

Response ID ANON-2URA-Z91Y-Q

Submitted to Scottish Languages Bill: Financial Memorandum
Submitted on 2024-03-01 22:40:41

About you

1 Please read the privacy notice below and tick the box below to show that you understand how the data you provide will be used as set out in the policy.

I have read and understood how the personal data I provide will be used.

2 How your response will be published

I would like my response to be published in its entirety

3 What is your name?

Name:
Donald MacPhee

4 What is your email address?

Email:
donald.macphee@glasgow.gov.uk

5 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Organisation details

1 Name of organisation

Name of organisation:
Glasgow City Council

2 Information about your organisation

Please add information about your organisation in the box below:

Local Authority

Question page 1

1 Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Is this a reference to the Scottish Government's original consultation on Gaelic and Scots or something else? Comments on the lack of funding for Gaelic were made to that first consultation. Since then, we have listened to the views of individuals in our communities but have not taken part in any formal consultations.

2 If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Not applicable

3 Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Yes.

4 If the Bill has any financial implications for you or your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Local authorities such as Glasgow City Council would incur additional costs as a result of the Bill. That is made clear in Annex A of the FM which shows the total spend estimate for local authorities as £451,000 or 65% of the total cost of £694,500. Glasgow City Council would be likely to incur a higher proportion of that expenditure than other smaller authorities. Within existing funds it would be difficult to find sufficient resources to meet our obligations so additional funding from Scottish Government would be required.

As the author recognises, some costs are very difficult to estimate. We would agree with that but would request that more certainty on costs rather than assumptions should be provided to local authorities most likely to be affected by the Bill's provisions.

For example, while the development, promotion and implementation of Glasgow, as a whole or in part, as an area of linguistic significance (ALS) seems like an interesting possibility, the process to deliver that objective would likely be long and expensive. Likewise, the additional costs associated with the delivery of key issues like access to Gaelic Medium Education (GME), standards and GME assessments are not clear but we have to assume additional costs would be incurred by Glasgow City Council.

Question page 2

5 Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

It is difficult to say whether they are reasonable and accurate as much of the detail is still to be defined.

6 If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Our organisation would meet some of the costs but also would likely need to ask for additional resources from the Scottish Government. At this stage of its progress, we do not know how much that would be but clearly at some point we would need the support of the Scottish Government to deliver the Bill's requirements.

7 Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

What does "margins of uncertainty" mean? It is very hard to give clear and definitive answers to some of these questions but hopefully submissions received through this process will help the Scottish Government produce a clearer and sharper document for the future journey of the Bill.