

Consultation Questions
Section 1

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

Scotland can benefit from the opportunities that its global cultural prowess has in the world and more could be made of this in this section. Also, tourists could be made more aware of Scotland's native languages (apart from English), by making them more publicly visible

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<p>and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in Scotland? If not, why not?</p>	<p>in Scotland's cities, towns etc. The Gaelic language should also be used on adverts to attract tourists. If all people in Scotland are to be treated equally ensuring fair and equal access to employment, services and information etc., then Gaelic should be used more.</p>
<p><i>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?</i></p>	<p>Under the heading Increasing Economic Opportunities it says that "it is essential that a lack of English does not act as a barrier to employment". This should also be applicable to the Gaelic language too. Therefore, it should be stated that "it is essential that a lack of English, Gaelic and Scots does not act as a barrier to employment." If someone want to work through the medium of the Gaelic language, then adequate provision should be made for it. Does the ALNIS report published in 2001 apply to levels of literacy in the Gaelic language too and if not, why not? Regarding Gaelic under this section, it only states what the Scottish Executive has done for the language and not what will be done. This is not sufficient in view of the fact that this is supposed to be a language strategy. Under the heading Other Minority/Community Languages, it states that "recent immigrants who are learning English have the potential to become bilingual." Why shouldn't this be multilingual? Under the heading Language learning, why are language statistics used for the UK as a whole? Considering that this a language strategy for Scotland these statistics should be made available for the number of people who are multilingual in Scotland. This therefore gives a distorted picture. Also under this heading, it says that "The guide will encourage schools to support children and young people in maintaining their first language", but it is not clear as to how this will be achieved.</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>Under the heading Language Provision, why haven't all public bodies been asked to have Gaelic language plans in place, rather than just some. Gaelic is a native language of Scotland and should be treated on an all Scotland basis. Moreover, Gaelic speakers are resident in every area of Scotland, according to the results of the 2001 Census and therefore all public bodies should be asked to have Gaelic language plans in place.</p>

<p><i>4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?</i></p>	<p>As the General Secretary of the Celtic League I am happy that the Scottish Executive are attempting to implement a language strategy for Scotland, but feel strongly that this draft is too little too late. In view of the fact that elections are imminent in the country, the present Scottish Government are not showing that they are committed to developing an adequate Scottish language strategy, otherwise an attempt would have been made some years ago. In addition, the strategy does not appear to be a language strategy at all, but rather a list of things that the Scottish Executive are currently doing and have done, especially in regard to the Gaelic language. There is an obvious lack of clear goals and objectives and a realistic time frame in which to fulfil these aims. On the whole the strategy is a disappointment.</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>	<p>The Celtic League campaigns on a range of different environmental, cultural, social and language issues in the six Celtic countries of North Western Europe. We have branches in each Celtic country in addition to England and the United States. We could contribute to the success of a Scottish language strategy by campaigning for the implementation of the goals and objectives of the strategy at different levels and helping to raise its profile internationally. This response is from the General Secretary of the Celtic League as a whole. The Alba/Scottish Branch of the League may also want to make an additional response to this strategy.</p>