



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: GAELIC IN SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2022

18 JUNE 2024

Report By Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Report provides information about Gaelic in the results of Scotland's Census 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On Tuesday 21 May 2024, religion, ethnicity and language data from Scotland's Census 2022 was published. This revealed that although there was a rise in the number of people in Scotland who had Gaelic skills compared to the previous Census in 2011, the figures for the Western Isles showed that the percentage of the population who had Gaelic skills and who could speak Gaelic, have declined.
- 2.2 The results of the Census, including the percentages for the number of Gaelic speakers in the islands and communities of the Western Isles, are detailed in 6.1.

- 3.1 **RECOMMENDATIONS**
It is recommended that the Comhairle note the content of this Report

Contact Officer: Donald Weir, Gaelic Support Officer, Sgioba na Gàidhlig
Appendix: A.
Background Papers:

IMPLICATIONS

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: GÀIDHLIG ANN AN CUNNTAS-SLUAIGH NA H-ALBA 2022

18 ÒGMHIOS 2024

Aithisg leis an Àrd-oifigear

ADHBHAR

- 1.1 Tha an Aithisg seo a' toirt seachad fiosrachadh mu Ghàidhlig ann an toraidhean Cunntas-sluaigh na h-Alba 2022.

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

- 2.1 Air Dimàirt 21^d Cèitean 2024, chaidh fiosrachadh ann an Cunntas-sluaigh na h-Alba 2022 mu chreideamh, cinnidheachd agus cànan fhoillseachadh. Ged a bha àrdachadh san àireamh de dhaoine ann an Alba aif fad aig an robh sgilean Gàidhlig an taca ris an àireamh sa Chunntas-sluaigh ann an 2011, fhuair a-mach gun robh crìonadh san àireamh de dhaoine sna h-Eileanan Siar aig an robh sgilean Gàidhlig agus a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn.
- 2.2 Tha toraidhean a' Chunntas-sluaigh, a' gabhail a-steach na figearan airson na h-àireimh de dhaoine aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig sna h-Eileanan 's sna coimhearsnachdan, ann an doimhneachd aig 6.1.

- 3.1 **MOLADH**
Thathar a' moladh gun toireadh a' Chomhairle fa-near na tha am broinn na h-Aithisge seo.

Cuir fios gu: Dòmhnall Weir, Oifigear Taic Gàidhlig, Sgioba na Gàidhlig
Fa-sgrìobhadh: A.
Pàipearan
Fiosrachaidh

BUAIDH

The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Tha na leanas mar bhuaidhean a thaobh na h-Aithisge.

4.1	Resource Implications	Implications/None	4.1	Buaidhean Stòras	Buaidh/Neo-ni
	Financial	% to be met from Comhairle budgets		Ionmhas	% ris an tèid coinneachadh bho bhuidseatan na Comhairle
	Legal	None			
	Staffing	None			
	Assets and Property	None			
				Laghail	Neo-ni
				Sgiobachd	Neo-ni
	Strategic Implications	Implications/None		So-mhaoin is Tog	Neo-ni
				Buaidhean Ro-innleachdail	Buaidh/Neo-ni
				Cunnart	Neo-ni
				Co-ionannachd	Neo-ni
	Corporate Strategy	Corporate Strategy Priority 1.5: Gaelic Language & Culture		Ro-innleachd Chorporra	Ro-innleachd Chorporra Prìomhachas 1.5: Gàidhlig agus Cultar
	Environmental Impact	None			
	Consultation	None			
			Buaidh air an Àrainneachd	Neo-ni	
			Co-chomhairleachadh	Neo-ni	

BACKGROUND

FIOSRACHADH

5.1	Scotland’s Census involves the collection of data by National Records of Scotland (NRS) about the characteristics of all of Scotland’s people and homes. The 2022 Census collection phase took place between 28 February and 1 June 2022, with late online and paper returns continuing to be accepted beyond this. There has been a Census in Scotland every ten years since 1801, except for 1941. The 2021 Census in Scotland was moved to 2022 because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.	5.1	Bidh National Records of Scotland (NRS) a’ cruinneachadh dàta mu shluagh na h-Alba gu lèir agus an dachaighean. Ghabh ùine cruinneachaidh a’ Chunntas-sluaigh 2022 àite eadar 28 Gearran agus 1 Ògmhios 2022, le cead air a thoirt seachad dha daoine am fiosrachadh a chur a-steach an dèidh na h-ùine sin. Tha Cunntas-sluaigh air a bhith ann a h-uile deich bliadhna bho 1801, ach ann an 1941. Chaidh Cunntas-sluaigh na h-Alba 2021 a chumail ann an 2022 air sgàth buaidh COVID-19.
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RESULTS OF SCOTLAND’S CENSUS 2022

TORaidHEAN CUNNTAS-SLUaIGH NA H-ALBA 2022

6.1	Overview: Scotland’s Census 2022 found that 2.5% of people aged 3 and over in Scotland, (130,161), had Gaelic skills. This is an increase of 43,100 people since 2011 when 1.7% had Gaelic skills.	6.1	Àrd-shealladh: A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh na h-Alba 2022, tha 2.5% de dhaoine aois trì is barrachd aig a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig ann an Alba, (130,161 duine). Tha seo a’ ciallachadh gu bheil àrdachadh de 43,000 san àireamh de dhaoine aig a bheil sgilean
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- 1.3% of the national population, (69,701 people), were able to speak Gaelic. This is an increase since 2011, when 1.1%, (57,375 people), said they could speak Gaelic.
- In the Western Isles, 57.2%, (14,632 people), of the population of 25,563 had Gaelic skills. In 2011, 61.2% had Gaelic skills, representing a fall of 4%. This was, however, far higher than the next highest council areas, Highland (8.1%) and Argyll and Bute (6.2%). In all other council areas, less than 3% of people aged 3 and over had some Gaelic skills.
- In the Western Isles, 44.7%, (11,426 people), said that they could speak Gaelic. The corresponding figure for 2011 was 52.3%, representing a drop of 7.6%.
- 1,761 people, 6.9% of the total population in the Western Isles, said that Gaelic was their “main language”.

Results by Parish:

- **Barvas:** This remains the community where most people per head of population can speak Gaelic. Despite this, there has been a drop in the number of Gaelic speakers living there to 55.3% in 2022, from 64% in 2011.
- **South Uist (including Benbecula):** 54.8% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 60% in 2011.
- **North Uist:** 51.7% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 61% in 2011.
- **Barra:** 50.8% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 62% in 2011.
- **Stornoway:** 37% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 43% in 2011.

Gàidhlig bho 2011, nuair a bha 1.7% aig an robh sgilean Gàidhlig.

- Tha 1.3% de shluagh na h-Alba, (69,701 duine), aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig. 'S e àrdachadh a tha seo air figearan 2011, nuair a bha sgilean labhairt aig 1.1% (57,375 duine).
- Sna h-Eileanan Siar, tha 57.2%, (14,632 duine), a-mach à shluagh de 25,563, aig a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig. Ann an 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 61.2%, a' ciallachadh gu bheil lùghdachadh de 4% air a bhith ann. A dh'aindeoin seo, tha seo tòrr nas àirde na figearan na Gàidhealtachd (8.1%) agus Earra-Ghàidheal is Bhòid (6.2%). Ann an sgìrean comhairle eile, tha nas lugha na 3% aig a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig.
- Sna h-Eileanan Siar, thuirt 44.7%, (11,426 duine), gum b' urrainn dhaibh Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Ann an 2011, bha 52.3% ann aig an robh sgilean labhairt, a' ciallachadh gu bheil lùghdachadh san àireamh sin de 7.6%.
- Thuirt 1,761 duine, 6.9% de shluagh gu lèir nan Eilean Siar, gum b' e Gàidhlig “am prìomh chànan” aca.

Toraidhean nam Paraistean:

- **Barbhas:** 'S e seo fhathast am paraiste as làidire a thaobh na h-àireimh sa cheud de dhaoine aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig. A dh'aindeoin seo, tha lùghdachadh san àireamh de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig air a bhith ann gu 55.3%, bho 64% ann an 2011.
- **Uibhist a Deas (a' gabhail a-steach Beinn na Fadhlà):** Tha 54.8% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 60% ann an 2011.
- **Uibhist a Tuath:** Tha 51.7% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 61% ann an 2011.
- **Barraigh:** Tha 50.8% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 62% ann an 2011.
- **Steòrnabhagh:** Tha 37% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 43% ann an 2011.

- **Harris:** 48% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 60% in 2011.
- **Lochs:** 41% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 55% in 2011.
- **Uig:** 46% of the population are Gaelic speakers, compared to 55% in 2011.

- **Na Hearadh:** Tha 48% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 60% ann an 2011.
- **Na Lochan:** Tha 41% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 55% ann an 2011.
- **Uig:** Tha 46% ann aig a bheil sgilean labhairt na Gàidhlig an taca ri 55% ann an 2011.