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A charaidean

Education Scotland is aware that Ofcom is conducting a public consultation on a draft operating licence for the BBC which includes obligations for the Gaelic language channel, BBC ALBA. We write in support of a bid for a quota for First-run Originations to be established for BBC ALBA.

Education Scotland is very clear that having Gaelic programmes to view on BBC ALBA is an asset to education, particularly for those learning Gaelic and in Gaelic Medium Education (GME). BBC ALBA provides a resource which can be used to add to one's fluency and understanding of Gaelic. Improving fluency in Gaelic supports the current priority in Scottish education to raise children and young's attainment and close the poverty-related gap.

In our report to summarise our inspection findings, Quality and Improvement in Scottish Education 2012-2016, we highlighted that more learning resources are needed to support Gaelic in education. We would ask for increased programming for Gaelic so that BBC ALBA is able to continue to support Gaelic in education.

BBC ALBA raises the profile of Gaelic and helps children and young people to appreciate the economic and social benefits from learning Gaelic. The availability of current, modern content, and that relating to culture and heritage, assists viewers value Gaelic within society.

We trust you will give full consideration to the inclusion of First-run Originations for BBC ALBA.

Dùrachdan

Alan Armstrong, Strategic Director

