

Consultation Questions  
Section 1

1. Do you agree with the reasons given for promoting and learning languages on pages 4 and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in

P.A.T. firmly believes in the importance of language and communication skills for all in Scotland as the vehicle to enable us to be a forward looking society well equipped to take advantage of all the opportunities for education, training, employment and leisure. Therefore, P.A.T. welcomes the publication of this Strategy for Scotland's™ Languages and

Scotland? If not, why not?	the principles that it describes. As an organisation whose purpose to support and represent those in employed in the areas of childcare, education and training, the topics in the rationale are worthy of our support and sit comfortably with our own purposes.
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>P.A.T. welcomes the commitment to language and communications skills in all aspects of education and training policies and initiatives. It is particularly important there are sufficient opportunities for learning English for those for whom English is not their first language. We welcome the expansion of the ESOL programme but would voice our concern about the pay and conditions of those teaching these courses. P. A. T. continues to campaign for improvements to the pay and conditions of all those involved in education and training. In particular P.A.T. believes that payment for all aspects of teaching should be on nationally agreed pay scales with comparable salaries and conditions of services across all areas of delivery of language teaching; from colleges to schools and community settings. P.A.T. agrees that there is a pressing economic argument to develop good teaching of languages other than English in order to enhance Scotland's™ position in the global economy. A great deal of good work has been done to teach modern languages to younger children but the financial support for these programmes must continue in order to build on this good work as pupils move on to secondary education and certificated courses.</p>
<p><b>3. Do you agree that the key principles listed on pages 14 and 15 should shape language activity in Scotland? If not, why not?</b></p>	<p>Yes, these principles provide a good basis for the development of policies for organisations and to help them deliver services at local and national level.</p>
<p><b>4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?</b></p>	<p>The current high cost of translation services is placing a very heavy burden on individual schools as local authorities are forced to pass on the costs to schools. For some schools with a high number of pupils from outwith the UK the cost is prohibitive.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>As an independent trade union and professional association, PAT both looks after the interests of its members, and works to promote the best possible practice in education, training and childcare. PAT is the union for the whole team of education and childcare professionals working together for children, pupils and</p>

students. In this role P.A.T. promotes the principles of the Strategy for Scotland's<sup>TM</sup> Languages as part of the core work of the organisation.