/concept in question. (E.g., BBC and NHS should be left as BBC and NHS). Where the acronym is not well known in either Gaelic or English, it may be better to use the full name in Gaelic rather than using the acronym (e.g. if translating about Historic Environment Scotland, *Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba* could be written in full each time it appears rather than the acronym HES).

BPA should be used for MSP.

### **Legislation names:**

When translating the annual report, the previous year's annual report is a good source of the Gaelic names of bills and acts as many pieces of legislation will have been before the Parliament in the previous year.

<https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/46931.aspx>

The names of most pieces of Scottish Parliament legislation are available in *Am Faclair Beag*.

### **Alphabetical order:**

Where lists are in alphabetical order in English, these should normally be put into Gaelic alphabetical order. If in doubt, contact the Gaelic service.

### **Tu / Sibh: Second person singular**

The *tu* form should normally be used rather than the *sibh* form for the second person singular. The exception to this would be in translating direct speech where *sibh* would normally be more appropriate.

### **Language specific text:**

If text in materials such as school quizzes or worksheets is dependent on puns, sounds of words etc, this should not be directly translated from English but adapted to fit the Gaelic situation. If in doubt, contact the Gaelic service.

## **Glosses:**

If a term is particularly difficult to translate and may be difficult for readers to understand, feel free to use English glosses in brackets after the Gaelic.

## **Hyperlinks:**

Please translate the names of the links but leave the links themselves intact. Use right click and 'edit hyperlink' to change the name of the link.

## **Difficult terms:**

- Government – where this means the Government or local government etc, *riaghaltas* should be used. When it means governing (e.g “the system of government”, “taking part in the government of the country”) *riaghladh* should be used.
- Concern – where this is used in the sense “issues that concern us”, *dragh* or *iomagain* should not be used as concern here means issues in which people have an interest and not issues which worry them. (“*Cuisean anns a bheil ùidh againn*” or “*cuisean a bheir buaidh oirnn*” etc).
- Develop – *leasaich* should only be used for the development of things which already exist. Where develop means to create something new, (e.g. the Committee has developed proposals), something else should be used (e.g. *dèan, cur ri chèile, cruthaich, sgrìobh* etc).
- Accountable – “*a’ toirt gu dìoladh*” should be avoided for “holding that the Government is accountable” as it has a negative connotation with the suggestion being that the Government is being held accountable for wrongdoing. Instead “*a’ cumail cunntachail*” or something similar should be used
- Organisation – “*eagrachadh*” should not be used to mean a group or organisation. It should only be used to mean the way in which a group is organised (i.e. to describe the structure of a group).

## **Latha / Là**

*Latha* should always be used for day.

## **Assistance:**

Contact Mark Neilly or Alasdair MacCaluim at the Gaelic service if you have any questions. We're happy to help. 0131 348 5395 [gaidhlig@parliament.scot](mailto:gaidhlig@parliament.scot); [www.parlamaid-alba.org](http://www.parlamaid-alba.org)