



SURVEY OF COMMUNITY USE AND PRACTICE OF GAELIC, AND ATTITUDES TO THE LANGUAGE IN THE WESTERN ISLES

This survey will assess the practice and vitality of the Gaelic language in key locations in the Western Isles, and the attitudes to the language of the Islands' residents.

This is part of the Islands Gaelic Research Project (IGRP) which is being carried out by Soillse to research the vitality of Gaelic language and culture. Soillse is an inter-university Gaelic research collaboration led by the University of the Highlands and Islands, of which a central research objective is developing a meaningful partnership with the Gaelic communities of Scotland and elsewhere.

This particular questionnaire will collect data which paints a picture of community-wide trends in Gaelic language use, practice and attitudes. We believe that the use of Gaelic in our communities is an important indicator for the language, and for community and cultural vitality.

Filling in one of these surveys will mean that you have given our project your time and effort, and your participation is hugely valued. Your responses will contribute to language planning to safeguard Gaelic as a community language.

All staff involved in delivering this questionnaire have Protection of Vulnerable Groups clearance, and the research methodology has been approved by the Board of Ethics of the University of the Highlands and Islands. All data collected will be anonymised and treated in the strictest confidence, meaning that it will not be possible to identify individual responses when the project results are presented.

Tapadh leibh

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reference Number	Fieldwork date/Researcher	Date of data entry/Worker	Date of data validation/Worker	Output Area Reference

SECTION A – BACKGROUND DATA

1) Gender

- Male
 Female

2) Age

18 – 24	25 – 34	35 – 44	45 – 54	55 – 64	65 – 74	75 +

3) In which township/village do you live? [Survey area]

4) Are there children of school age living in the household?

- Yes
 No

5) How many other people live in the household, and what are their relationships to you?

Spouse/Partner	
Children	
Parents	
Other person	

Specify 'Other person' if applicable

6) Where are you from?

Local to this area	
Elsewhere in the Western Isles	
Elsewhere in Scotland	
Elsewhere in the UK	
Elsewhere in Europe	
Rest of the world	

7) Where do the household's residents come from? (Answer where applicable)

	Respondent's spouse	Respondent's father	Respondent's mother	Respondent's grandparents	Respondent's children
Local to this area					
Elsewhere in the Western Isles					
Elsewhere in Scotland					
Elsewhere in the UK					
Elsewhere in Europe					
Rest of the world					

SECTION B – ABILITY

8) How would you describe the ability of the following people in the household in spoken Gaelic? (Answer where applicable)

Subject	Fluent – native-speaker	Fluent – learnt in school or later in life	Good Gaelic	Reasonable Gaelic	A few words of Gaelic	No Gaelic
You						
Spouse/Partner (Male)						
Spouse/Partner (Female)						
Child 1						
Child 2						
Child 3						
Child 4						
Child’s Grandparent 1						
Child’s Grandparent 2						
Other person*						

*If you have ticked ‘Other person’, please specify

9) Through what language were the following people in the household raised? (Answer where applicable)

Subject	Gaelic only	Mainly Gaelic	Mix of Gaelic and English, roughly even	Mainly English	English only	Another language
You						
Spouse/Partner (Male)						
Spouse/Partner (Female)						
Child 1						
Child 2						
Child 3						
Child 4						
Children’s Grandparent 1						
Children’s Grandparent 2						
Other person*						

*If you have ticked ‘Other person’, please specify

SECTION C – LANGUAGE PRACTICE DATA

10) What language do the following people speak to you?

Subject	Gaelic only	Mainly Gaelic	Mix of Gaelic and English, roughly even	Mainly English	English only	Another language
Spouse/Partner (Male)						
Spouse/Partner (Female)						
Child 1						
Child 2						
Child 3						
Child 4						
Children's Grandparent 1						
Children's Grandparent 2						
Other person*						

*If you have ticked 'Other person', please specify

11) What language do you speak in the following circumstances?

Subject	Gaelic only	Mainly Gaelic	Mix of Gaelic and English, roughly even	Mainly English	English only	Another language
With friends now						
With friends when younger						
In the local area/neighbourhood						
At work						
In the shop						
In friends' houses						
At social events						
At church						
In neighbouring areas/townships						

12) What language do you speak to the following people in your local area?

Subject	Gaelic only	Mainly Gaelic	Mix of Gaelic and English, roughly even	Mainly English	English only	Another language
People over 65						
Mature adults (40-64)						
Young adults (18-39)						
Teenagers (Post-primary)						
Children (Primary school age)						

SECTION D – IDENTITY

13) Do you consider yourself to be a Gael?

Yes		No		N/A	
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14) Do you consider the following people to be Gaels? (Tick each answer that applies)

People from the Highlands and Islands who speak Gaelic	
People from the Highlands and Islands who don't speak Gaelic	
People from the rest of Scotland who speak Gaelic	
People from the rest of Scotland who don't speak Gaelic	
People from outside Scotland who speak Gaelic	
Gaelic learners in the Highlands and Islands	
Gaelic learners in the rest of Scotland	

15) How do you describe your identity? (Tick any answer that applies)

Gael	
Scottish	
British	
Local identity (for example, from the list below): Leòdhasach, Niseach, Siarach; Hearach; Uibhisteach (Tuathach); Uibhisteach (Deasach); Baoghlach; Barrach; Eirisgeach; Bhatarsach; Sgitheanach; Tirisdeach	

SECTION E – YOUR OPINIONS ON THE GAELIC LANGUAGE AND ITS FUTURE

16) To what extent are you personally in favour of the Gaelic language?

Strongly in favour of Gaelic	In favour of Gaelic	I don't care one way or the other	A little against Gaelic	Strongly against Gaelic

If you are in favour of the Gaelic language, please go to **question 17**, then **question 19**.

If you are against the Gaelic language, please go to **question 18**, then **question 19**.

17) If you are in favour of Gaelic, why is this? (Tick any answer that applies)

Having Gaelic improves my employment opportunities	
There are advantages to being bilingual in both Gaelic and English	
I am committed to my family's linguistic heritage	
I am committed to my community's linguistic tradition	
Gaelic is important to the economy of the Western Isles	
I want to play a role in maintaining Gaelic as a community language in the Western Isles	
The Gaelic language is important to me personally	
The Gaelic language is important to Scottish identity	
I don't know how to explain it	
Other (please specify)	

Now please go to question 19.

18) If you are against Gaelic, why is this? (Tick any answer that applies)

I consider Gaelic to be a colloquial language with little relevance beyond my local area	
Gaelic is only of relevance to public bodies and their projects	
Gaelic is not a useful language	
I don't feel a part of the Gaelic community in the area	
Gaelic is too difficult	
There is too much emphasis on Gaelic	
I feel excluded from the economic benefits of Gaelic	
I do not benefit from the public services for Gaelic	
I feel disadvantaged socially because I don't have Gaelic	
I don't know how to explain it	
Other (please specify)	

Now please go to question 19.

19) How would you feel if the following things were to occur in the future?

Statement	Very happy	Happy	Indifferent	A little unhappy	Very unhappy
If no children were brought up in Gaelic					
If English was the only language spoken in the Western Isles					
If Gaelic-medium broadcasting was to cease					
If education was no longer available through the medium of Gaelic in the Western Isles					
If public bodies and community groups were to cease supporting Gaelic					
If this area were to lose its identity as a Gaelic area					
If Gaelic ceases to be used as a neighbourhood language throughout the Western Isles					

20) To what extent do you feel the following people strengthen or weaken the Gaelic language in your area?

+1 to +2 means strengthens Gaelic, -1 and -2 means weakens Gaelic. 0 means has no effect on Gaelic. Answer all that apply.

	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
You (the respondent)					
Your spouse					
Your friends					
Your parents					
Your sibling(s)					
Local people who speak Gaelic					
Local people who don't speak Gaelic					
People who have moved to the area and speak Gaelic					
People who have moved to the area and don't speak Gaelic					
The younger generation					
The older generation					
Local businesses					
Gaelic bodies					
Public bodies					
Local community groups					
Churches					
Other (please specify)					

21) Would you consider the following to be Gaelic communities? (Please tick Yes or No)

Areas where Gaelic is the main language spoken and the main language of education	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where Gaelic is the main language spoken and English is the main language of education	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where Gaelic is spoken by most people in the community	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where most people over 25 speak Gaelic	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where most people over 50 speak Gaelic	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where some homes are Gaelic speaking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where few homes are Gaelic speaking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Areas where English is the main language spoken and the main language of education	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

22) Indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements about Gaelic?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Fluent Gaelic-speaking parents should raise their children in Gaelic					

Every public servant working in the Gaelic communities of the Western Isles should speak Gaelic					
Everyone living in the Gaelic communities of the Western Isles should have good Gaelic					
All school teachers in the area should teach through Gaelic medium					
Youth clubs, etc., should be run through Gaelic only					
Economic development that would support the Gaelic language in the Western Isles should be encouraged					
Community groups should be enabled to conduct their activities through Gaelic					
Gaelic classes should be provided for anyone living in the Gaelic areas of the Western Isles					

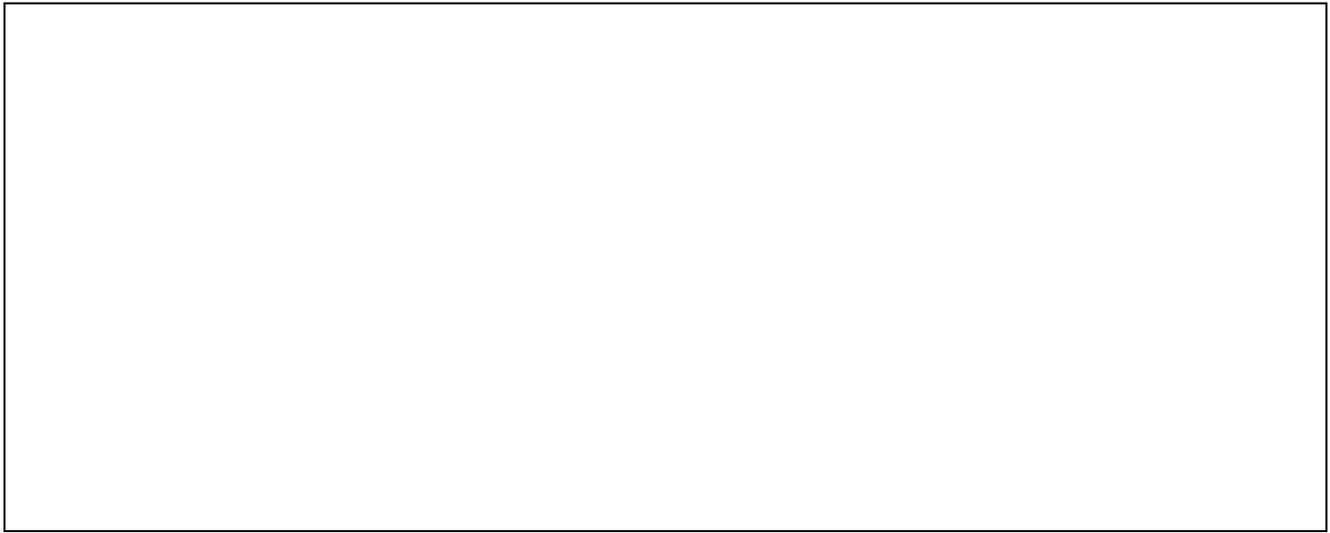
23) In your opinion, in 20 years' time, will Gaelic be stronger or weaker as a community language in the Western Isles?

A lot stronger	<input type="checkbox"/>
A bit stronger	<input type="checkbox"/>
About the same	<input type="checkbox"/>
A bit weaker	<input type="checkbox"/>
A lot weaker	<input type="checkbox"/>

24) What would you personally be willing to do to ensure that the Western Isles remains a Gaelic-speaking area?

I would be willing to speak Gaelic to everyone else who has the language	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would get involved in a local group to support the language in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to contact local representatives demanding services through the medium of Gaelic	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would encourage people without Gaelic who are living locally to learn the language	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would protest against a development that was a threat to the Gaelic language in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to continue living in the area and be active in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to speak Gaelic to my neighbours and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to continue living in the Western Isles and work through the medium of Gaelic	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy to take part in community groups which support the Gaelic language in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to learn Gaelic	<input type="checkbox"/>

25) Do you have any thoughts and recommendations regarding the vitality of Gaelic? If so, please give details below:



THANK YOU!

MÒRAN TAING!