

Name of consultation: Review of the proposal to establish Gaelic Medium catchment areas

Your comments: I have read the comments that have been added from the consultation regarding my case that was put forward. I find it very disappointing that our particular case is not being positively looked on but the case put forward by Ardersier is. The area we stay is on the edge of the Croy/Cawdor border, historically children from this area have all attended Cawdor Primary School. Our address to Millbank Primary school is 6.6 miles, our address to Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis is 12.7 miles. The response we got was

'The proposed GM catchments are based on the existing EM catchments, and the address concerned lies with the Croy PS catchment area, albeit close to the boundary. Although GM catchment areas overlap a number of EM catchments. It is logical to group the EM catchments for GM purposes and to keep the EM catchments as whole entities. The Council does not favour varying the detailed boundaries of each catchment, to introduce differences between EM and GM education boundaries.'

'To further inform its decision on the above responses, Highland Council undertook an online survey of parents of primary and pre-school children, who were interested in GME. There were 3 responses from parents in Ardersier, all of whom favoured being part of the Millbank PS/Nairn Academy catchment for the purposes of GME. One response from Croy suggested that community should remain within the BSGI/IRA catchments for the purposes of GME.;

It seems very unfair that one response from the Croy area asking to stay in the BSGI/IRA catchment is taken on more merit than my request for my child to be put into the Nairn catchment area. Please could you let me know why one family has priority over another family in the same catchment area? If there are only myself and one other family in the 'Croy' area that responded why are they being given priority on their views of the current boundaries?

It seems very unfair that other families are being given priority and help with sending their children to Gaelic education in the local area but we are not also being given that same opportunity. I would have to send my daughter twice the distance to school to access Gaelic education should I want free transport but other children in Ardersier who will be travelling the same distance around 6 miles will get free transport and not have the financial burden of transportation costs. It also seems unfair that children who have chosen to attend the Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis and will be outwith the catchment area when these are defined will continue to get free transport to school from outwith the catchment area.

I would like you to reconsider our unique case for having our address in the catchment area for Nairn due to us being on the border between Cawdor and Croy and the fact that historically this area went to Cawdor Primary School. Also I would like you to consider that you are putting my family potentially in the situation of having to leave Gaelic Education if we can't afford to drive our child to school but others will be transported from Ardersier (the same distance to Millbank) for free. Yes we would have the option to send her for free to Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis but the increased travel time and leaving her current friends and relationships that have been built would be very difficult for her and most likely result her in leaving Gaelic education completely.

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as: Parent

I am commenting on behalf of:

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Ms	Sarah	Canham

Address:

postcode_search	Choose address	Did you find the address on the list above?
IV12 5XS	Cedar House, Cawdor, IV12 5XS	Yes

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Your comments: We are pleased to note Education Scotland states at Section 5.3 of the paper, pupils in the Nairn Catchment '...should have an option of sending their child to Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis - Inverness Royal Academy, with dedicated, free transport provided...' and that in Response 3 the Council agrees that '...having listened to parental views and as a result of this consultation, The Highland Council will continue to provide transport to Inverness Royal Academy, should parents wish to send their children there for GM...'. We whole welcome this. However, we note that no reference is made to this option on the mapping in Appendix 12x, so we question how parents within the Nairn GME catchment would be made aware of this option. Furthermore, we would seek assurances that this arrangement would not be removed without prior consultation with parents within the Nairn GME catchment.

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as: Parent

I am commenting on behalf of:

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Mr	Matthew	Hilton

Address:

postcode_search	Choose address	Did you find the address on the list above?
IV12 5EL	Laiken View, Mill Road, Nairn, IV12 5EL	Yes

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Your comments: 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).

Therefore, Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the proposals following the consultation with stakeholders and agree with the recommendations that catchment areas be established for Gaelic Medium Education in the listed schools in this proposal, and in line with the recommendations from Foghlam Alba.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome that Highland Council will be working towards further developing the GME provision at Nairn Academy and across the wider ASG in Nairn. This will make GME in Nairn a more attractive option for parents & young people & help to support the development of a 'critical mass', as referenced in our original response, to support such developments.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome that Highland Council will continue to work with communities where parental demand for new GMPE primary provision is identified. Bòrd na Gàidhlig further welcomes that: "A number of schools delivering Gaelic Medium Education currently will be in scope for investment through the newly adopted Highland Investment Plan."

Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig a' moladh gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson sgoiltean far a bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FMG) air a sholarachadh (Earrann 2.53 & 2.54).

Mar sin, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air na molaidhean às dèidh a' cho-chomhairleachaidh le luchd-ùidh agus ag aontachadh ris na molaidhean gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean clàraichte sa mholadh seo, agus a rèir nam molaidhean bho Foghlam Alba.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air gu bheil Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ag amas air tuilleadh leasachaidh a dhèanamh air solar FMG aig Acadamaidh Inbhir Narann. Nì seo FMG ann an Inbhir Narann na roghainn nas tarraingiche do phàrantan & daoine òga & cuidichidh e le bhith a' toirt taic do leasachadh 'critical mass', mar a chaidh ainmeachadh nar freagairt thùsail, gus taic a thoirt do leasachaidhean mar seo.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air an amas aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a bhith ag obair le coimhearsnachdan a tha ag iarraidh bun-sgoil FMG a stèidheachadh. A bharrachd air an sin, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' ghealladh bho Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd: "A number of schools delivering Gaelic Medium Education currently will be in scope for investment through the newly adopted Highland Investment Plan."

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as:

I am commenting on behalf of: Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Mrs	Jennifer	McHarrie

Address:

postcode_search	Choose address	Did you find the address on the list above?
IV3 8NW	Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW	Yes