



Faclair na Gàidhlig

Dictionary of the Scottish Gaelic Language • Business Plan



Securing and sustaining the richness and integrity of the Gaelic language

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executive summary

Context

The *National Plan for Gaelic 2007-2012* sets forth a series of challenges, opportunities, visions and targets for the stabilisation and development of the Gaelic language. **Faclair na Gàidhlig** will provide an **essential resource** to help achieve the desired outcomes of the National Plan. It is an ambitious, long term inter-university initiative supported by the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

Aims

The primary aim of the project is to produce an electronic **historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic** comparable to the multi-volume resources already available for Scots and English. The dictionary will be based entirely on evidence from the language and will be the authoritative and definitive record of the language and culture. It will meet the needs of the language in the 21st century by providing the **foundation for resources** such as smaller bilingual and monolingual dictionaries, a thesaurus and language learning materials.

Benefits

Faclair na Gàidhlig will be indispensable to:

- the growth and expansion of **Gaelic education** at all ages and stages;
- the reliable interpretation of **Gaelic heritage** and understanding of **Gaelic culture**;
- **corpus development** for the language enabling **knowledge transfer** to those concerned with policy-making on spelling, grammar, terminology and nomenclature; and
- enhancement of the **status** of the language.

Outcomes

The production of the dictionary is a considerable undertaking demanding long term financial commitment. Technological advancements in lexicography have been taken into account in planning Faclair na Gàidhlig. The project has been divided into three phases in order to deliver maximum benefits as quickly as possible:

- Phase I, the **Editorial and Textual Foundation**, will be complete in 2008. This will produce essential training and reference tools for future historical lexicographers and will help to create an historical lexicographical tradition in Gaelic as expeditiously as possible.
- Phase II, the **Technical Foundation**, will be complete in 2015 and will give Gaelic a **full-text database** of key texts which, in addition to forming the raw materials for dictionary entries, will be a valuable and accessible resource for policy-makers, researchers and others, allowing access to the language on an unprecedented level. This will remain a raw and unexplained resource until the dictionary is compiled.
- Phase III, **Dictionary Compilation**, will be carried out in two stages. The historical dictionary for the modern period, for which there is greatest demand, will be produced first. Subject to funding constraints, it is planned to cover the period from 1802 onwards and to complete this stage by 2025. ICT will enable the simultaneous publication of **affordable derivative dictionaries**, outputs which will generate significant income for the project. The **full historical dictionary**, covering the language from 1100 onwards, will then be added on, letter by letter, with each letter being published electronically on completion. With sufficient funding, this would be available in 2035.

Throughout the project, ways will continually be sought to accelerate progress.

Funding

The project has been funded to date by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, the Gaelic Language Promotion Trust, the Leverhulme Trust and the Scottish Government. The early stages have been facilitated greatly through the extensive support of the partner institutions in terms of scholarly expertise, management services and accommodation.

Faclair na Gàidhlig must now be secured as a **project of national importance** in order to provide essential stability for other initiatives for the Gaelic language. It is proposed that a long term funding strategy be put in place consisting of two streams:

- **core-funding to secure the project** with a minimum staff, and
- **additional accelerator funding to grow the project** and expedite progress. This funding will be sought from research councils and other bodies which the project is eligible to approach.

Funding requirements for 2008-17 are estimated at £3.9m. By this date, the full-text database will be complete and compilation of the dictionary will be underway.

The investment required is comparatively small when measured against the benefits accrued.

Best Practice

As set out in the Models of Best Practice section of the Business Plan, other countries within Europe have recognised the value of historical dictionaries in accessing the record of their languages and enhancing their status.

The Faclair na Gàidhlig project has the institutional support and lexicographical expertise to develop a comprehensive historical dictionary and to provide authoritative knowledge and guidance to support all planning activity for the Gaelic language.

National Context

The *National Plan for Gaelic*, published by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in early 2007, makes clear that the current position of the Scottish Gaelic language is “extremely fragile.” A decline of over 11% in the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland to under 59,000 from 1991-2001 is indicative of the threat facing the language.

The National Plan sets forth a series of challenges, opportunities, visions and targets for the stabilisation and development of the language in the short-to-medium term. These targets centre on increasing the number of children in Gaelic-medium education, and stabilising, and ultimately increasing, the number of Gaelic speakers recorded in Scotland.

The language planning principles adopted in the National Plan to achieve these targets are Language Acquisition, Usage, Status and Corpus – principles which have been used with great success in recent years by the Welsh Language Board in the development of *The Welsh Language: A Vision and Mission for 2000-2005*.

The Faclair na Gàidhlig project underpins all these principles, in particular – the Language Corpus which identifies the research and development of an historical dictionary of Gaelic as one of its priorities.

Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide an essential stepping-stone towards the achievement of the vision set out in the *National Plan for Gaelic*.

Faclair na Gàidhlig – a cornerstone for the Gaelic Language

Faclair na Gàidhlig is an ambitious, long term inter-university initiative currently supported by the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI. (See Appendix 2.) This institutional partnership provides the project with a strong base encompassing all aspects of the Gaelic language community. It includes:

- the highly-regarded scholarship of the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow;
- the expertise in teacher education and Gaelic-medium education well-established at the University of Strathclyde; and

- the strong links with the community which Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has forged as a major player in Gaelic language learning and development, coupled with extensive experience in using ICT in all aspects of on-site and distance learning.

The current Convener is based at the University of Strathclyde and the Vice-convener at the University of Glasgow.

The partnership is proud to be proactive in maintaining and developing the tradition of historical lexicography in Scotland which began in the nineteenth century with Sir James A H Murray, editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and continues unbroken to present day historical lexicographers. This tradition has served English and Scots exceedingly well and the expertise gained should now be applied to Gaelic. It is our aspiration that Faclair na Gàidhlig should act as a centre of excellence for the co-ordination and stimulation of all lexicographical activities, and academic research in the Gaelic language, and also as a point of access to the language and its culture.

We are committed to supporting the key priorities set out in the National Plan and to playing a major role in securing a viable and prosperous future for the Gaelic language by:

- Encouraging wide participation from the community in the project. Language development and culture cannot be separated from the communities in which they exist. Over the short-, medium- and long-term, Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide a vital catalyst and stimulus, which will contribute to strengthening the communities which identify with the values, beliefs and heritage of the Gaelic language.
- Conserving and enhancing the heritage of the language through preserving and defining what is of significance, value and importance in the Gaelic language and culture.
- Ensuring that the knowledge generated throughout the project is made available so that others can have access to, learn from and enjoy the richness of the Gaelic language and the senses and origins of the words encountered in speech, music, literature and place-names.

The historical dictionary will be the major language project for Scottish Gaelic, providing a foundation and a stimulus for future language initiatives - a project founded on the principles of partnership and collaboration.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the project is to produce an historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic comparable to the multi-volume resources already available for Scots and English, namely the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (12th – 17th century), the *Scottish National Dictionary* (18th century onwards) and the *Oxford English Dictionary*. These resources are now available on-line. Faclair na Gàidhlig will be published in electronic format.

The dictionary will document fully the history of the Gaelic language and culture from the earliest manuscript material onwards. It will be based entirely on evidence from the language, its definitions will be illustrated by citations from texts, and in this way, the historical dictionary will allow the language to speak for itself.

Gaelic lexicographers have never had access to comprehensive textual data and existing dictionaries have been based on the comparatively limited experience of their compilers. Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide the first authoritative dictionary of Gaelic and will also place Gaelic in context with Irish and Scots. By allowing identification of the Gaelic/Scots interface throughout Scottish history, it will increase our understanding of our linguistic national heritage and will reveal the fundamental role of Gaelic in the linguistic identity of Scotland. Of equal importance, it will facilitate comparison between Scottish Gaelic and Irish.

The dictionary will respond to the needs of the Gaelic language in the 21st century by providing an authoritative foundation for smaller bilingual and monolingual dictionaries and language learning materials. The dictionary for the modern period, for which there is greatest demand, will be produced first. Derivative bilingual and monolingual works will follow. Thus, the dictionary will be geared to meet the needs of students, teachers and parents in the growing sector of Gaelic-medium education. The project will also facilitate the production of a thesaurus of contemporary Gaelic, with a bilingual dimension built-in to enable users to access related vocabulary. This resource will enhance language learning and be critical to the development of new vocabularies.

Of all the core language resources, **we believe the historical dictionary is the most crucial to the identity and status of our language.** It enables authoritative dictionaries to be produced for all levels of competence and constituency. These, in their turn, are indispensable tools for enhancing language use and improving language skills.

The Project

Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide Scottish Gaelic with an historical dictionary comparable to those of English and Scots and increase the prestige of the language on a global level. Definitions will be in English and will be illustrated by citations from the written language, thus giving first-hand evidence of the Gaelic language throughout its history. By this means it will:

- facilitate access to the language, its history, literature and culture, serving as a gateway to the past which will point the way to the future;
- provide a foundation for language learning materials, especially in the expanding sector of Gaelic-medium education;
- provide vocabulary, and evidence the Gaelic idiom, especially for special purposes where terminology is required; and
- play a key role in aiding improvement in language and literacy skills.

The project began formally in October 2003, based in the University of Edinburgh. Funding for the first year was provided by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (0.6 post) and the Gaelic Language Promotion Trust (0.1 post). Project funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig sustained the project and enabled the first full-time post in Gaelic lexicography for some years until the next major funding from the Leverhulme Trust came on-stream early in 2005. Since 2005, there have been two full-time members of staff. In May 2007, a second office at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI was opened and it is anticipated that future staff may be based in any, or all, of the partner institutions.

Faclair na Gàidhlig is funded until 2008 by the Leverhulme Trust, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Executive. This part of the project will lay the editorial and textual foundation for Faclair na Gàidhlig providing training and reference tools for future historical lexicographers.

Resources

The early stages have been facilitated greatly through the support of the partner institutions in terms of scholarly expertise, management services and accommodation. Faclair na Gàidhlig must now be secured as a project of national importance in order to provide stability for other initiatives for the Gaelic language. It is proposed that a long term funding strategy now be put in place consisting of two streams: core-funding and additional funding. Core-funding will secure the project with a minimum staff; and additional funding, from research councils and other bodies which the project is eligible to approach, will enable accelerated progress. This investment will provide the solid cornerstone on which Scotland

can secure the status of the language and genuinely build a sustainable basis to support the growth of language usage in our communities, schools, higher and further education bodies, at home and in the workplace.



education

Strategic Context

Education is one of the areas where great advances have been made in recent years.

The number of pupils who are in Gaelic-medium education at nursery, primary and secondary school level has risen significantly. Furthermore, there were 945 fluent speakers taking Gaelic as a subject at secondary school in the school year 2006-2007, and 2,696 learners taking Gaelic as a subject in the same year.

The number of students who are in Gaelic Further or Higher Education or who are taking a Gaelic course at that level has also risen significantly: there are now in excess of 1,200 students in Scotland's colleges and universities who are enrolled for a Gaelic course. At some institutions, courses are available which are taught entirely through the medium of Gaelic – notably at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye. There are degrees in Celtic and Gaelic in the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and some modules are taught through the medium of Gaelic.

There are also teacher education courses such as those offered by Strathclyde University where Gaelic and Gaelic-medium teachers are trained.

There are significant opportunities for adults who wish to learn Gaelic on a self-teaching or distance-learning basis, and there are also a number of Gaelic classes run in local communities across Scotland.

The Challenge

Though there have been notable successes in Gaelic education, there is still much work to be done. One of the challenges is the need to provide high quality materials to support the continued future growth of education and learning opportunities for those wishing to develop their knowledge, understanding and usage of the Gaelic language. The development of a definitive dictionary will be an essential element of the programme to establish sustainable and high quality education for all.

Our contribution

Faclair na Gàidhlig will be an indispensable aid in supporting the growth and expansion of Gaelic language education. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from mainstream tertiary education, teacher education and Gaelic-medium education who all have a detailed knowledge of the education requirements to support the sustainability of the language at all levels and ages.

A properly-funded dictionary enterprise will produce small, affordable Gaelic-English, English-Gaelic and monolingual Gaelic dictionaries as soon as Faclair na Gàidhlig is produced for the modern period. These will be fundamental resources for Gaelic-medium education and lifelong learning.

Throughout the project duration, we would wish to work with key partners who are already engaged in supporting the development of Gaelic Language education, in particular the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS), the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), DG: Education and Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

Particular areas where we can make a visible difference would be:

School Years: Dictionaries are key resources at every level of education. The historical dictionary will provide the authoritative foundation for all others and a wealth of material to be used in the compilation of teaching materials. The production of accurate Gaelic-medium dictionaries will be dependent upon Faclair na Gàidhlig and will be integral to the success of Gaelic-medium education. Gaelic-English and English-Gaelic dictionaries will be essential for pupils learning Gaelic as a subject. Monolingual and bilingual dictionaries will provide access to the Gaelic culture by defining the content of key aspects such as poetry, song and prose.

Tertiary Education: Dictionaries are fundamental resources for those in tertiary education, whether through the medium of Gaelic or as part of general language and cultural studies courses. The historical dictionary is a major resource for scholars. Definitions in Faclair na Gàidhlig will be in English in order to maximise access to the language. Its use will not be limited to those who are able to use Gaelic; it will be an essential tool for many, including historians, literature specialists, ethnologists, and lexicographers working in other languages.

Lifelong Learning: Dictionaries are fundamental resources for language learning at all ages and stages of life. The dictionary will be invaluable in the production of learning materials for non-Gaelic speaking parents who opt to send their children to Gaelic-medium education. Language resources, particularly dictionaries, will also underpin community education activities, for example, by providing an essential resource for those studying local history or place-names.

Education Resources: Dictionaries are vital resources in education and learning to use them is an important skill. Teachers in Gaelic-medium education need materials to stimulate and challenge pupils. Dictionaries can also be learning aids which are stimulating and fun for all ages, e.g. the *Oxford English Dictionary* website (www.oed.com) has a Learning Resources section and Scottish Language Dictionaries Ltd has its Scuilwab (www.scuilwab.org.uk) aimed at schoolchildren but enjoyable for all.

Policy-making: Other concurrent projects in the educational field include SQA's Gaelic Orthographic Conventions, which provides standardisation for students, teachers and examiners in written Gaelic. Faclair na Gàidhlig will be able to assist in this programme by providing sound evidence on which to base proposals for standardisation of spelling.

Summary

In respect of Gaelic education, Faclair na Gàidhlig will:

- Increase the volume and enhance the quality of language-support resources.
- Be central to the improvement of language skills and the development of specialist vocabulary.
- Make a vital contribution to the development of Gaelic-medium education.

heritage

Strategic Context

Language is the most efficient means of transmitting a culture, and it is the owners of that culture that lose the most when a language dies. Every culture has adapted to unique circumstances, and the language expresses those circumstances. **What we talk about, think, and believe is intrinsically tied to our lexicon, so the history of a culture can be mapped in its language.**

The Scottish Government values Gaelic as an important part of Scotland's living cultural heritage and supports a vigorous programme to encourage the preservation and use of the language and its transmission to the next generation. Much that is thought of as traditionally Scottish has its roots in Gaelic culture. The richness of traditional Gaelic culture and heritage is also internationally recognised, particularly in other Celtic nations and North America.

The Challenge

The death of a language impoverishes its people. The poetry and rhythm of a singular tongue are silenced forever. Faclair na Gàidhlig will ensure that the heritage which is synonymous with the Gaelic tongue will not be eroded. It will preserve and maintain the ongoing richness of the Gaelic culture and heritage for generations to come.

Our contribution

The historical dictionary is itself the greatest repository for the culture giving a full explanation of every word in the written language and illustrating chronological and local development in meaning by citations from throughout its history. Thus it gives first hand evidence of the culture and heritage of a language community and simultaneously defines and describes the culture on a level of detail unmatched by any encyclopaedia. It is the only reliable means of communicating a language and its culture to others on a global basis. Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide first hand information on daily life in Gaelic Scotland through the ages. On a broader scale, it will allow identification of the interfaces between Gaelic and other languages such as Scots, Irish, English and the Scandinavian languages and, therefore, help to identify, and indeed showcase, Scotland's linguistic heritage.

Scotland has its own political, cultural, historical, and geographical realities, and it has its own words to describe them. As a result of our unique history and settlement patterns, Gaelic also includes words borrowed from other languages and reflects the links and heritage we share internationally. **Dictionaries describe and reflect the language and culture of the country in which they are compiled.** In particular:

- **Cultural Activity:** Language is at the very heart of cultural activity. It is at the core of poetry, prose, drama, humour, and all forms of social and cultural exchange. Translation of literary works from and into Gaelic attracts new learners and opens an important route into the language and culture. Dictionaries in this context are core resources for creative writers and translators as well as for those who access their work.
- **Heritage:** We cannot value or share our heritage unless we understand it. **The historical dictionary is the memory of our culture and the key to understanding our past.** It is crucial to the reliability of heritage interpretation. Faclair na Gàidhlig will contribute to the understanding of Gaelic heritage, both in itself, and as a reference work for on-going heritage projects, such as the digitisation of archive material and the orthography of place-names. Such projects and other similar language development activities will be informed by the work of Faclair na Gàidhlig.

Summary

In supporting the preservation of the culture and heritage of the Gaelic Language, Faclair na Gàidhlig will:

- Preserve and promote the richness and diversity of Scotland's past and present.
- Stimulate and encourage fluent speakers to contribute to the development of the dictionary and inform debate and discussion on the culture and heritage of the Gaelic language.
- Produce tangible outputs that will be of lasting value and provide Gaelic scholars, the nation and the world with an invaluable reference work that will reflect the Gaelic heritage and culture of our nation.

Strategic Context

Historically, within revitalisation efforts, there has been relative neglect of corpus planning to address such matters as the development and dissemination of new terminology and the standardisation of grammar, spelling and nomenclature. In contrast to many other minority language movements, there has never been any kind of linguistic academy, institute or unit with responsibility for the linguistic codification or elaboration of Gaelic.

Given the range of new opportunities for usage of the language — the use of Gaelic in secondary and higher education and official business, for example — corpus development is essential to support work in priority areas such as terminological development and translator training.

Full-scale, fully-functional dictionaries and guidebooks on grammar and stylistics are urgently required. Such initiatives would be facilitated if they were brought under the auspices of a specialist coordinating project such as Faclair na Gàidhlig.

The Challenge

Initiatives in the fields of orthographic and grammatical standardisation, terminological development and lexicography have been limited in their range and tended to be short term in nature rather than integrated, cumulative endeavours. The Faclair na Gàidhlig project has the institutional support and lexicographical expertise to develop a comprehensive historical dictionary and to provide authoritative knowledge and guidance to support all planning activity for the Gaelic language.

Our contribution

Faclair na Gàidhlig will transfer its rich resource of knowledge to diverse areas of language support. The historical dictionary is the only resource which can document the history of a language and fully explain it. Moreover, it will be an ongoing resource continually being updated as the language changes. It differs from all other forms of dictionary in that everything in the historical dictionary is drawn from the evidence. It is a resource in which the language speaks for itself.

Corpus development will be made possible by the existence of Faclair na Gàidhlig. It will provide the evidence for policy-making on spelling, grammar, vocabulary and nomenclature. It will also facilitate the development of terminology from the perspective of the language and its idiom as opposed to the perspective of English. It is difficult to see how corpus

development can be progressed in any effective way without the existence of this project and its root materials.

Data collected for the historical dictionary are rich resources on which to base a reference grammar. Gaelic needs a modern grammar, based on usage, to explain and enhance language use and literacy skills.

In terms of early opportunities to use the repository of knowledge and experience that will reside with the project team and its key partners, we would highlight the following:

- **Broadcasting:** Television has been used successfully to teach the language, e.g. *Can Seo, Speaking Our Language* and, more recently, to stimulate interest, *Colin and Cumberland*. *Faclair na Gàidhlig* will be an important and valuable support resource for a Gaelic digital service and for language teaching programmes. Television can also be a useful tool in gathering material for dictionaries, e.g. 'Beul Chainnt' and the recent 'Balderdash and Piffle' series on the *Oxford English Dictionary*, so popular that a second eight-part series was broadcast May-July 2007.
- **Interactivity:** The project also recognises the vital role the Internet is beginning to play as a tool for preserving endangered languages and the fact that a new generation of Gaels is working in and living with modern media and computer technology. The language is now harnessing and exploiting information and communications technology to the full.
- Speakers of minority languages globally have been particularly active in setting up web pages in the various languages. The scope of these activities could be increased exponentially if *Faclair na Gàidhlig* were in place. They, in turn, could enrich the project. The Internet offers minority languages more hope for their survival than they have ever known, especially if translation tools become more effective.
- Dictionaries are now very important electronic resources and the Internet is increasingly recognised as an effective way of bringing such resources into homes.

- *Faclair na Gàidhlig* will provide an indispensable resource in the use of ICT in promoting Gaelic and its culture.
- **Print Media:** *Faclair na Gàidhlig* will be a reliable tool in increasing the presence of Gaelic in the print media. It will expand the knowledge of those writing in Gaelic and inform those wishing to interpret and find out more about what they have read. Smaller dictionaries, word-lists and phrase books for tourists derived from the dictionary can also be a high quality first point of access for many experiencing Gaelic for the first time.

Summary

In terms of knowledge management, *Faclair na Gàidhlig* will:

- Be a primary resource for scholars, educators and all those researching into Gaelic, its people, its history and its literature.
- Allow students of language, including professional and amateur scholars, writers and creative artists to investigate the world of Gaelic in new ways, while also securing a source of information for future generations.
- Address the need for constant updating and revision of the language knowledge base in the light of scholarship and language change.
- Address the pressing need for an evidence-based grammar of Gaelic.
- Stimulate and empower creative use of the language.
- Provide lexicographers to capture new developments as the use of formal Gaelic increases, and transmit them to those who need to exploit the upper registers of Gaelic.

status

Strategic Context

Demographic changes and the impact of globalisation have contributed to a decline in the number of Gaelic speakers. However, sustained efforts to reverse this trend are bearing fruit. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed unopposed and will promote Gaelic in public life, the work place and the home. Gaelic education, particularly Gaelic-medium education, is a success and the 2001 Census showed that the number of speakers in younger age groups had risen. The new Gaelic Digital Service will have a positive effect on language access for all ages and levels of competence.

In order to maintain this momentum and stabilise ongoing initiatives, the language needs a bedrock. Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide this as a record of the language and culture, preserving and defining the past and present and, in so doing, clarifying the way ahead.

The creation of an historical dictionary provides status for the language and shows that we are serious about preserving the heritage and richness of Gaelic.

Language resources are all dependent on reliable dictionaries which are, in turn, dependent on the full historical dictionary. We have seen in English and Scots how much can be achieved. These two languages have world-class historical dictionaries with derivative works to meet all needs. **Gaelic deserves no less.** Such a dictionary would give a clear message about the status of Gaelic as a language.

Indeed, the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, stipulates that public authorities should prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans which take account of:

- the use of Gaelic amongst its service users; and
- the potential for developing the use of the Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of its functions.

The Challenge

Scottish Gaelic does not have an historical dictionary, and until it has, all initiatives (educational, technical, and cultural) are denied the stability such a resource brings. The inclusion of corpus development within the *National Plan for Gaelic* as a fundamental action area for Language Vitality gives prominence to the importance of this project.

Our contribution

There is no more important resource a language can possess than its historical dictionary. It is authoritative, definitive and informative providing the history of each word it covers and a clear understanding of its role in the culture. An historical dictionary of Gaelic would play an important part in language stabilisation and development within the community. For example, it enables access to less widely known or obsolete words, which speakers may choose to adopt rather than to create new words which would tend to be based on English. The acquisition of language skills in new contexts will be a major challenge in implementation of the National Plan. In many cases, a specialist vocabulary will be required and people's conversational Gaelic will need to be enriched or supplemented.

The work undertaken on this project will help support public authorities to fulfil their requirements under the Gaelic Language Act, for example responsibilities in dealing with place-names and production of service information in Gaelic.

Both immediately and in the long term, Faclair na Gàidhlig will be a central resource in implementing the National Plan and promoting the status and identity of the Gaelic language and culture. Planned derivative dictionaries of an otherwise unattainable standard and quality can flow from the project. A thesaurus will be a primary complementary resource with significant potential to aid language learning and facilitate acquisition of vocabulary. These materials will greatly assist realisation of the outcomes of the National Plan.

In the short term, the next stage of Faclair na Gàidhlig will focus on the development of a fully-searchable full-text database of key works in Gaelic on which the dictionary will be based. This database will contain the largest electronic collection of Gaelic texts ever assembled. Its existence will increase interest in all aspects of the language and stimulate and enable scholarly research on a scale never before possible. It will be of value to academics, policy makers, researchers, teachers of Gaelic and those wishing to do any kind of textual

analysis for any conceivable purpose. Both the database and, subsequently, the dictionary will have a priceless knowledge transfer dimension. This will have implications for the National Plan and far beyond.

The project will also function as a focal point for policy-making regarding the language in Scotland, working closely with national and local government and other relevant bodies. Obvious practical examples are signage and the compilation of specialist terminology in accordance with Gaelic idiom. This will be a two-way relationship with changes in language use being considered and respected. Engagement with stakeholders in education and heritage will be a key priority.

Summary

In terms of the status and identity of the Gaelic language, Faclair na Gàidhlig will be:

- Integral to increasing the prestige of the language.
- A valuable means of increasing awareness of the language.
- The most effective way of establishing and illustrating linguistic identity.
- An essential project in securing and enhancing the status of the language.

outcomes and benefits

Overview

The production of the dictionary is a considerable undertaking requiring a long term financial commitment and the support of academic institutions and key stakeholders.

The overall project will be divided into three phases:

- the Editorial and Textual Foundation
- the Technical Foundation
- Dictionary compilation.

Phase I The Editorial and Textual Foundation, is well underway. A one year pilot project was funded by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland and the Gaelic Language Promotion Trust (2003-4). This investigated existing dictionary resources, produced a sample entry to demonstrate the value of Faclair na Gàidhlig as a resource, and undertook preparatory work for the Textual Foundation producing six template texts from the 16th to the 20th centuries. The current project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government and scheduled for completion in 2008, will produce the **Editorial and Textual Foundation**. This will include sample dictionary entries with detailed instructions as to how to compile them, and descriptions of three hundred key texts in terms of their usefulness to the dictionary. This will provide new lexicographers with essential training and reference tools.

Outcomes by 2008

- An **assessment** of existing dictionary resources.
- An **Editorial Manual** including a general section on historical lexicography, sample entries and detailed instructions for their compilation.
- A **Text Manual** describing 300 key texts in terms of their usefulness to the historical dictionary.

Phase II The Technical Foundation, is being planned and funding is currently being sought for the pilot project for the Technical Foundation for Faclair na Gàidhlig (2008-10). This

project will investigate the methodology for the Full-text Database of Gaelic and the Word Collection Database of Gaelic. Copyright issues will be investigated and there will be liaison with other dictionary and corpora projects. The methodology established in the pilot project will be used to create the Technical Foundation for Faclair na Gàidhlig (2010-15). This database will increase interest in the language and stimulate and enable scholarly research on a scale never before possible. It will, however, remain a partial resource until the compilation of the historical dictionary which will explain the language and the culture.

Outcomes by 2015

- The output from this phase will be a full-text database of written Gaelic from which the dictionary will be compiled and which will in itself be a valuable resource for policy-makers and researchers from a variety of disciplines.

Phase III Dictionary Compilation, is scheduled to begin in 2015. The historical dictionary for the modern period, 1802 onwards, will be produced first and, assuming adequate funding to maintain required staffing levels, is scheduled for publication in electronic format in 2025.

Information and communications technology will also permit the simultaneous publication of derived dictionaries for which there is greatest public demand. The remainder of the historical dictionary, from the earliest records onwards, will be added on, letter by letter, and is scheduled to take a further ten years.

Outcomes by 2025

- The principal outcome from this Phase will be a comprehensive dictionary of modern Scottish Gaelic from 1802 onwards. Dictionaries for which there is greatest public demand such as concise Gaelic-English, English-Gaelic and Gaelic-Gaelic dictionaries will be produced simultaneously.

Outcomes by 2035

- Following completion of the modern dictionary, the full dictionary will be compiled on a letter by letter basis. Each letter will be published electronically as it is completed. The full Faclair na Gàidhlig, scheduled to be available in 2035, will be a world-class resource for Scottish Gaelic equal in status to the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* and the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Benefits

Throughout the duration of the project, Faclair na Gàidhlig will act as a primary resource which will maximise access to the language at all periods throughout its history, and facilitate **research** into the language and culture on a level hitherto denied to scholars. This project will represent a vital cornerstone for securing and sustaining the richness and integrity of the Gaelic **language** and **culture**.

The printed and on-line derivative dictionaries that will be produced alongside the comprehensive historical dictionary will include one volume bilingual dictionaries for learners, monolingual dictionaries for schools and fluent speakers, and lists of specialist vocabulary. These will greatly assist realisation of many aspects of the National Plan and will be fundamental resources for Gaelic-medium education and lifelong learning. A Gaelic Thesaurus will further enhance access to the vocabulary of the language. The benefits of the project are interlinked with, and fundamental to, the aims of the *National Plan for Gaelic*, including key areas outside of the core Language Corpus, i.e. Acquisition, Usage and Status. These benefits are set out in more detail in Appendix I.

The National Gaelic Education Strategy specifies aspirations for the future regeneration and continued growth of Gaelic and **Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide an effective bridge from key tasks set out therein to the delivery of those tasks**.

The diagram provides a graphical representation of the project, the stages into which it has been divided and the principal outcomes that will be derived throughout the project:

Faclair na Gàidhlig Project Plan 2003-2035

	Outcome	Phases	Benefits
2000	Pilot Project for Editorial and Textual Foundation	Phase I - Editorial and Textual Foundation	Accessible database of texts
2005	Editorial and Textual Foundation for Faclair na Gàidhlig		Extensive source and background knowledge
2008	Pilot Project for Technical Foundation	Phase II - Technical Foundation	Provide resources in CD format for use in education
2010	Technical Foundation for Faclair na Gàidhlig		Rich database of research material
2015	Faclair na Gàidhlig 1802 onwards Concise Gaelic-English Dictionary Concise English-Gaelic Dictionary	Phase III - Dictionary Compilation	Central resource for promoting the value of the language
			Foundation and stimulus for resources at all levels
2025	Authoritative, definitive and informative insight		
2035	Faclair na Gàidhlig 100-onwards		Confirmed reliability of historical interpretation

Overview

A project of this magnitude and importance deserves the status of a national enterprise. The production of Faclair na Gàidhlig will need major long term commitment on the part of its funders but the investment required is comparatively small when measured against the benefits set out above. Major lexicographical projects, such as Faclair na Gàidhlig, are carried out more quickly and efficiently where there is a dedicated and experienced team in place.

In this section, the level of resources required to support the project over the next ten years is set out. Securing the level of full funding detailed below will provide the resources needed to create an experienced team to take forward this exciting and vital project. Securing core-funding for key posts and activities will ensure the project survives and the skills and experience of the core team can be retained to lead the development of the dictionary and support the key policy objective of sustaining and growing the number of Gaelic language speakers.

For a modest level of investment, we will have an opportunity to develop a dictionary comparable to that produced for other European minority languages and build on the preliminary work undertaken by the partner institutions of the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI. These partner bodies will continue to support the project through the provision of expertise and knowledge in the Gaelic language, lexicography and delivery of complex projects over a considerable timeframe. To date, this expertise has been provided through the Steering Committee and Advisory Board.

Creating a dedicated and expert team

It is anticipated that the work will be carried out on a decentralised basis with staff located in any, or all, of the partnership institutions. Staff are currently based at the University of Edinburgh, where the project began, and at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

To date, funding has enabled the establishment of a small project team until 31 January 2008 consisting of a full-time Project Co-ordinator, a full-time Research Assistant and a part-time Lexicographical Consultant.

- Upon commencement of Phase II in 2008, the current team will continue to be employed. The Research Assistant will be promoted to Assistant Editor and will begin to train as an historical lexicographer. To co-ordinate the technical development of the Corpus, a Technical Manager will be appointed in 2009 and up to five Corpus Editorial Assistants will be added to the team by 2011. This team will remain in post until completion of Phase II in 2015.

- As the project moves into Phase III, the Project Co-ordinator and the Assistant Editor will begin training two additional Assistant Editors as historical lexicographers.
- Beyond 2017, the project would aim to build a full editorial team of at least ten experienced lexicographers in order to complete the dictionary in a comparatively short timeframe

Funding Strategy

Faclair na Gàidhlig is a project of national importance which requires the support of an experienced and dedicated team. Such a team cannot be funded entirely by research councils through highly competitive award schemes which are designed for those at the beginning of an academic career. It is proposed that the total funding requirements of the project be divided into two streams:

- **Core-funding to secure the project** with a minimum staff. The core funding needed to secure the delivery of the project as set out in this business plan is shown overleaf in Table 1.
- **Additional funding** from research councils and other bodies which the project is eligible to approach. Should this become available, it will allow the project team to invest in further capacity and enable the timescale for completion of the corpus project to be accelerated.

Core funding

Core funding is defined as the level of support required to ensure the survival of the project. This is calculated on the basis of the skills and activities which must be maintained. These skills and activities will change as the project develops. As the Faclair na Gàidhlig project enters Phase II, its viability depends on maintaining current skills and producing a full-text database from which the dictionary will be compiled.

The core requirements for Phase II are:

- The retention of the current staff of two.
- The creation of a Corpus Project team comprising the new post of Technical Manager with assistants, rising to five by 2011.
- Funding to support the continuation of the Advisory Board and Steering Committee.

- Funding to provide the necessary ICT, administration support, staff training and development, and accommodation for these posts. These services will be provided by the partner institutions.

As the project moves to Phase III from 2016, the core requirements will be wholly lexicographical. Of the ten lexicographers who would be required to guarantee a good rate of output beyond 2017, a minimum of six would be core staff and four would be employed by additional funding secured by the project from bodies such as research councils, trusts and private sponsorship. If the four non-core posts could not be funded, progress would be much slower than that envisaged in the Outcome and Benefits section above.

Funding and Resource Requirements

Table 1 overleaf shows the funding requirements of the project for the next ten years. These costs relate to current staff, the staff of the corpus project and the two additional core lexicographical posts to be created in 2016. Table 2 summarises the staffing profile required to support the project.

It is fully anticipated that the intellectual property, knowledge and expertise that will be developed throughout the lifecycle of the project will provide opportunities in the later stages to generate other sources of income to secure additional resources for the core team beyond 2017.

Table 1: Funding and Resource Requirements

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	89,752	168,847	227,367	290,128	306,014	318,809	329,646	340,852	278,991	288,404	2,638,810
Other costs	49,459	95,730	115,097	144,360	154,100	149,557	153,425	165,784	120,451	121,632	1,269,595
Total	139,211	264,577	342,464	434,488	460,114	468,366	483,071	506,636	399,442	410,036	3,908,405

Staff costs include annual salary and employer's contributions for Superannuation and National Insurance. Staff are currently included in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

Other costs include provision for:

- **IT costs** including computer hardware, software licensing, ICT support and maintenance costs.
- **Accommodation and administration costs** will be required by those institutions housing and managing the project and will be subject to periodic review.
- Expenditure for **continuing personal development** of staff.
- **Travel expenses** for all personnel, including members of the Steering Committee and Advisory Board. This will include items such as travel expenses for attending meetings and making research visits to libraries.
- Costs related to the **purchase of library resources**, such as photocopies of manuscripts and less accessible published material.

Table 2: Staff Profile (number of staff)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	Phase I	Phase II							Phase III	
Project Co-ordinator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Editor					1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Editor	1	1	1	1					2	2
Technical Manager		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Corpus Assistants		1	3	5	5	5	5	5		
Secretarial		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	2	5	7	9	9	9	9	9	6	6

linkage with national plan for gaelic



Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide a vital resource to help achieve the desired outcomes of the *National Plan for Gaelic*. The dictionary will give almost every initiative in the language a stable foundation. It will increase accessibility to, and confidence in, the language at all levels and provide it with a lexicographical resource equal to those of English and Scots. Some of the key tasks listed in the National Plan for which the dictionary will be invaluable are listed below. There are many more for which it will be an essential resource.

Resources

- To support the ongoing work of developing a Gaelic historical dictionary.
- To establish effective partnership arrangements to increase the range of Gaelic education resources.
- To promote the strengthening of the research capacity in Celtic and Gaelic departments.

Entitlement and Language Acquisition

- To promote language diversity and raise awareness of the Gaelic language through the study of Gaelic history, culture and heritage in Scottish schools.
- To promote Gaelic learning in tertiary education.

Language Usage

- To extend the range and quality of resources to support GME.
- To promote positive attitudes to, and confidence in, Gaelic usage.
- To develop fluency among learners.

Gaelic Medium Education

- To promote the teaching of the history and development of the Gaelic language and its literature at tertiary level.

models of best practice

There are good examples throughout Europe, and beyond, of national initiatives to produce historical dictionaries for minority languages. Much can be learned from the approaches adopted for the compilation and maintenance of these dictionaries.

The following examples are of immediate relevance:

- Finland where several languages are well-supported by a Languages Institute with dictionaries at its core;
- Wales where the *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* is regarded as a key part of promoting the language and culture and funded accordingly; and
- Ireland where the Royal Irish Academy lists *Foclóir Stairiúil na Nua-Ghaelige* (The Historical Dictionary of Modern Irish) among its current major research projects, and where Foras na Gaeilge, the equivalent of *Bòrd na Gàidhlig*, has a statutory remit for lexicography.

Faclair na Gàidhlig presents an excellent opportunity to achieve something similar for Gaelic and it is important that the development of the dictionary and the benefits that it will bring are secured as an integral element of the efforts now being made to provide a sustainable future for the Gaelic language.

As reflected in the examples below, dictionaries have been recognised as a core requirement in both sustaining and promoting other minority languages within their native countries. Similar commitment and investment is needed for Gaelic.

Finland – The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland

The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland is an internationally recognised institute administered by the Finnish Ministry of Education and employs nearly 100 staff. Its remit is to foster knowledge about the languages of Finland and their status in Finnish culture and society, and, in so doing, to lay the foundation for linguistic equality in Finland. It is also concerned with language planning and corpus planning, status planning for threatened and minority languages and the teaching of national, foreign, regional and minority languages. The Institute maintains a names archive, oversees names planning and conducts onomastic research. It has close links with the universities and its research priorities are practical dictionary and language planning work.

The Institute which serves to maintain Finnish, Swedish, Saami, Romany and Finnish Sign Language:

- studies vocabulary, proper names, languages variants and registers, various text types, current linguistic practices, language history, established linguistic standards and new trends;
- compiles monolingual and bilingual dictionaries;
- is the leading language planning authority, i.e. steers and oversees the standardisation of Finnish, Finland Swedish, Saami, Romany and Finnish Sign Language;
- regulates and monitors current usage and bureaucratic language, including EU Finnish;
- provides linguistic guidance to the general public through telephone counselling services; and
- offers researchers access to its archives, corpora and extensive library resources.

Wales - Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru – A Dictionary of the Welsh Language

Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru is the responsibility of the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies and is located in purpose-built accommodation alongside the National Library of Wales, where access is freely given to the unparalleled collection of Welsh material. The dictionary, begun in 1921 and completed in 2002, was recently included in *Eureka UK*, a booklet published by Universities UK listing 100 major discoveries, developments and inventions made in UK universities during the last 50 years that have impacted on the world. The authors noted that the dictionary, the ultimate authority on all aspects of the language, would have a similar impact on the Welsh language community to that of the *Oxford English Dictionary* on the English speaking world and that it would revolutionise Welsh language studies including word-formation, terminology and translation.

Since the beginning of 2002, the staff of *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* have been revising the earliest parts of the Dictionary which were prepared to a much more concise plan than that adopted from the end of the letter *B* onwards. This will be published between 2003 and 2008 as a revised (and much expanded) second edition of the letters *A-B*, incorporating much new material. This work is being jointly funded by The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the University of Wales.

Ireland - The Royal Irish Academy

The Royal Irish Academy receives the vast proportion of its funding from the Higher Education Authority (HEA), in turn funded by the Department of Education. In 2004, the Academy published *Corpas na Gaeilge*, the Irish Language Corpus covering the period from 1600-1882. The HEA and the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs are now jointly funding a new unit of the project which will create a corpus of 20th century Irish. The Academy aims to produce a dictionary of the Irish language on historical principles based on these corpora. Units are based in Dublin and Donegal. The Dublin posts consisting of Editor, Assistant Editor, Administrative Officer and Secretarial Assistant are funded exclusively by the HEA. The Donegal, posts consisting of a Manager, an Assistant Editor, and six Keyboarders/Scanners are funded jointly by the HEA and the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. An additional Keyboarder has since been employed in Donegal, funded on contract by the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Foras na Gaeilge

Foras na Gaeilge was founded in 1999, under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, which created a North/South Implementation body to promote both the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language. It is responsible for promotion of the Irish language throughout Ireland and carries out all the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language.

The functions of Foras na Gaeilge include:

- promotion of the Irish language;
- developing terminology and dictionaries; and
- supporting Irish-medium education and the teaching of Irish.

The publishing arm of Foras na Gaeilge is An Gúm, the single largest Irish language publisher in the country. Its mission is to produce resources for Irish medium education and the use of Irish in general. Today, its publishing work is mainly in the areas of lexicography, textbooks and resources for schools and general reading material for children and young people.

The English-Irish Dictionary Project is one of the most important currently being undertaken by Foras na Gaeilge. In 2000, the North-South Ministerial Council approved in principle IR£3.1m (GBP£2.37m) over a five year period for this project. Phase 1 in which the technical design and planning for the new dictionary was defined was completed in 2005 at a cost of €800,000. Phase 2, begun early in 2007, will see the compilation of the electronic and written versions of the dictionary. The current estimate for the entire project is €4.8m.

Other countries recognise the value of historical dictionaries in accessing the record of their languages and enhancing their status. Faclair na Gàidhlig will do the same for Gaelic in Scotland.

Appendix I Benefits and Outputs

The benefits and outputs that will be derived from the creation of Faclair na Gàidhlig are depicted in the table below in relation to the four key areas of Status, Knowledge, Education and Heritage. These benefits will be shared openly throughout the project and be accessible through the further development of our website and showcasing of the project on a national and international level.

	Status	Knowledge	Education	Heritage
Editorial Foundation	The Editorial Foundation is an essential stepping-stone in the creation of Faclair na Gàidhlig. It will enable the establishment of a tradition of historical lexicography in the language and, in turn, the compilation of Faclair na Gàidhlig which will greatly enhance the status of the Gaelic language.	Sample entries will show the type of resource which Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide for the language. Compilation instructions will preserve and develop the historical lexicographical skills which have existed in Scotland since the 19th century.	A summary of the existing dictionaries will allow users of the language to assess which dictionary is most suited to their needs until Faclair na Gàidhlig outputs are available.	The Editorial Foundation is crucial to maintaining Scotland's linguistic and cultural heritage which will be preserved in Faclair na Gàidhlig. It is also crucial to maintaining Scotland's lexicographical heritage witnessed by Scotland's contribution to the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> and, subsequently, to the <i>Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue</i> .
Textual Foundation	The Textual Foundation will play a vital part in the creation of Faclair na Gàidhlig. It will provide lexicographers with extensive background knowledge of key texts, knowledge which is essential in dictionary compilation. It is an integral part of the Faclair na Gàidhlig project and, as such, will help to increase the status of Gaelic. It will also provide the basis of a history of written Gaelic which will add to the prestige of the language and how it is perceived externally.	The Textual Foundation will provide lexicographers with the required background knowledge of texts in terms of their usefulness to the dictionary. In wider terms, it will provide a resource on key Gaelic texts which has never been available.	The Textual Foundation and associated outputs will provide teachers in secondary and tertiary education with resources far beyond those currently available.	The Textual Foundation will assess texts from throughout the history of the language and will provide a means of accessing the language and culture on diverse levels and at a variety of points throughout history.

Appendix I Benefits and Outputs

	Status	Knowledge	Education	Heritage
Technical Foundation for Faclair na Gàidhlig	The output from this project, the full-text database, will allow easy access to the language throughout its history. This access will sustain public interest in the language and nurture informed interest in its history.	The formulation of methodology for the technical foundation for the dictionary project will enhance the skills base in Scottish lexicography. The database will provide valuable research material for academics, policy-makers, researchers, teachers of Gaelic and those wishing to carry out any kind of textual analysis.	A CD Rom version of this stage of the project would provide tertiary education, Gaelic-medium schools and other schools and learning centres with access to a valuable resource in the teaching of Gaelic, its usage and history.	This will set in process the production of an accessible database for Gaelic speakers to gain access to historical and modern texts.
Faclair na Gàidhlig	Faclair na Gàidhlig will change perceptions of the value of the language, raise its profile and prestige and present a positive image of Gaelic to the world. It will be a central resource in the promotion of the language and the culture. The dictionary will provide tangible evidence that the language is properly valued and give confidence to all who use Gaelic.	Authoritative, definitive and informative, Faclair na Gàidhlig will give ready access to a clear understanding of the culture. It will give people an indispensable insight into the linguistic, literary and cultural development of the Gael. By giving first hand evidence from the language itself, it will provide information on a level unsurpassed by any encyclopaedia.	Faclair na Gàidhlig will show the history of the language and explain it. Through its derivative works, it will exploit fully the seminal aspect of lexicography and provide the foundation and stimulus for resources at all levels of education from nursery to tertiary and throughout the community.	Faclair na Gàidhlig will be crucial to the reliability of heritage interpretation. It will contain the memory of the culture and provide the key to understanding its past. By means of defining and explaining, it will allow its users to understand the material and written heritage of Gaelic and the Gael.



Dr Anthony Harvey



Ms Marace Dareau



Mr Boyd Robertson



Dr Catriona Mackie



Professor Colm Ó Baoill



Professor Donald Meek



Professor Norman Gillies



Ms Lorna Pike



Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh



Professor Susan Manning



Professor Thomas Owen Clancy



Professor William Gillies

Appendix 2

Steering Committee and Advisory Board - membership

The Steering Committee for the Dictionary of the Scottish Gaelic Language consists of:

Institutional Representatives

Mr Boyd Robertson (Convener), Head of Language Education and Reader in Gaelic at the University of Strathclyde. His research interests include Gaelic in education, and the development and impact of Gaelic-medium education. He has a keen interest in corpus planning, and is actively involved in Gaelic lexicography, having co-produced the Teach Yourself *Gaelic Dictionary* (2004) to accompany the Teach Yourself *Gaelic* (2003) course. He is at work on a compilation of Gaelic idiomatic usages.

Professor Thomas Owen Clancy (Vice-Convener), Professor of Celtic at the University of Glasgow. His research interests include the development of Christianity in early medieval Scotland; the poetry of early medieval Scotland; Medieval Gaelic narrative, especially Christian literature; Scottish place-names and saints' dedications; Medieval Welsh narrative; and the northern Britons.

Professor Norman Gillies, Director of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI. He has played a major role in the development of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig into an internationally known centre for the study of Gaelic. He has played a major role in the establishment of the UHI Millennium Institute and is currently involved in Cànan Ltd, the Gaelic Television Training Trust, Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle and the Lèirsinn Research Centre.

Professor Susan Manning, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Grierson Professor of English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. Her primary research interests lie in the fields of the Scottish Enlightenment and in Scottish-American literary relations. She is a Board Member and Past President of the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society. Ongoing research projects include a new Edinburgh University Press series on "Transatlantic Literatures", a major study of Character, and the development of interdisciplinary methodologies.

Professor Colm Ó Baoill, Emeritus Professor of Celtic, University of Aberdeen. He has research interests in both Irish and Scottish Gaelic language and literature, including Scottish Gaelic verse of the period 1600-1730, 17th-19th century Irish verse, Scottish Gaelic manuscripts, the Scots-Gaelic interface and comparative study of Irish and Scottish Gaelic.

Principal Investigators

The Principal Investigators directing the current project are **Professor William Gillies** and **Professor Donald Meek** of the University of Edinburgh.

Professor William Gillies, Professor of Celtic at the University of Edinburgh. He has extensive research interests, including the Gaelic of the Middle Ages, the Book of the Dean of Lismore, and the Books of Clanranald, of which he is completing a major edition. His contribution to Gaelic dialectology is most evident in his role in the successful completion and publication of the *Survey of the Gaelic Dialects of Scotland* (1994-7). As Project Manager from 1994-2001, he led the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* project to its successful conclusion.

Professor Donald Meek, Professor of Scottish and Gaelic Studies at the University of Edinburgh and formerly Professor of Celtic at the University of Aberdeen. His research experience covers many aspects of Celtic Studies, focusing on Scottish Gaelic language, literature and history. Research areas include the Middle Ages, with reference to the Book of the Dean of Lismore, which shares a linguistic frontier with Scots; the development of classical Scottish Gaelic within Biblical texts; hymnology; and nineteenth and twentieth century Gaelic literature. From 1973-9, he worked as Assistant Editor on the Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic project at the University of Glasgow.

Advisory Board

To oversee and support the project team, we have established an Advisory Board comprising individuals who have strong links to our academic partners, are immersed in supporting significant aspects of the *National Plan for Gaelic* and who are well respected within the wider Gaelic speaking community. Their role is to contribute to policy-making in the academic aspects of the dictionary project. For the initial period of dictionary compilation, quality assurance of the content of *Faclair na Gàidhlig* will rest with the Advisory Board. This will ensure that the objectives and outputs of the project support the overall efforts being made to sustain the Gaelic language and preserve for the benefit of future generations the richness of the culture and heritage that is reflected in the written word.

The Advisory Board consists of:

Professor William Gillies, Professor of Celtic at the University of Edinburgh. He has extensive research interests, including the Gaelic of the Middle Ages, the Book of the Dean of Lismore, and the Books of Clanranald, of which he is completing a major edition. His contribution to Gaelic dialectology is most evident in his role in the successful completion and publication of the *Survey of the Gaelic Dialects of Scotland* (1994-7). As Project Manager from 1994-2001, he led the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* project to its successful conclusion.

Dr Anthony Harvey, Editor of the Royal Irish Academy's *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources* (DMLCS). He has been part of the DMLCS project since 1985 and Editor since 1990. He holds a PhD in early medieval Gaelic and British linguistics and literacy from Cambridge University's Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, where he had previously gained his MA, and has lectured and published widely on these subjects. He teaches conversational Welsh informally in Dublin, and is currently Chairman of the Classical Association of Ireland.

Professor Donald Meek, Professor of Scottish and Gaelic Studies at the University of Edinburgh and formerly Professor of Celtic at the University of Aberdeen. His research experience covers many aspects of Celtic Studies, focusing on Scottish Gaelic language, literature and history. Research areas include the Middle Ages, with reference to the Book of the Dean of Lismore, which shares a linguistic frontier with Scots; the development of classical Scottish Gaelic within Biblical texts; hymnology; and nineteenth and twentieth century Gaelic literature. From 1973-9, he worked as Assistant Editor on the Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic project at the University of Glasgow.

Professor Colm Ó Baoill, Emeritus Professor of Celtic, University of Aberdeen. He has research interests in both Irish and Scottish Gaelic language and literature, including Scottish Gaelic verse of the period 1600-1730, 17th-19th century Irish verse, Scottish Gaelic manuscripts, the Scots-Gaelic interface and comparative study of Irish and Scottish Gaelic.

Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, Professor of Gaelic at the University of Glasgow. His research interests include linguistic variation in the Gaelic-speaking world (synchronic and diachronic); Gaelic dialectology and Gaelic historical linguistics, particularly the divergence between Irish and Scottish Gaelic, and the emergence of Scottish Gaelic; Gaelic lexicology; Gaelic place-names; linguistic contact between Gaelic and other languages; and early Scottish Gaelic grammars.

Appendix 3

Project Team

Professor Donald Meek and **Professor William Gillies** direct the current project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government, to produce the editorial and textual foundation for the dictionary. There are two full-time members of staff and one part-time consultant.

Ms Marace Dareau, Editorial Consultant, is currently Principal Editor of Scottish Language Dictionaries Ltd and is Consultant on the Editorial Manual for the dictionary. She was Editorial Director of the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (1931-2002) and an editor of the *Concise Scots Dictionary* (1985). She also edited the glossary of the *Edinburgh Encyclopaedia of English Language and Linguistics* (1994).

Dr Catriona Mackie, Research Assistant, will produce the Text Manual for the dictionary. She is a graduate of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig where she gained an HNC & HND in Gaelic Studies. She has an MSc with distinction from the University of Edinburgh entitled 'Tàighean Tughaidh nan Eilean Siar' ('The Thatched Houses of the Hebrides') and has completed her PhD thesis on traditional housing in the Isle of Lewis.

Ms Lorna Pike, Project Co-ordinator, will produce the Editorial Manual for the dictionary. She is an experienced historical lexicographer and former member of the editorial team which completed the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (1931-2002). Her first post in lexicography was as an editor of the *Concise Scots Dictionary* (1985). She has also worked part-time as a Senior Editor for Scottish Language Dictionaries Ltd and part-time as Research Officer for the Feasibility Study for an Institute for the Languages of Scotland.

