

A Mhgr Hall a chàraid,

I am writing to you to express my full support for MG ALBA's proposals for increased support for BBC ALBA.

As a language development professional with a particular interest in adult learners of Gaelic, I know what an important job the channel is doing to encourage and support the learning of Gaelic for adults. However, I do not feel that the level of support from the BBC is adequate to give the support currently required by the Gaelic community, and in particular adult learners, young people and families.

As a parent raising two Gaelic speaking daughters it would also be hugely beneficial to have increased Gaelic broadcasting and fewer repeats.

BBC ALBA is a great example of what can be achieved in partnership. Even in very challenging financial circumstances I ask that - using creative thinking on both MG ALBA and the BBCs part - together you seek to strengthen the channel.

Doing so would build on the success of the channel and serve learners children young people and their parents better all of whom are at the heart of Gaelic future.

Gaelic broadcasting and the position of Gaelic would benefit significantly from the following measures:

- A clear BBC policy for Gaelic broadcasting delivered with a central allocation of adequate BBC funds
- An increase in BBC expenditure on BBC ALBA from less than 0.25% to a still very modest 0.5% of their service budget
- An increase in BBC programme contribution to BBC ALBA from less than 5 hours to 10 hours per week in line with that of S4C
- An increase in new or original daily output on BBC ALBA thus reducing reliance on repeats from less than 2 hours per day of new programmes to 3 hours per day.

Is mise le meas mòr,

Alasdair MacCaluim