

 Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig do Cho-chomhairle Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air sgìrean-sgoile FtG airson Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain Bun-Sgoil Bruach na Muilne Acadamaidh Inbhir Narann 24^{mh} Dàmhair 2023	Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Response on the Highland Council Consultation on GME Catchment Area for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis Inverness Royal Academy Dingwall Primary School Dingwall Academy Millbank Primary School Nairn Academy 24th October 2023
1. Ro-ràdh Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte ann am prionnsapal, air an iomairt gus sgìrean-sgoile airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG) a stèidheachadh anns na sgoiltean a tha air an liostadh gu h-àrd. Tha am Bòrd ag aithneachadh gu bheil Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' gluasad a dh'ionnsaigh a bhith a' stèidheachadh sgìrean-sgoile far a bheil solar FtG ann an sgìre na Comhairle. Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig agus Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig airson 2018-23 mar bhunait airson freagairt a' Bhùird dhan cho-chomhairle seo. Tha e mar bhunait dhan Stiùireadh Reachdail, gum bu chòir FtG a leasachadh agus gum bu chòir fàs a thoirt air agus tha barrachd mion-fhiosrachaidh air seo san stiùireadh.	1. Introduction Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes in principle, the initiative to establish school catchment areas for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in the above listed schools. The Bòrd recognises that Highland Council is moving to the establishment of catchment areas where there does exist GME provision in the Council's area. The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 form the basis for the Bòrd's response to this consultation. The Statutory Guidance, where there is further detail on the steps involved, has as its basis that GME should develop and grow.

2. Fiosrachadh Co-chomhairleachaidh Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ag ràdh gu bheil iad airson sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh air na h-adhbharan a leanas: • Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig a' moladh gun stèidhich Ùghdarrasan Ionadail sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG. • Tha dìth soilleireachd ann an-dràsta do phàrantan agus luchd-cùraim a tha ag iarraidh FtG dhan chuid chloinne anns na coimhearsnachdan a tha air am frithealadh leis an t-solar FtG a tha air a liostadh. Tha an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail a' dèanamh na h-eacarsaich a rèir an dleastanais a bhith a' toirt seachad Luach as Fheàrr ann an lìbhrigeadh sheirbheisean. • Tha an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail air an cleachdadh a chur an sàs de bhith a' toirt seachad còmh-dhail taobh a-staigh astar siubhail reusanta, a thathar a' mineachadh sa chumantas mar taobh a-staigh 15 mìle bho sgoil a tha a' lìbhrigeadh FtG.	2. Consultation Information The Highland Council say they want to establish catchment areas for the following reasons: • The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education recommends that Local Authorities establish catchment areas for GME. • There is currently a lack of clarity for parents and carers seeking to access GME in the communities served by the GME provision listed. The Local Authority is undertaking the exercise in line with the duty to provide Best Value in service delivery. • The Local Authority has used the practice of providing transport within a reasonable travelling distance, which has generally been understood to mean within 15 miles of a school delivering GME.
3. Molaidhean na Comhairle Solarachadh FtG ann am Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Narann (Acadamaidh Inbhir Narann agus Bun-sgoil Bruach na Muilne). Ann am prionnsapal tha taic Bhòrd na Gàidhlig ri bhith a' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile soilleir airson solar FtG ann am Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Narann, an dà chuid solar airson Àrd-sgoile agus Bun-sgoile, mar a tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' moladh. Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near do raon de	3. Council Recommendation GME Provision Nairn ASG (Nairn Academy and Millbank Primary). In principle Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports the establishment of a clear catchment area for the GME provision in the Nairn ASG, both Secondary and Primary provision, as proposed by the Highland Council. We note a range of concerns raised by

dhraghan a thog pàrantan a thaobh solar FtG taobh a-staigh Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Narann agus tha sinn a' moladh gu làidir gun tèid ceumannan èiginneach a ghabhail gus piseach a thoirt air an t-suidheachadh a' gabhail a-steach na leanas: • Gun tèid plana a chur an sàs gus goireasan a bharrachd fhaighinn gus curraicealam FtG leudaichte a lìbhrigeadh (tha seo a' gabhail a-steach an dà chuid taic bho thidsearan taobh a-muigh na Buidhne Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte agus a bhith a' fastadh thidsearan a bharrachd). Tha sinn a' moladh gun tèid am plana airson leasachadh curraicealaim a chur ri chèile le taic bho Fhoghlam Alba, Roinn na Gàidhlig agus Albais aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba (Sgeama Thabhartasan Sònraichte agus 's dòcha Maoin Calpa na Gàidhlig). Is urrainn Sgioba an Fhoghlaim aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig comhairle agus taic phroifeiseanta a bharrachd a thoirt seachad cuideachd. • Bu chòir Tabhartas Curraicealaim FtG aig Acadamaidh Inbhir Narann a leudachadh gach seisean. • Bu chòir dhan Phlana Leasachaidh Sgoile bhliadhnail agus an Aithisg Inbhean is Càileachd Bhliadhnail sealltainn gu soilleir do phàrantan dè na leasachaidhean a thathar a' libhrigeadh air a' Churraicealam gach seisean. Tha e deatamach gum bithear a' coimhead air an t-solar FtG taobh a-staigh Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Narann mar sheirbheis 3-18, a' toirt foghlam tràth-bhliadhnach, bun-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile aig àrd-ìre do phàrantan. Tha	parents concerning GME provision within the Nairn ASG and strongly recommend that urgent steps are taken to improve the position including the following: • A plan be put in place to secure additional resource to deliver an expanded GME curriculum (this relates to both delivery of support from teachers outwith the ASG and recruitment of additional teachers). We recommend that the plan for curriculum development be constructed with support from the Education Scotland, Scottish Government Gaelic and Scots Division (Specific Grant Scheme and potentially the Gaelic Capital Fund). The Education Team at Bòrd na Gàidhlig can also provide additional professional advice and support. • The GME Curriculum Offer at Nairn Academy should be expanded each session. • The annual School Improvement Plan and Annual Standards and Quality Report should clearly indicate for parents the improvements in the Curriculum Offer being delivered each session. It is crucial that the GME provision within the Nairn ASG is envisioned as a 3-18 service providing parents with Early Years, Primary and Secondary education of a high quality. Parents have raised concerns regarding the 3-18 vision. We recommend strongly that
--	--

pàrantan air draghan a thogail a thaobh na lèirsinn 3-18. Tha sinn a' moladh gu làidir gun tèid taobh nan Tràth-bhliadhnaichean de sholar 3-18 ath-sgrùdadh, agus gun tèid plana gnìomh a chruthachadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid làn fheum a dhèanamh den ùidh ann am FtG sa choimhearsnachd gus am bi barrachd misneachd aig pàrantan ann an solar FtG bho aois 3-18 sna Tràth-bhliadhnaichean, sa bhun-sgoil agus san àrd-sgoil. Am measg nan amasan a th' aig eacarsaichean airson a bhith a' stèidheachadh sgìrean-sgoile, tha a bhith a' neartachadh misneachd phàrantan ann am FtG, a bhith a' soilleireachadh chùisean a thaobh lìbhrigeadh sheirbheisean agus a bhith a' cruthachadh shuidheachaidhean far am bi seirbheisean FtG ionadail a' tàladh barrachd is barrachd theaghlaichean gus "critical mass" a stèidheachadh. Tha comharran soilleir bhon eacarsaich cho-chomhairleachaidh gum feumar obair mhòr a dhèanamh gus misneachd a thogail. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig den bheachd gum bu chòir planadh leasachaidh a chur an sàs gus am bi fianais shoilleir air adhartas san Aithisg Inbhean is Càileachd airson seisean 2023-24, a thèid a dhèanamh gach seisean às dèidh sin. Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Pheofharain, Alanais agus na Cananaich (Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain agus Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain) Ann am prionnsapal tha taic Bhòrd na Gàidhlig ri bhith a' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile soilleir airson solar FtG ann am Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Pheofharain, Alanais agus na Cananaich, an dà chuid airson solar Àrd-sgoile agus Bun-sgoile, mar a mhol Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt fa-near gu bheil dùbhlain ann fhathast a thaobh	the Early Years aspect of the 3-18 provision is reviewed, and an action plan created to ensure that interest in GME within the community is fully exploited so that across the 3-18 GME provision parental confidence in GME Early Years, Primary and Secondary is increased. Amongst the aims of the establishment of catchments exercise are the reinforcement of parental confidence in GME, the establishment of clarity around service provision and the creation of the conditions where local GME services will attract more and more families to establish a "critical mass". There are clear indications from the consultation exercise that considerable work requires to be done to build confidence. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is of the view that development planning should be put in place so that in the Standards and Quality Report for session 2023-24 there is clear evidence of progress, which will then be sustained each session thereafter. Dingwall, Alness and Fortrose ASGs (Dingwall Academy and Dingwall Primary) In principle Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports the establishment of a clear catchment area for the GME provision in the Dingwall, Alness and Fortrose ASG, both Secondary and Primary provision, as proposed by the Highland Council. Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes that there remain some challenges around travelling times and ensuring that GME as an option continues to be attractive for parents.
--	--

amannan siubhail agus a bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil FtG fhathast tarraingeach mar roghainn do phàrantan. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' moladh gun cùm an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail air a' conaltradh le coimhearsnachdan ann am Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte na Cananaich le dùil a bhith a' stèidheachadh solar FtG san àm ri teachd. Tha na h-amannan agus astaran siubhail airson Srath Chonainn agus Cromba fhathast taobh a-muigh a' mhìneachaidh choitcheinn gu bheil astar siubhail reusanta nas lugha na 15 mìle. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' moladh gun obraich an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail le coimhearsnachdan ionadail gus sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air na cothroman a th' ann gus solar FtG a stèidheachadh taobh a-staigh na sgìre ionadail anns na h-àiteachan sin. Bidh e cudromach leantainn air adhart a' planadh solar FtG taobh a-staigh na Buidhne Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte seo le lèirsinn airson seata de sheirbheisean FtG bho aois 3-18. Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Nis (BSGI, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis) Ann am prionnsapal tha taic Bhòrd na Gàidhlig ri bhith a' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile shoilleir airson solar FtG ann am Buidheann Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte Inbhir Nis, a' gabhail a-steach an dà chuid solar Àrd-sgoile agus Bun-sgoile, mar a mhol Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd. Coltach ri Srath Chonainn agus Cromba, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt fa-near gu bheil an t-astar airson cuid de sgoiltean taobh a-muigh an radius 15 mìle ged nach eil amannan siubhail cho dùbhlanaich. Ach, a-rithist dh'fhaodte gum bi cothrom ann	Bòrd na Gàidhlig recommends that the Local Authority continue to engage with communities in Fortrose ASG with a view to setting up GME provision at a future point. The travelling times and distances for Strathconon and Cromarty remain outwith the general interpretation that reasonable travelling distance is less than 15 miles. Bòrd na Gàidhlig recommends that the Local Authority work with local communities to explore the potential for setting up GME provision within the local area in these areas. It will be important to continue planning GME provision within this ASG with a vision for a 3-18 set of GME services. Inverness ASGs (BSGI, Inverness Royal Academy) In principle Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports the establishment of a clear catchment area for the GME provision in the Inverness ASGs, both Secondary and Primary provision, as proposed by the Highland Council. Similar to Strathconon and Cromarty, Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes that distances for some schools are outwith the 15-mile radius though travelling times are not as challenging. However, again there may be scope for developing further GME provision within local
---	---

barrachd solair FtG a chruthachadh taobh a-staigh nan sgìrean ionadail seo gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil seirbheis FtG nas ionadaile ann. San dealachadh, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag aithneachadh cho iom-fhillte 's a tha an solar anns na Buidhnean Sgoiltean Cho-cheangailte a tha air an liostadh agus a' moladh na h-obrach a tha oifigearan air a dhèanamh gus fuasglaidhean fhaighinn airson raon farsaing de dhiofar dhùbhlain. Ge b' e dè an co-dhùnadh a bhios ann a thaobh sgìrean-sgoile, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' moladh, gun tèid iomairt sanasachd a chruthachadh gus an tuig pàrantan gu furasta far a bheil an t-seirbheis FtG aca suidhichte agus mar a gheibh iad cothrom air taic còmhhdail.	areas to ensure that a more local GME service is provided. In conclusion Bòrd na Gàidhlig recognises the complexity of provision in the listed ASGs and commends the work officers have done to find solutions to a wide range of challenges. Bòrd na Gàidhlig recommends that whatever the outcome of decision-making regarding catchments, a publicity initiative is developed so that parents can easily understand where their GME service is located and how they might access transport support.
4. Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig a' moladh gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson sgoiltean far a bheil Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG) ri fhaighinn (Earrann 2.53 is 2.54). Sgìrean-sgoile is Stiùireadh airson Àiteachan a Ghleidheadh do Sgoilearan Bu chòir do dh'ùghdarrasan foghlaim sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson FtG, agus dh'fhaodadh gum bi iad ag iarraidh beachdachadh air an iarrtas a th' ann airson FtG nuair a tha iad a' stèidheachadh stiùireadh airson nan àiteachan a thèid a ghleidheadh do sgoilearan ann am FtG. A rèir 2.54: Bu chòir do sgìre-sgoile airson sgoil le FtG a bhith na sgìre far a bheil an t-ùghdarras foghlaim den bheachd	4. Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education recommends that catchment areas be established for schools where Gaelic-medium education (GME) is provided (Section 2.53 & 2.54). Catchment Areas and Placing Guidelines Education authorities should establish catchment areas for GME provision and may wish to consider demand for GME when setting guidelines for placing pupils in GME provision. 2.54 states: A catchment area of GME provision should be an area in which the education authority thinks it is

gu bheil e reusanta do chloinn san sgìre sin, a tha airson a dhol gu FtG, siubhal dhan sgoil, agus bu chòir gum bi cothrom ann pàrantan a thàladh gu bhith cur an cuid chloinne gu FtG. Mar sin, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte ann am prionnsapal, air a' mholadh gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean air an liostadh sa cho-chomhairle phoblaich seo.	reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME provision to travel to school and should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children. Therefore, Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes in principle, the recommendation that catchment areas be established for Gaelic Medium Education in the listed schools in this public consultation.
---	--