

Consultation Questions

Section 1

1. Do you agree with the reasons given for promoting and learning languages on pages 4

The promotion of Scots should not be viewed solely in relation to arts and culture, Scots should be recognised as a language in its own right, spoken by many people in their everyday lives. In order to avoid extinction this language must be able to be used in all domains, there must be recognition of the fact that this

<p>and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in Scotland? If not, why not?</p>	<p>language has become marginalised to the point of being considered by some speakers as simply "bad English". In the attempt to promote and teach Scots there should be a drive towards not only recognising Scots as part of our heritage and its usage in the arts, but towards drastically expanding the uses for Scots in formal settings both public and private.</p>
<p>2. Do you agree that the language initiatives described on pages 6 " 12 and elsewhere are the key areas for language promotion in Scotland? If not, why not?</p>	<p>I recognise the need for English language skills, but do not feel that other languages should suffer neglect in education as a result. I would welcome figures illustrating the literacy rates in Scots. The work carried out to preserve, promote and teach Gaelic has been fantastic in its raising people's awareness of the language, such initiative should be shown towards all languages which require such action. Speakers of Scots are not readily able to write in their native tongue, it is not the language of education, as such it is a threatened language, we should not simply celebrate the Scots input to English, but revive the scope this language once had in its own right as a means for communication in all mediums and registers.</p>
<p>3. Do you agree that the key principles listed on pages 14 and 15 should shape language activity in Scotland? If not, why not?</p>	<p>I welcome the inclusion of languages other than English in education, however it is clear that the Executive intends only to "encourage" this. The establishment of the Gaelic Language Board is a huge boost for Gaelic.</p>
<p>4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?</p>	<p>As the Gaelic Language Board has clearly worked well I see no reason why such action cannot be extended to Scots. We desperately need to assess the state of the Scots language if it is ever to be respected, promoted, taught and understood in any real sense. Speakers of Scots need to know what constitutes "Scots". With a concrete strategy for the promotion of Scots as a language there would be scope to revive some of the rich vocabulary which has, and is presently becoming lost as a result of stigmatisation.</p>
<p>5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you think you may be able to contribute to the success of the strategy?</p>	