



GAELIC POLICY (English)

Background

The Scottish Languages Act 2025 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2025 and became an Act on 31 July 2025. It establishes Gaelic and Scots as official languages, and introduces a range of measures to accelerate the growth of Gaelic and Scots, including support for the creation of areas of linguistic significance in Gaelic communities so that policies can be better targeted, and introducing targets on the number of people speaking and learning Gaelic.

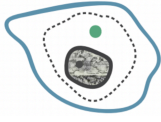
This builds on the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, which established a statutory Gaelic body, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to encourage the use and understanding of Gaelic and to facilitate access to Gaelic and Gaelic culture, with the ultimate aim of working towards increasing the number of Gaelic speakers and extending the everyday use of the language.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is required to develop a National Plan for Gaelic to promote the use and understanding of Gaelic, Gaelic education and Gaelic culture and to require other public authorities to develop a Gaelic language plan. CHARTS is not such a public body, but has chosen to develop a formal Gaelic Language Policy and to deliver a Gaelic Culture Strategy with Bòrd support.

The National Gaelic Language Plan 2023–2028

The 2023–2028 National Gaelic Language Plan, developed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, has the following aims that CHARTS will take forward through its Gaelic Language Policy and its Gaelic Culture Strategy:

- Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in communities.
- Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in the creative industries.
- Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in business and the economy.



CHARTS has the following strategic objectives:

- Developing cultural and heritage practitioners and organisations by working cooperatively and in partnership with others;
- Developing and utilising effective communication across geographic and sectoral boundaries;
- Cooperatively growing our audiences and customers by marketing ourselves and others locally, nationally and internationally;
- Developing and delivering partnership projects that will excite, educate and entertain our communities and our visitors; and
- Accessing and sharing resources and training in order to bring culture and heritage to a wider audience.

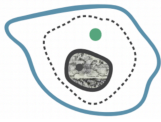
Central to these objectives is the promotion of a positive image of Gaelic, which is to be delivered in three key ways:

- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic and raising awareness through Gaelic and other media, and Gaelic arts.
- Promoting the social, economic and cultural value of Gaelic.
- Promoting positive messages about Gaelic, bilingualism, and diversity and inclusion.

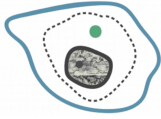
POLICY STATEMENT

CHARTS has two roles, to support Gaelic development and culture as a strategic partner and to support those who are developing Gaelic on the ground through independent initiatives, events and projects:

1. CHARTS will actively and demonstrably support the Gaelic language and culture throughout all its activities, acknowledging that it is a key part of its corporate identity.
2. CHARTS will act as an ambassador on a national and international level in the promotion of the Gaelic arts and will promote their value as a cultural asset.



3. CHARTS will encourage Gaelic speaking membership on its staff, Board, committees and groups.
4. CHARTS will seek to work closely with the local authority, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland and other stakeholders in promoting a positive image of Gaelic.
5. CHARTS recognises and celebrates the existence of Argyll's indigenous people, Na Gàidheil, whether Highlanders or Islanders; their founding and continuing role over centuries in the formation of the cultural fabric of the region; their unique linguistic legacy through Gàidhlig, the Gaelic language, and the need for their voices and opinions on the future of Argyll to be at the heart of our plans going forward.
6. CHARTS recognises that the modern Gaelic language community is made up of people from all over the world, from Gaels themselves to Gaelic learners from all walks of life and diverse heritage backgrounds and many other types of stakeholders both private and professional. CHARTS strongly supports the maintenance of an open and welcoming Gaelic language community for all of those who wish to participate and invest in it.
7. CHARTS recognises that the Gaelic language is culturally distinct from English and as an organisation will endeavour to communicate when using Gaelic in a manner consistent with natural, idiomatic Gaelic speech.
8. CHARTS also recognises the immense regional diversity within the Gaelic language and will set out to respect, promote and make available to our members and audiences wherever possible the endangered local dialects and lore of the Argyll area in which the majority of our work is situated, so that they may continue to be part of the life of the region through the output of the arts and other intangible cultural heritage.
9. CHARTS will encourage knowledge-sharing events and workshops to increase awareness and to protect and conserve the authenticity of the Gaelic language.



10. CHARTS will endeavour to continue the engagement a Gaelic Cultural Officer to:
- a. Deliver CHARTS Gaelic Strategy and oversee the implementation of the Gaelic Policy.
 - b. Represent and support members of the CHARTS network and strategic partners so that Gaelic can flourish.
 - c. Support regional Gaelic events.
 - d. Increase opportunities for young people with Gaelic heritage and/or an interest in Gaelic to become involved in arts, heritage and placemaking projects.
 - e. Organise webinars around themed topics aimed at Gaelic speakers and learners.
 - f. Offer distinct support to Gaelic-speaking members of CHARTS.
 - g. Promote CHARTS to Gaelic cultural, artistic and heritage communities, in Argyll and Bute, nationally and internationally.
 - h. Support Scottish Gaelic / Irish Gaelic / English interactions and bilingual / trilingual translations where helpful.
 - i. Work collaboratively with other CHARTS staff and project working groups on projects that cut across team responsibilities.

Document Version Control

Any questions, contact info@chartsargyllandisles.org

Reviewed 21 November 2025