

confident in using Gaelic unless they know that their Member is a Gaelic speaker. If people do write, they may receive a reply asking them to write in English which can be disappointing. This question has been raised in the consultation on the first and second SPCB language plans but was felt to be outwith the remit of the SPCB.

- In terms of use of Gaelic in parliamentary business, the arrangements for MSPs to arrange translations for motions, questions (and for correspondence) etc are unclear. This is covered to some extent in the SPCB Language Policy but is unclear. The role of the Gaelic team in aiding MSPs with such matters is also unclear. This is an area which is of symbolic importance to Gaelic speakers and which has been raised in the consultation on the first and second SPCB language plans but was felt to be outwith the remit of the Gaelic language plan.
- While the SPCB, the Scottish Parliament and the MSPs are distinct entities, this is not a distinction well understood by the public and arguably not one the public should have to know.
- The exact distinction between the SPCB and Scottish Parliament in terms of language policy is also somewhat unclear. In drawing up the first Gaelic language plan, it was advised that many areas were outwith the remit of the SPCB and could not be covered in the plan. However, many of these areas were subsequently covered in the SPCB Language Policy.
- Unlike speakers of some of the other languages minority language spoken in Scotland, adult Gaelic speakers are all fully fluent and confident in English. Measures to facilitate the use of Gaelic are based on a rationale of increasing the use of Gaelic rather than purely on equalities reasons. The vast majority of Gaelic speakers will not go out of their way to seek out provision in Gaelic for reasons of lack of Gaelic use in such domains historically and due to reasons of confidence in their Gaelic abilities so services must be promoted proactively in order to ensure uptake.

Suggestions:

- There should be a seamless and consistent experience for members of the public in dealing with the SPCB, MSPs and the Scottish Parliament.
- There should be clearer guidance for Members about the use of Gaelic in parliamentary business and correspondence and in sourcing translation and allowances. The aim of this should be to increase uptake and thereby to raise the profile of Gaelic.