

**Matthews B (Barry)**

Acknowledged. 56  
B126 4042  
24/4

**From:** Bill Aitken [w.aitken@blueyonder.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 16 March 2007 15:48  
**To:** Cultural Bill Consultation  
**Subject:** Draft Culture Bill

\*\*\*\*\* This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses. \*\*\*\*\* I wish to submit the following comments on the above draft. It is not obvious on the web-site how one submits comments electronically, other than by an email to this address.

Regards - Bill Aitken

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Section 4 describes an appropriate framework for Scotland's precious national collections. However, one key element of this set appears to have been omitted. This is Scotland's Languages (Gaelic and Scots), each of which in its own way preserves and describes much of our heritage. Further, through their dictionaries, they describe much in the other national collections and assist in their interpretation. Without these dictionaries and the back-up reference materials which support their compilation, much of our heritage would be lost. Much remains to be done with both languages in order to complete and bring up to date their dictionaries, both to ensure complete coverage and to preserve these records in a comprehensive and structured format for future generations.

The obvious solution is to identify Scotland's Languages as a distinct part of the National Collections. This could be structured similarly to the NLS and others, though not on the same scale, and be given parallel responsibilities for their preservation etc. This would involve moving dictionary work, as undertaken by Scottish Language Dictionaries, away from the umbrella of the Scottish Arts Council and into the new regime described within the draft Bill. Whilst the support of the SAC has been invaluable in the initiation of the current dictionary work, it has never seemed a logical home for such activity. Proposals exist for the establishment of an Institute for the Languages of Scotland. Whilst the name may not be the most suitable, the concepts and objectives set out in that proposal are entirely appropriate and should be followed in bringing languages within the ambit of the National Collections.

In light of the above, my main comment on the consultation questions listed in 4.12 is that the Collections should be enhanced by the addition of Scotland's Languages. Further comment must await draft proposals on how this will be done.

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**Georgeson Y (Yvonne)**

**From:** Bill Aitken [w.aitken@blueyonder.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 25 April 2007 10:17  
**To:** Georgeson Y (Yvonne)  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Culture Bill - Consultation response

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On Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 05:18 pm, <Yvonne.Georgeson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Aitken

Thank you for your comments on the draft Culture Bill consultation document. We would be grateful if you could complete and return the attached questionnaire which indicates whether you would want your comments to be made public on the Scottish Executive website.