

Soillse – Gaelic Research Capacity

POOL	Soillse – Gaelic Research Capacity		
Original Partners	UHI, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow		
Funding	SFC £1.9M Institutions £2.5M HIE £0.4M Bòrd na Gàidhlig £0.5M Total £5.3M		
Start	October 2009	End	July 2015 (no cost extension to 2018)
Original objectives			
To address a clear strategic requirement by providing a much enhanced research capacity to inform public policy towards Gaelic. Its activities and outputs will build upon, collaborate with, and transfer knowledge to, existing efforts for the maintenance and revitalisation of Gaelic			
Justification	Without the critical mass and coordination of the Scottish research base which <i>Soillse</i> would provide, the ability to produce sufficient research to inform policy development at the level required to achieve the aims of the National Language Plan will be impeded.		

Funding breakdown

	SFC (£000s)	Co-funders ('000s)	Institution (£000s)	Total (£000s)
Salaries Co-Directors (Professor) 1.6FTE Lecturer 1FTE Research Fellow 4FTE Including recruitment costs	821	534	1,205	2,559
Studentships (9)	351	193	159	703
Directorate Senior project manager (professor level) 1 FTE Secretary 0.5FTE Operating costs	638	214	93	945
Accommodation and Equipment	27		1,026	1,053
Total	1,836	941	2,483	5,260

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Governance / structure

Original Governance	Management Board: 3 meetings annually. Advisory Board: 2 meetings annually. Consultative Committee: 1 meeting/conference/seminar annually.
Research themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelic as a family and community language; • Gaelic in education; and • Policies for Gaelic. <p>Two transversal themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelic identity and self-confidence; and • Gaelic language use.
Directorate	Full time senior project manager (professor level) 0.5FTE Secretary

End of award

Final report	February 2018
Highlights from final report	<p>Research papers: 5 books (with at least three more to come), over 50 book chapters and peer-reviewed articles published or in press, and over 200 conference and public presentations, and research reports and briefings have been delivered</p> <p>REF: Difficult to determine any effect on quality through REF as Gaelic is part of Modern Languages and Linguistics UoA and therefore masked by other entries. Both Aberdeen and Edinburgh however used Impact case studies from the Soillse pool.</p> <p>Policy: There is close ongoing dialogue with Bòrd na Gàidhlig in relation to the development of research-based policy at a national level, also feeding policy advice to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Critical mass: significant new cohort of qualified researchers engaged in Gaelic sociolinguistics with all initially appointed research fellows now integrated into partner universities</p>
Major changes/challenges	<p>No cost extension to 2018</p> <p>Soillse got off to a slow start as a result of recruitment difficulties, as experienced by a number of the pools.</p> <p>They also had a lengthy period without an academic director in place, the new management team, comprising Director, Project manager and Research Assistant have refocussed and reinvigorated.</p> <p>Slimmed down governance through phase one.</p>

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Soillse Continuation Funding

Partners	UHI, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow Increased to include Heriot Watt, Strathclyde, West of Scotland, and Glasgow Caledonian Universities		
Funding	SFC £562,500 UHI £270,000 (in kind plus in kind from other institutions in staff time and facilities)		
Start	December 17	End	November 22
SFC summary	Continue the network, increase public engagement, focus on informing public policy		

Funding breakdown

	Total (£000s)
Staff costs (Directorate, including indirect and estates)	700
Operational costs: Travel, Small Research Fund; Seminar programme; RN Co-ordination/KE	130
Total	830

Governance	International advisory panel Executive Committee – bi-annual (VPs from all partner institutions)
Directorate	0.3 FTE Director providing academic leadership FTE project manager

Highlights from AY2017/18 annual report LINK
Research income: £378k won from GCRF, EU and Bord na Gaidhlig Policy links and public engagement ahead of the publication of the Islands Gaelic Research Project which is expected to generate significant interest and relevance to public policy