

**HIE/CnaG CONTRACT AGREEMENT 2004/05  
PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2004-  
2005**

**Section 1 – Summary**

**TARGETS ACHIEVED**

1. The Year 2004/05 was another extremely busy year for us. In addition to being actively involved in giving evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Education Committee Inquiry and submitting subsequent amendments on the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill we undertook a review of our structures at both Board and Officer level; we continued to manage the Gaelic in the Community Scheme, the 2004 Summer Students' Placement Scheme for 23 placements and established a new Graduate Placement Scheme, providing employment opportunities for 6 Gaelic speaking graduates in the Western Isles. Our overall performance in fulfilling the aims and targets under the HIE Contract has been very satisfactory with 39 targets either fulfilled or exceeded and 4 targets partially fulfilled.

**GAELIC BILL**

2. Following our written submission to the Education Committee on the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill, we were invited to give evidence to the Committee at a Hearing in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on 30 November 2004. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive attended the Meeting and gave evidence to the Committee in support of our written submission. Following the Meeting, we were invited to give supplementary evidence for consideration by the Committee, prior to the detailed amendments stage of the Bill. We submitted 13 amendments to the Bill to individual MSP's and of these, 11 were incorporated in the Bill in one form or another. The remaining two areas – Gaelic Education and the requirement to have Gaelic speakers as members of the Board of Bòrd na Gàidhlig - are still being pursued by us and we hope that they will be debated when the Bill is given its final reading in Parliament on 21 April 2005.

**GAELIC BROADCASTING**

3. We continue to campaign for additional Government funding for the establishment of a Gaelic digital television channel. A Meeting of the Gaelic organisations was held in Inverness on 3 March to formulate a campaign to persuade OFCOM to agree to a dedicated digital channel being run by the Gaelic Media Service. We continue to make appropriate representations on this crucial issue and have recently facilitated a Gaelic on-line petition in support of the campaign. Further representations on this topic will be made in response to the Green Paper on the Review of the BBC's Charter.

**REVISED STRUCTURES**

4. Much of the past 12 months has been taken up by completing our revised structure at Board level. Following amendments to our Memorandum and Articles of Association, we met for the first time as a re-constituted Board of the Directors on 23 March 2005. The final 2 places on the Board were filled by open advertisement and we were pleased to have received such a good response to enable us to select two extremely strong candidates as Directors to represent the youth and arts sectors. We were also involved in an independent review by Reference Consultants of our internal structures. This Review was funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands & Islands Enterprise. The recommendations of the Consultant's Report were approved by the Board of Directors in February 2005 and the Report was submitted to Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Bòrd na Gàidhlig with a view to discussing the possibility of obtaining additional funding to enable the recommended structure to be implemented.

### **GAELIC MEDIUM PROVISION**

5. In conjunction with Comann nam Pàrant's National Officer we made representations to support parents of pupils attending the Gaelic Medium Unit at Lady Lovat Primary School in Morar who are unhappy at the possibility of The Highland Council splitting the Gaelic Medium Unit between Morar and Mallaig in order to resolve an accommodation problem at Morar school. Our view is that Highland Council should designate Lady Lovat Primary School as a Gaelic School since 43 out of the 54 pupils currently in Lady Lovat School attend the Gaelic Unit at the school.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

6. Because of recent changes to the Child Protection Policies and Disclosure Scotland's Regulations a great deal of work has had to be undertaken by the Youth Services Section in updating the procedures regarding the responsibility of Sradagan Leaders in relation to child care and child protection policies. Additional training on the new regulations will be undertaken with Sradagan leaders over the next few months.

### **GAELIC IN THE COMMUNITY SCHEME**

7. Following the recent Evaluation of the Gaelic in the Community Scheme, a Meeting was held with representatives of the Local Enterprise Companies, Local Authorities, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Bòrd na Gàidhlig to determine the future of the Scheme following the cessation of ERDF funding on 28 February. It now seems likely that, with the exception of Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the funding agencies will not be in a position to provide funding to enable a Grants Scheme to proceed at the same level as the Gaelic in the Community Scheme. In the absence of such a Scheme, discussions will be held with the relevant agencies to determine the response which Comunn na

Gàidhlig is to give to any organisation seeking funding for community activities at local level.

## **GRADUATE PLACEMENT SCHEME**

8. Following the successful Graduate Placement Scheme in the Western Isles which enabled six graduates to gain employment for a 12 month period with funding from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Comunn na Gàidhlig and ESF, we are now looking at the possibility of having a further Scheme which would include areas outwith the Western Isles for 2005. An interesting feature of the 2005 Scheme could be an Exchange Visit with graduates in Ireland. It is proposed that the two groups of students should meet during the first week of the exchange at the Loch Eil Centre in Fort William to undertake a Self Development Course through the medium of Gàidhlig and Gaeilge.

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April 2005