

Lairg Primary School Parent Council  
Main Street  
Lairg IV27 4DD

14 February 2025

Re: Gaelic Medium Catchment for Craighill Primary and Tain Royal Academy

To the Highland Council:

We are writing to provide feedback to address the proposed Gaelic Medium Catchment for Craighill Primary and Tain Royal Academy. We are disappointed to hear that this proposal excludes Lairg Primary School. While Lairg may be considered rural on a national level, each child in Scotland deserves the same access to educational opportunities, including Gaelic language education.

By excluding Lairg and Golspie schools, the Highland Council would be adding an additional barrier of a catchment area where there is no other alternative for Sutherland families, effectively blocking children from accessing Gaelic language education. This provides a hurdle to educational access that will rob Sutherland families from the choice to access Gaelic language education, which is vital to engaging with the area's historical language and culture. In addition, it has been made aware to us that several families in Lairg remained unaware of Gaelic education being a resource available to their children, due to lack of advertisement.

A proposed solution to this issue is to not have the catchment area or to expand it to include Lairg and Golspie schools and all other related feeder Primary Schools. In addition, future transport arrangements for Gaelic education should also be suitable for the safety of all ages. While there are parents at Lairg Primary School and Nursery who have expressed interest in enrolling their children into Gaelic education, many families would be unwilling to send their primary school aged children on buses filled with those who are old enough to attend high school.

Please do not neglect the educational rights of the children of Sutherland within the Lairg, Golspie, and all other related feeder primary schools by refusing their access to Gaelic education.

Regards

Lairg Primary School Parent Council