

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 14 Samhain 2013
Gaelic Implementation Group – 14 November 2013**

Agenda Item	7
Report No	GIG 21/13

Gaelic Data from Census 2011

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report introduces Mr Douglas Ansdell, Head of Gaelic and Scots Unit at the Scottish Government. Mr Ansdell will give a presentation which will include an overview of the Gaelic data extracted from the 2011 Census and also introduce and provide a survey of recent Gaelic priorities for Gaelic in Scotland.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The National Performance Outcomes, 4,11,13
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes
- The Programme of The Highland Council and its cross cutting commitment to 'the principle of equal respect for the Gaelic and English languages, whilst also recognising the diversity of indigenous language and dialects within the Highland area'.
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan

1. Background

1.1 The census results which were published by the National Records of Scotland on September 26th 2013 showed an increase of young people able to speak Gaelic.

2. Current Status

2.1 The data shows only a slight fall (1.2%) in the number of Gaelic speakers since 2001, down from 59,000 to 58,000 in 2011, while the number of Gaelic speakers aged 5 to 14 has risen. There were decreases in the proportion of people able to speak Gaelic in all age groups apart from those aged under 20 years which showed a 0.1 percentage point increase.

3. Next Steps

3.1 The increase in the next generation of Gaelic speakers is assisted by a 12% increase across Scotland in pupils entering P1 of GME.

3.2 The Council's plans for Gaelic Primary Schools in Portree and Fort William, the opening of the Gaelic Medium Department in Thurso and the further expansion of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis will further increase the percentage of pupils entering P1 in GME.

3.3 Figures for Scotland show that the number of young people proficient in Gaelic has increased slightly:

4. Gaelic speakers by age, Scotland, 2001 and 2011

4.1 Percentage of people who speak Gaelic

Age	2001	2011
Total	1.2	1.1
3 to 4	0.5	0.7
5 to 14	1.0	1.2
15 to 19	0.9	1.0
20 to 44	1.0	0.9
45 to 64	1.4	1.1
65 to 74	1.6	1.4
75 and over	2.0	1.7

Source: National Records of Scotland
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4.2 There is currently no age breakdown available for Highland, this will be available at the end of November. For further information please see **Appendix 1**

5. Associated Research

5.1 Recent research by Edinburgh University on behalf of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, shows widespread support for Gaelic education investment among both Gaelic and English speakers.

6. Implications

6.1 There are no Resource, Legal, Equality, Climate, or Risk implications associated with this Report at present.

7.	Recommendations
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	Members are invited to comment on the Report and presentation.
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Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 1 November 2013

Author: Kenneth A Murray

Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell

Gaelic Census Appendix 1

NUMBERS									
	All people* (100%)	Understands but does not speak, read or write Gaelic	Speaks, reads and writes Gaelic	Speaks but does not read or write Gaelic	Speaks and reads but does not write Gaelic	Reads but does not speak or write Gaelic	Other combination of skills in Gaelic	No skills in Gaelic	
2011	224,606	3,830	6,927	3,837	1,275	510	217	208,010	* applies to age 3 and over
2001	208,914	4,862	6,912	4,066	1,695	583	397	190,399	* applies to all ages
PERCENT									
	All people* (100%)	Understands but does not speak, read or write Gaelic	Speaks, reads and writes Gaelic	Speaks but does not read or write Gaelic	Speaks and reads but does not write Gaelic	Reads but does not speak or write Gaelic	Other combination of skills in Gaelic	No skills in Gaelic	
2011	224,606	1.7	3.1	1.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	92.6	* applies to age 3 and over
2001	208,914	2.3	3.3	1.9	0.8	0.3	0.2	91.1	* applies to all ages