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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Sent:** 21 March 2024 11:13  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @bearsotland.co.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Many thanks for your very comprehensive reply below, it's very much appreciated

Hopefully <sup>Redacted Section 3</sup> will be content with the information provided

Kind regards

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

**From:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)@bearsotland.co.uk>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:42 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Response as requested.

Why do we currently have signs on the trunk road network, where the Gaelic wording is mis-spelled

We check through the Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AAA) website for new signs to be installed on the trunk road, but as our inspectors are not Gaelic speakers they would not know if any existing signs had an incorrect spelling. Without checking all existing signs on the network through AAA we rely on the public to highlight any incorrect signs. This has happened on very few occasions. It is understood that some of the Gaelic spellings of place names has been refined over the years which has resulted in some signs being installed correctly at the time, but the spelling later changed as a result of the work of the AAA.

Are BEAR checking all bilingual signs before they are installed on site to ensure the Gaelic is being spelt correctly

Yes, as detailed in the email below. We use the AAA website to confirm the correct spelling of Gaelic place names.

Some of the recent mis-spelt place names are historic or installed as part of a development which was not adequately checked prior to manufacture. Additionally, some signs have also been manufactured with incorrect spelling, though correctly spelt on the design drawings.

I cannot speak to any historic signs or signs installed as part of a development. We have had a small number of issues during the sign manufacturing process when our designs have been transferred manually onto the software used by the manufacturer and spelling errors have occurred. Unfortunately, their control procedures did not pick up on the errors and the signs were produced with incorrect spellings and subsequently erected on site. We have addressed this issue and more robust checks are now in place during the design process and prior to the signs being erected.

Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Operating Company Representative | BEAR Scotland | North West Unit

Direct Line: <sup>Redacted Section 38(1)(b)</sup> | Mobile: <sup>Redacted Section 38(1)(b)</sup> Visit us @ [www.bears Scot.com](http://www.bears Scot.com)



From: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)>

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 5:25 PM

To: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bears Scot.co.uk](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@bears Scot.co.uk)>

Subject: Gaelic Sign Question

Good afternoon <sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup>

<sup>Redacted Section 38(1)(b)</sup>

has asked for some confirmation on BEAR's approach to Gaelic signs and ensuring they are spelt correctly. In regard to which, I was wondering if you might be able to answer the points highlighted in yellow below:

- Why do we currently have signs on the trunk road network, where the Gaelic wording is misspelled
- Are BEAR checking all bilingual signs before they are installed on site to ensure the Gaelic is being spelt correctly
- . Some of the recent mis-spelt place names are historic or installed as part of a development which was not adequately checked prior to manufacture. Additionally, some signs have also been manufactured with in-correct spelling, though correctly spelt on the design drawings.

Many thanks

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

From: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bears Scot.co.uk](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@bears Scot.co.uk)>

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:32 PM

To: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)>

Cc: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bears Scot.co.uk](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@bears Scot.co.uk)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bears Scot.co.uk](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@bears Scot.co.uk)>; <sup>Redacted Section 38(1)(b)</sup>

<sup>Redacted Section 38(1)(b)</sup> [@bears Scot.co.uk](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@bears Scot.co.uk)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Hi <sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup>

This has come up before asked by <sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup>. To answer your points in order;

- All signing leaving our office should have been checked against the official list/register held by the Gaelic College on Skye. This is now a specific requirement and attached is an extract from The Traffic

Signs Manual Chapter 7. Some of the recent mis-spelt place names are historic or installed as part of a development which was not adequately checked prior to manufacture. Additionally, some signs have also been manufactured with in-correct spelling, though correctly spelt on the design drawings.

## 15.4 Gaelic forms and spelling

**15.4.1.** Gaelic forms and spellings of place-names can be problematic. Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) – Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland – is the national advisory partnership for Gaelic place-names in Scotland and should be consulted when Gaelic place-names are to be used on

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### GAELIC ON SIGNS IN SCOTLAND

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traffic signs. The purpose of AÀA is to determine authoritative forms of Gaelic place-names for maps, signs and general use. They draw on the expertise of their partner organisations, local knowledge and historical sources to agree authoritative forms of Gaelic place-names and apply consistent orthology of Gaelic in place-names. Further information on AÀA can be found at:

[www.gaelicplacenames.org](http://www.gaelicplacenames.org)

- BEAR do not have a program of checking existing signing on the network. If a sign is damaged and a replacement is required, then that is the point that a new design of sign is undertaken, and the correct spelling is checked (As per the above)
- BEAR are checking the correct spelling of Gaelic (and English). This is now a requirement on our Design Check Certificate – see item vi below.

Scheme...A9 / B9150 Ralia Junction and Newtonmore Truck Stop and signing upgrades

Order Reference .....19 / NW / 0801 / 020

Scheme Identifier ...19 / NW / 0801 / 020

1. We hereby certify to the Scottish Ministers' in respect of the design and design check of the following part of the Design or Design Element namely:

- Accommodation Works (A)
- Road Restraint Systems (B)
- Drainage (D)
- Environmental and Landscaping (E)
- Earthworks (EW)
- Fencing and Environmental Barriers (F)
- Kerb, Footways and Paved Areas (K)
- Lighting and Electrical Works (L)
- Road Pavements (P)
- Road Layout (RL)
- Signs and Road Markings (SRM)
- Piling (X)
- Other (Y)

that reasonable professional skill and care has been taken by us with a view to securing that the part of the Design or Design Element:

- (i) complies with the Scottish Ministers' Requirements.
- (ii) has been accurately translated into the construction drawings and other Design documents, where applicable, bearing the unique number contained in the certificate number above.
- (iii) is not detrimental to the whole Design or Design Element.
- (iv) where applicable to earthworks (EW), has been the subject of an interpretative geotechnical report and that the conclusions of that report have been taken into account in the Design or Design Element.
- (v) where applicable to road restraint system (B), that all aspects of the Design or Design Element of the road restraint system on the Contract have been developed by the use of a risk assessment approach.
- (vi) where applicable to signs (SRM), spelling is correct, particularly with regard to bi-lingual English / Gaelic signs.
- (vii) where required a Safety Audit Certificate for Stage \*[2] \*[3] is attached.

We agree that the words and phrases herein, unless otherwise stated, have the same meaning as attributed to them in the Contract between the Scottish Ministers' and the Operating Company.

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Signed ..  
DESIGNER (Team leader for Designer)

Firm: BEAR Scotland. Ltd.....

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Name:  
(Block capitals)

Date: ...11/8/2022.....

- It is confirmed that BEAR are using the AAA for checking of the definitive spellings (as mentioned above)
- I am not sure 'how or if' a payment is made to the Gaelic College for the use of this database/resource. I believe that there was previous discussion regarding the college charging for translations in the past, but this dose not now seem to be the case. The site is free to access by all – I've just tested this now on my personal iPhone

I hope that this answers any queries, but happy to discuss further.

Regards,

From: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:02 PM

To: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@bearsotland.co.uk>

Subject: Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Good morning

I hope this email finds you well.

I was wondering if you might be able to help concerning Gaelic spelling on bilingual trunk road signs.

- Why do we currently have signs on the trunk road network, where the Gaelic wording is misspelled
- Do BEAR have a programme of checking all existing bilingual signs on the trunk road network to check the Gaelic spelling is correct and to proactively correct in-situ any existing signs found to be misspelled
- Are BEAR checking all bilingual signs before they are installed on site to ensure the Gaelic is being spelt correctly
- Are BEAR using the Gaelic body which TS pay for annually to check that all bilingual signs to be installed on the trunk road network have the correct Gaelic spelling.
- Do you know how payment is made to the Gaelic body who advise BEAR on the spelling – is this a payment made to them from the NMC by BEAR on TS behalf

Kind regards

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

\*\*\*\*\*

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BEAR Scotland Limited  
Registered Office: BEAR House, Inveralmond Road, Perth PH1 3TW  
Registered in Scotland No 206139

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 March 2024 10:37  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Many thanks for your advice on this matter. I would very much agree that it would be the norm for BEAR to undertake the check on our behalf and to factor it into the bid.

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) in his thoroughness on discovering Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) had used the services of AAA in 2019 has kindly tasked me to check whether any of the rest of the team were directly availing ourselves of the services of AAA.

I would assume that Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) have not directly used the services of AAA either, and I look forward to hearing back from Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) within the coming days

Kind regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:20 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

If there was previous payments made by us direct for these checks then there must have been a contract to call off against. I suspect we would usually ask the OC to undertake the check on our behalf and factor it into any bid? Its far easier that way.

Ta

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Transport Scotland  
2nd Floor  
George House  
36 North Hanover St,  
Glasgow G1 2AD

T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
M: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [ine@transport.gov.scot](mailto:ine@transport.gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 5:34 PM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; <sup>Redacted</sup>

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Gaelic Sign Question

Good afternoon Gents,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

is looking for information on how TS and BEAR currently approach the matter of ensuring Gaelic signs are correctly spelt. Whilst, I have chased up BEAR on the matters highlighted in **yellow** below, he has also asked me to determine if the practice of TS Road Maintenance contacting AAA directly is still in effect. As such, I should be grateful if you could please advise me as follows:

- Redacted Section has studied past invoices and has found that until 2019, TS (Net Maint – North (Redacted Section 38(1)(b))) used to pay AAA for research and then proof checks of our proposals (£30 and £15) respectively.
- Is this no longer the case for You
- And is it all free

Can you all please respond to me on the above from your own personal perspective, so I can advise Redacted Section accordingly.

Many thanks

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:36 PM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Thanks

Can you remind me if that case been responded to and was there any actions/commitments on us?

I see from the invoicing register that up until 2019, TS (Net Maint – North (Redacted Section 38(1)(b))) used to pay AAA for research and then proof checks of our proposals (£30 and £15) respectively. Is this no longer the case then, and it is all for free?

Can you also go back to them on the 3 items noted in yellow below please and this will hopefully close this out?

Thanks and have a lovely weekend

Regards

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Gaelic Sign Question

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

I hope this email finds you well.

BEAR have now got back to me concerning the supplementary questions I raised with them concerning Gaelic spelling on trunk road bilingual signs

I hope this is helpful

Regards

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bearscotland.co.uk](mailto:bearscotland.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:32 PM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bearscotland.co.uk](mailto:bearscotland.co.uk)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bearscotland.co.uk](mailto:bearscotland.co.uk)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@bearscotland.co.uk](mailto:bearscotland.co.uk)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question

Hi <sup>Redacted Sectio</sup>

This has come up before asked by <sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup>. To answer your points in order;

- All signing leaving our office should have been checked against the official list/register held by the Gaelic College on Skye. This is now a specific requirement and attached is an extract from The Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 7. Some of the recent mis-spelt place names are historic or installed as part of a development which was not adequately checked prior to manufacture. Additionally, some signs have also been manufactured with in-correct spelling, though correctly spelt on the design drawings.

## 15.4 Gaelic forms and spelling

**15.4.1.** Gaelic forms and spellings of place-names can be problematic. Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) – Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland – is the national advisory partnership for Gaelic place-names in Scotland and should be consulted when Gaelic place-names are to be used on

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### GAELIC ON SIGNS IN SCOTLAND

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traffic signs. The purpose of AÀA is to determine authoritative forms of Gaelic place-names for maps, signs and general use. They draw on the expertise of their partner organisations, local knowledge and historical sources to agree authoritative forms of Gaelic place-names and apply consistent orthology of Gaelic in place-names. Further information on AÀA can be found at:

[www.gaelicplacenames.org](http://www.gaelicplacenames.org)

- BEAR do not have a program of checking existing signing on the network. If a sign is damaged and a replacement is required, then that is the point that a new design of sign is undertaken, and the correct spelling is checked (As per the above)

- BEAR are checking the correct spelling of Gaelic (and English). This is now a requirement on our Design Check Certificate – see item vi below.

COMBINED DESIGN AND DESIGN CHECK CERTIFICATE: CERTIFICATE NUMBER: DC/DCC 1817

Scheme...A9 / B9150 Ralia Junction and Newtonmore Truck Stop and signing upgrades

Order Reference .....19 / NW / 0801 / 020

Scheme Identifier ...19 / NW / 0801 / 020

1 We hereby certify to the Scottish Ministers' in respect of the design and design check of the following part of the Design or Design Element namely:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Accommodation Works	(A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road Restraint Systems	(B)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drainage	(D)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental and Landscaping	(E)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	(EW)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fencing and Environmental Barriers	(F)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerb, Footways and Paved Areas	(K)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighting and Electrical Works	(L)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road Pavements	(P)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road Layout	(RL)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signs and Road Markings	(SRM)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piling	(X)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	(Y)

That reasonable professional skill and care has been taken by us with a view to securing that the part of the Design or Design Element:

- (i) complies with the Scottish Ministers' Requirements.
- (ii) has been accurately translated into the construction drawings and other Design documents, where applicable, bearing the unique number contained in the certificate number above.
- (iii) is not detrimental to the whole Design or Design Element.
- (iv) where applicable to earthworks (EW), has been the subject of an interpretative geotechnical report and that the conclusions of that report have been taken into account in the Design or Design Element.
- (v) where applicable to road restraint system (B), that all aspects of the Design or Design Element of the road restraint system on the Contract have been developed by the use of a risk assessment approach.
- (vi) where applicable to signs (SRM), spelling is correct, particularly with regard to bi-lingual English / Gaelic signs.
- (vii) where required a Safety Audit Certificate for Stage \* [2] \* [3] is attached.

We agree that the words and phrases herein, unless otherwise stated, have the same meaning as attributed to them in the Contract between the Scottish Ministers' and the Operating Company.

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Signed .....  
DESIGNER (Team leader for Designer)

Firm: BEAR Scotland Ltd.....

Name: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) .....  
(Block capitals)

Date: ... 11/8/2022 .....

- It is confirmed that BEAR are using the AAA for checking of the definitive spellings (as mentioned above)
- I am not sure 'how or if' a payment is made to the Gaelic College for the use of this database/resource. I believe that there was previous discussion regarding the college charging for translations in the past, but this does not now seem to be the case. The site is free to access by all – I've just tested this now on my personal iPhone

I hope that this answers any queries, but happy to discuss further.

Regards,

**From:** Redacted Section 3 @transport.gov.scot  
**To:** Redacted Section 3 @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic Sign Question  
**Date:** 19 March 2024 17:07:00  
**Attachments:** [202300362496.Final.Response.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Good afternoon Redacted Secti

The case has been responded to. There are no actions / commitments on TS. Please see attached  
I'll contact BEAR on the 3 items noted in yellow below, and will get back to advise

Kind regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND  
Transport Scotland

2nd Floor George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot



Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Your ref:  
misspelled Gaelic sign on A87

Our ref:  
202300362496

Date:  
23 June 2023

Dear Redacted - Section 38(1)(b),

Thank you for your email of 18 June to Redacted - Section 38(1)(b), Transport Scotland's Interim Chief Executive, regarding a misspelled Gaelic sign on the A87. I am responding as Area Manager for the A87 trunk road.

Our operating company, BEAR Scotland, has advised the sign, installed in 2022, is in good condition and therefore a patch with the correct spelling of the destination in Gaelic will be placed over the incorrect Gaelic spelling. An order for the patch has been submitted to the Signs Manufacturer and when received, BEAR will arrange to install the patch on the sign. The works are estimated to be completed in 2 weeks.

The Traffic Sign Manufacturer is to introduce further checking measures before signs are manufactured and BEAR Scotland's Integrated Management Systems (IMS) Team and Traffic Sign Design Team will liaise with the Signs Manufacturer to improve quality control.

I hope this information is helpful and would like to thank you for bringing this error to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**TS : TS Roads**

**From:** Redacted Section 3 @transport.gov.scot  
**To:** Redacted Section 3 @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** Gaelic Sign Question  
**Date:** 21 March 2024 11:31:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Good morning Redacted Secti

I have now received updated feedback from BEAR and from Area Management colleagues as follows:

### BEAR Questions:

Why do we currently have signs on the trunk road network, where the Gaelic wording is mis-spelled

We check through the Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AAA) website for new signs to be installed on the trunk road, but as our inspectors are not Gaelic speakers they would not know if any existing signs had an incorrect spelling. Without checking all existing signs on the network through AAA we rely on the public to highlight any incorrect signs. This has happened on very few occasions. It is understood that some of the Gaelic spellings of place names has been refined over the years which has resulted in some signs being installed correctly at the time, but the spelling later changed as a result of the work of the AAA.

Are BEAR checking all bilingual signs before they are installed on site to ensure the Gaelic is being spelt correctly

Yes, as detailed in the email below. We use the AAA website to confirm the correct spelling of Gaelic place names.

Some of the recent mis-spelt place names are historic or installed as part of a development which was not adequately checked prior to manufacture. Additionally, some signs have also been manufactured with in-correct spelling, though correctly spelt on the design drawings.

I cannot speak to any historic signs or signs installed as part of a development. We have had a small number of issues during the sign manufacturing process when our designs have been transferred manually onto the software used by the manufacturer and spelling errors have occurred. Unfortunately, their control procedures did not pick up on the errors and the signs were produced with incorrect spellings and subsequently erected on site. We have addressed this issue and more robust checks are now in place during the design process and prior to the signs being erected.

### Transport Scotland specific questions:

I see from the invoicing register that up until 2019, TS (Net Maint – North Redacted Section 38(1)(b)) used to pay AAA for research and then proof checks of our proposals (£30 and £15) respectively. Is this no longer the case then, and it is all for free?

It is my understanding that the bilingual Gaelic signs on the trunk road are only in the north west. I duly contacted Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) (in Redacted Section absence) and would advise as follows:

Redacted Section 3

- I've only had one instance of a misspelt sign and BEAR, Redacted - Section 38(1)(b), knew how to change it.

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

- I have never used AAA. I have always looked to BEAR to resolve mis-spelt Gaelic signs

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

- If there was previous payments made by us direct for these checks then there must have been a contract to call off against. I suspect we would usually ask the OC to undertake the check on our behalf and factor it into any bid? Its far easier that way.

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

- still to confirm

Kind regards

**From:** Redacted Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**To:** Redacted Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** Gaelic Sign Question  
**Date:** 14 March 2024 12:02:00

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Good morning Redacted Sect

I hope this email finds you well.

I was wondering if you might be able to help concerning questions raised by Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) TS Head of Network Maintenance concerning the practice adopted by BEAR on the trunk road network concerning Gaelic spelling on bilingual trunk road signs.

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

has asked the following:

- Why do we currently have signs on the trunk road network, where the Gaelic wording is mis-spelled
- Do BEAR have a programme of checking all existing bilingual signs on the trunk road network to check the Gaelic spelling is correct and to proactively correct in-situ any existing signs found to be mis-spelled
- Are BEAR checking all bilingual signs before they are installed on site to ensure the Gaelic is being spelt correctly
- Are BEAR using the Gaelic body which TS pay for annually to check that all bilingual signs to be installed on the trunk road network have the correct Gaelic spelling.
- Do you know how payment is made to the Gaelic body who advise BEAR on the spelling – is this a payment made to them from the NMC by BEAR on TS behalf

Please accept my apologies for all these questions. I have however been tasked to investigate and provide the answers to Redacted Section 3 as soon as practical

Kind regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND  
Transport Scotland

2nd Floor George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD

Redacted - Section 38(1) (b)

@transport.gov.scot



Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Your ref:  
Follow-up to 202300369011

Our ref:  
202300372275

Date:  
7 September 2023

Dear Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Thank you for your follow up email of 17 August regarding the use of Gaelic-language directional signs and road numbering. As this is a transport related matter, I have been asked to reply.

Transport Scotland's approach to traffic signing targeted a balance between creating opportunities for the practical use of Gaelic, and ensuring that this does not result in excessive complexity for road users. Our guidance document addresses this, by ensuring that where bilingual Gaelic/English is used on direction signs, the number of destinations and lines of text is limited to retain clarity.

[Guidance on the use of Bilingual \(Gaelic – English\) Traffic Signs in Scotland | Transport Scotland](#)

This approach was evidence based, further to research commissioned by Transport Scotland – a copy of the study report is provided below.

[TRL | Analyses of the effects of bilingual signs on road safety in Scotland](#)

The study report suggests that while there is reasonable evidence to infer bilingual signs increase the demand of the driving task, drivers appear able to absorb this extra demand, or negate it by slowing down, which ultimately results in no detectable change in accident rates. On other signs, including warning signs, information signs and road markings, there is less opportunity to control the amount of information presented, and bilingual provision would approximately (subject to the translation) double the information presented on typically small signs. This would have potential to increase complexity, increase sign sizes and/or reduce text sizes.

It is also useful to note that warning signs, information signs and road markings are prescribed by regulations, namely the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2016 and any associated amendments enacted for use in Scotland. At present the regulations only prescribe bilingual translations of place names and associated words on the same sign, such as "Welcome to".

Transport Scotland has no proposals at present to change existing bilingual signing policy for the trunk road network or to amend the traffic signs regulations. We would of course consider this if there is wider support and need demonstrated for such a proposal.

In terms of road numbering, there is no statutory process to follow for road authorities in Scotland. For classification of roads, Section 11 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 applies in Scotland. As part of the road classification process, it is a matter for each road authority to follow the road numbering guidance, detailed in my last letter to ensure a consistent approach.

In addition, under Section 2 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Transport Scotland are required to prepare and keep a list of trunk roads which we have a duty to manage and maintain. The following link details the official list of trunk roads: [Official list of trunk roads | Transport Scotland](#). Local authorities are similarly required to prepare and keep a list of public roads within their area, under Section 1 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**TRANS : TS Roads**

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @gov.scot  
**To:** Redacted Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** FW: incorrect Gaelic signs on A82 in Fort William  
**Date:** 19 February 2024 10:19:08  
**Attachments:** [PXL\\_20240216\\_104841043.jpg](#)  
[PXL\\_20240216\\_104759184.jpg](#)

TSS,  
Please see below.

Thanks,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @parliament.scot <Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 9:53 AM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @gov.scot <>

**Subject:** FW: incorrect Gaelic signs on A82 in Fort William

---

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @gmail.com <>

**Sent:** 18 February 2024 17:36

**To:** Redacted Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot <>

**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @parliament.scot <>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) @highland.gov.uk <>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted Section 38(1)(b) @highland.gov.uk <>

**Subject:** incorrect Gaelic signs on A82 in Fort William

**CAUTION:** This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)  
Dear

I wish to report two misspelled Gaelic signs on the A82 on the approach to Fort William coming from the north, near the junction to Old Inverlochy Castle and at the roundabout immediately following. The Gaelic phrase 'Meadhan a' Bhaile' is misspelled two different ways. On the first sign, 'Meadhan' is misspelled 'Meahdan' and on the second one 'Bhaile' is misspelled 'Bhal'.

In the first sign, the words 'Chrion' and 'Làraich' are also misspelled; the accents are omitted.

I am attaching two images of the first sign.

It would be very helpful if these signs were corrected and replaced at an early date.

Kind regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

Meahdan a' Bhaile

Town Centre

A' Chrìon - Laraich

Crianlarich

Meahdan a' Bhaile

Town Centre



Meahdan a' Bhaile

Town Centre

A' Chrion - Laraich A82

Crianlarich

Retail Park

Lochaber  
Smelter



**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: EIR 202400409907 - Gaelic Road Signs  
**Date:** 23 April 2024 16:40:25  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) **On Behalf Of** TS Standards Branch  
**Sent:** 15 November 2023 11:12  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:@forestryandland.gov.scot); Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@Transport.gov.scot](mailto:@Transport.gov.scot)  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic signage area coverage

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Transport Scotland don't hold information on what the other road authorities do, we would also be led by the Gaelic Language Plan for any future changes.

**Regards**

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Head of Standards | Roads Directorate | Transport Scotland  
T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | My working pattern is Monday to Thursday

---

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:@forestryandland.gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 8:53 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@Transport.gov.scot](mailto:@Transport.gov.scot)  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic signage area coverage

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
Hi

Thank you very much for your email, that's really helpful.

Would you be able to provide any further information on which individual councils currently use bi-lingual signage as part of their policies? I understand you might not, but it would be really useful – particularly if you had a map. Also, do you plan to roll this out bi-lingual signage across the whole of Scotland over time, or stick with the policy of extending from areas where Gaelic is most spoke, which may increase over time (which is the same as our current policy).

Many thanks and best wishes,  
Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

**| Visitor Experience Planner**

Forestry and Land Scotland, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW  
m: Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) [@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:@forestryandland.gov.scot)



Forestry and Land Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot) > **On Behalf Of** TS Standards Branch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 8:06 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:forestryandland.gov.scot) >  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic signage area coverage

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

Thank you for your email. I have included below an extract from our guidance for the trunk road network, and a link to the guidance document. I hope you find this information useful.

### Background

In 2002 Transport Scotland established a rationale for introducing bilingual road signs on trunk roads that pass through communities where Gaelic is spoken and which lead to west coast ferry ports. This was included in an agreement with The Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council to ensure continuity and consistency with the connecting local roads in the area. As a result, bilingual direction signing has been provided on the A82 trunk road from Tarbet to Inverness and those trunk roads leading to the ports at Kennacraig, Oban, Mallaig, Uig and Ullapool, i.e. the A83, A85, A830, A87 /A887 and A835 respectively.

### Current Policy

The Scottish Government policy on the use of bilingual signing was extended in 2012 to include the A9. This policy is being implemented on the basis of opportunities created by programmed improvement works, including the A9 Dualling, or planned maintenance. It aligns with the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan, last updated in 2016. This provides an affordable and cost effective way of extending the bilingual signs coverage on the network within available funds. While Scottish Government policy applies only to the trunk road network (including slip roads and connector roads) for which Scottish Ministers are the Roads Authority, individual councils can determine their own policies for the use of Gaelic destinations on signs on their local roads as appropriate.

[Guidance on the use of Bilingual \(Gaelic – English\) Traffic Signs in Scotland | Transport Scotland](#)

### Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Head of Standards | Roads Directorate | Transport Scotland  
T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | My working pattern is Monday to Thursday

---

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:forestryandland.gov.scot) >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@Transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot) >  
**Subject:** Gaelic signage area coverage

Hi there

We are currently reviewing the areas we include Gaelic in our signage and I was wondering if you could provide any guidance or a map showing the areas that you include Gaelic signage across Scotland? Many thanks for your help in advance.

Best wishes,

Redacted - Section 38

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | **Visitor Experience Planner**

Forestry and Land Scotland, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW

**m:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) **e:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:forestryandland.gov.scot)



Forestry and Land Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government

**From:** Redacted Section 38( ) (b)  
**To:** Redacted Section 38( ) (b), Redacted Section 38( ) (b), Redacted @gaidhlig.scot  
**Subject:** RE: TS - Mearachd air soidhne-rathaid - Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
**Date:** 21 July 2023 12:12:07  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi <sup>Redacted</sup>

Thanks for highlighting. We have checked the signs which were installed in 2019 and note that there are two letters on the sign incorrectly placed. We have an upcoming scheme along that length of the A85 this year so will be able to rectify this as part of that forthcoming scheme.

Regards

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2023 10:50 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @bearsotland.co.uk>; <sup>Redacted</sup> @gaidhlig.scot  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @bearsotland.co.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: TS - Mearachd air soidhne-rathaid - Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Hi <sup>Redacted Section 38( ) (b)</sup>

With reference to the message below from <sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup> I subsequently spoke to him on the phone and the sign for Crianlarich in Gaelic is “catastrophically wrong”.

Can you make sure it is rectified, hopefully with the assistance of the Board of Gaelic who I have copied in to this message.

Thanks all

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Central Enquiry Unit <[CEU@gov.scot](mailto:CEU@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:04 AM  
**To:** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <[TSS@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TSS@transport.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** TS - Mearachd air soidhne-rathaid - Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Good morning,

Please see the email below, I would be grateful if you would progress or forward to the appropriate person / business area.

**Reminder:** If this email contains a request for information please remember that the Scottish Government is required to respond to all requests for information including e-mails, within 20 working days of receipt in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. Please refer to the FOI guidance [Dealing](#)

[with Freedom of Information \(FOI\) requests](#). All FOI requests received must be registered on [Micase](#)

Thank you,  
Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) | **iTECS: Central Enquiry Unit | Digital Directorate | Scottish Government** |  
**Ext:** Redacted Section | **Tel:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | **Email:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](#)



---

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@outlook.com](#)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 7:20 PM  
**To:** Red transport Scotland Info <[info@transport.gov.scot](mailto:info@transport.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Redacted Section 38(1)(b) [@gaidhlig.scot](#)>  
**Subject:** Mearachd air soidhne-rathaid

A chàirdean,

Chunnaic mi mearachd air soidhne-rathaid air an A85 aig ceann-rathaid an Dùin Bhig faisg air an Òban.

'S e "A' Chrìon-làraich" a bu chòir a bhith ann agus a rèir coltais, cha deach seo ath-leughadh mus deach an soidhne a dhèanamh.

Cò dha am bu chòir dhomh aithris air seo gus an tèid a chur ceart? An ann dhuibh fhèin aig Còmhdhail Alba, no ann an gu BEAR Scotland?

Tha mi a' dèanamh fiughair ri cluinntinn bhuaibh.

Tha mi a' cur c.c. gu Bòrd na Gàidhlig mar fiosrachadh dhaibh.

leis na dùrachdan,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

# Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

A chàirdean,

I'm delighted to be on the A85 at the Dunbeg destination near Oban.

"The Crayfish" should be there and according to coliseum, this should not be read before the end of the day.

Who should I recite this to put it right? Are there any of them in Scotland, or in to BEAR Scotland?

Tha mi a' dèanamh fiughair ri cluinntinn bhuaibh.

I'm sending c.c. to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for information.

to the challenges,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

2nd Floor George House 36 North Hanover Street  
Glasgow  
United Kingdom  
G1 2AD

Our Reference: 202400399767

5 March 2024

Dear Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2024, regarding misspelled Gaelic signs on the A82.

Our operating company, BEAR Scotland, has recorded these issues and have programmed work to rectify the issues raised.

One sign will be corrected with a patch overlay and one will be renewed because a larger sign plate is required. These have been ordered and are expected to be supplied during the first half of April.

Once both are received, BEAR Scotland will install these on site to correct the issue.

I hope this information is helpful and would like to thank you for bringing this issue to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**TS : Roads - Network Maintenance**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1  
3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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Chief Executive Office  
Transport Scotland

2nd Floor George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD

Direct Line: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot



Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Your ref:  
Incorrect Gaelic signs on A82 in Fort  
William

Our ref:  
202400399678

Date:  
15 March 2024

Dear Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2024, regarding misspelled Gaelic signs on the A82.

Our operating company, BEAR Scotland, has recorded these issues and have programmed work to rectify the issues raised.

One sign will be corrected with a patch overlay and one will be renewed because a larger sign plate is required. These have been ordered and are expected to be supplied during the first half of April.

Once both are received, BEAR Scotland will install these on site to correct the issue.

I hope this information is helpful and would like to thank you for bringing this issue to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Interim Chief Executive

**From:** [Central Correspondence Unit](#)  
**To:** [TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team](#)  
**Subject:** TS - FOI - Gaelic road signs; and use of Gaelic on ScotRail services and property - Redacted Section 38(1)(b)  
**Date:** 05 January 2024 08:39:54

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From: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @whatdotheyknow.com>  
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 1:05 AM  
To: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>  
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Gaelic road signs; and use of Gaelic on ScotRail services and property

Dear Transport Scotland,

I would like to know—

- (a) the areas and/or trunk roads where Gaelic is either used solely or bilingually with English,
- (b) what plans, if any, the Scottish Government has to expand this to more areas and/or trunk roads,
- (c) detail of use of Gaelic on ScotRail services, stations and other property, and
- (d) what plans, if any, the Scottish Government has to expand this.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@whatdotheyknow.com

Is info@transport.gov.scot the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Transport Scotland? If so, please contact us using this form:

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change\\_request/new?body=transport\\_scotland](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_request/new?body=transport_scotland)

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<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico-guidance-for-authorities>

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico-anonymisation-code>

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.

-----

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Your ref:

Our ref:  
202300391858

Date:  
19 January 2024

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Dear

## **REQUEST UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004 (EIRs)**

Thank you for your request dated 5 January under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

### Your request

You asked for:

“(a) the areas and/or trunk roads where Gaelic is either used solely or bilingually with English,  
(b) what plans, if any, the Scottish Government has to expand this to more areas and/or trunk roads,  
(c) detail of use of Gaelic on ScotRail services, stations and other property, and  
(d) what plans, if any, the Scottish Government has to expand this.”

As the information you have requested is ‘environmental information’ for the purposes of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs), we are required to deal with your request under those Regulations. We are applying the exemption at section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), so that we do not also have to deal with your request under FOISA.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption, because there is no public interest in dealing with the same request under two different regimes. This is essentially a technical point and has no material effect on the outcome of your request.

## Response to your request

I have kept your questions separate for ease of reference

- a. Bilingual direction signing is used in areas where Gaelic is spoken and leads to West Coast Ferry Ports. Therefore the extents of the trunk roads are -
- A82 Tarbet to Inverness
  - A83 Tarbet to Kennacraig
  - A85 Crianlarich (Tyndrum) to Oban
  - A830 Fort William to Mallaig
  - A87 Invergarry to Uig
  - A887 Invermoriston to Bun Loyne
  - A835 Tore to Ullapool
  - A893 Ullapool
  - A9 Perth (Inveralmond) to Tore.

There is an additional Welcome to Scotland sign on the M6 to the north of River Sark on the northbound carriageway.

- b. Transport Scotland has no proposals at present to change existing bilingual signage for the trunk road network.
- c. and d. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance Transport Scotland does not have the information you have requested. Therefore we are refusing your request under the exception at regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs. This is because the use of Gaelic language in railway signage throughout Scotland is an operational matter for ScotRail who manages rail stations.

However, you may wish to contact ScotRail at [FOI@scotrail.co.uk](mailto:FOI@scotrail.co.uk) who may be able to help you.

## Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIRs request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to the Chief Executive at the above address or alternatively email [chiefexecutive@transport.gov.scot](mailto:chiefexecutive@transport.gov.scot). Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

**Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)**

Network Manager

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**From:** zzzCentral Enquiry Unit  
**Sent:** 17 August 2023 11:38  
**To:** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team  
**Subject:** TS - Follow-up to 202300369011 - Kenneth McArthur

Good morning

Please see the email below, I would be grateful if you would progress or forward to the appropriate person / business area.

Reminder: If this email contains a request for information please remember that the Scottish Government is required to respond to all requests for information including e-mails, within 20 working days of receipt in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. Please refer to the FOI guidance [Dealing with Freedom of Information \(FOI\) requests](#). All FOI requests received must be registered on [Micase](#)

Thank you,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**Enquiry Officer | iTECS: Central Enquiry Unit | Digital Directorate | Scottish Government | Tel:**

Redacted Section 38( )/b

Redacted Section 38(1)(b) Email: [ceu@gov.scot](mailto:ceu@gov.scot)



---

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 11:27 AM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>

**Subject:** Follow-up to 202300369011

Hi there,

I am writing in follow-up to your response to my previous message (reference 202300369011).

Thank you for your answers, but unfortunately you don't appear to have answered my questions.

If I take each topic in turn:

1) You have provided what appears to be a defence of the Scottish government's use of Gaelic-language directional signs. However, you don't need to convince me of the merits of this policy, as I already support it - and indeed would extend it to the whole of Scotland.

My question, however, was different - namely: why is the Gaelic language only used for place names on directional signs, but not on either (a) directional road markings, or (b) the wide range of other road signs and markings (eg, GIVE WAY, BUS STOP, etc)?

If your answer is that Gaelic isn't spoken widely enough in all of Scotland to justify this, why isn't Gaelic at least used for the full range of signs (GIVE WAY, BUS STOP, etc) (as well as directional road markings on lanes at junctions, etc) in the same parts of the country where it is currently used for directional signs? Only using Gaelic for place names on signs feels tokenistic, with English remaining the ultimate 'functional language'.

2) You have provided a description of the road numbering system used in GB (NB: not "the UK" as you mentioned, since Northern Ireland has a different system of road numbering). However, again, I am already aware of this, and it was not my question. My question was whether this road number system has any statutory basis, or, if not, how is it otherwise coordinated (eg, if any changes were required)? Is there simply an informal, gentleman's agreement-type arrangement between the Scottish, Welsh and UK governments?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 17 January 2024 15:23  
**To:** Central Correspondence Unit  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request

Dear Sirs,

My name is Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b), i am a Scottish resident and registered voter and would like to request the following information as a result of recent observations.

Should you require it, my contact number is Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

I look forward to receiving responses to the enquires below within your published timeframes for such enquires

Thanks in advance

Can you please confirm:-

1. how much is spent by the Scottish Government annually in the production and installation of Police, Ambulance, Fire and other such vehicles now being liveried in Gaelic as well as english as well as how much has been spent on same over the course of the current scottish parliamentary term
2. how much is spent making/replacing road signage and other street furniture in Gaelic as well as english both annually and over the couse of the current scottish parliametary term; and finally
3. how much is spent by the Scottish Government annually and over the course of the current parliament providing gaelic language leaflets, services and other such gaelic items

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND  
Transport Scotland

2nd Floor George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot



Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Your ref:  
Two questions

Our ref:  
Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Date:  
17 August 2023

Dear Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) ,

Thank you for your email of 21 July regarding the use of Gaelic language on road signs and markings and the road numbering system. As this is a transport related matter, I have been asked to reply.

The Scottish Government is taking steps to create a secure future for Gaelic in Scotland and recognises the importance of creating opportunities for the practical use of Gaelic including its presence on road signs.

In 2002, Transport Scotland established a rationale for introducing bilingual road signs on trunk roads that pass through communities where Gaelic is spoken and which lead to west coast ferry ports. This was included in an agreement with The Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council to ensure continuity and consistency with the connecting local roads in the area. As a result, bilingual direction signing has been provided on the A82 trunk road from Tarbet to Inverness and those trunk roads leading to the ports at Kennacraig, Oban, Mallaig, Uig and Ullapool.

The Scottish Government policy on the use of bilingual road signing was extended in 2012 to include the A9. It aligns with the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan, last updated in 2022. This provides an affordable and cost effective way of extending the bilingual signs coverage on the network within available funds.

The Scottish Government works with Gaelic language experts through Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba, to ensure the accuracy of Gaelic place names on road signs.

While Scottish Government policy applies only to the trunk road network (including slip roads and connector roads) for which Scottish Ministers are the Roads Authority, individual Councils can determine their own policies for the use of Gaelic destinations on signs on their local roads as appropriate.

Transport Scotland has developed specific guidance to ensure that bilingual direction signing is designed in a consistent and clear way, aligned with the Traffic Signs Manual. Prior to its publication, Transport Scotland commissioned a study to consider the effects of bilingual signs, which informed the

guidance. This guidance is contained at: [Guidance on the use of Bilingual \(Gaelic – English\) Traffic Signs in Scotland | Transport Scotland](#).

In terms of the road numbering process, in Scotland and the rest of the UK, road numbering uses the following common system of route numbering:

- 1 - East and North of A1 = A1xxx \*
- 6 - East of A6 and West/ South of A1 = A6xxx \*
- 7 - West of A7 and South of A8 – A7xxx
- 8 - West of A9 and North of A8 – A8xxx
- 9 - East of A9 and North of A1 = A9xxx

\*1 and 6 are cross border.

It is a matter for each road authority to ensure they are following the system above.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**TRANS : TS Roads**

**From:** zzzCentral Enquiry Unit  
**Sent:** 21 July 2023 11:25  
**To:** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team  
**Subject:** TS - Two questions - Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Good morning

Please see the email below, I would be grateful if you would progress or forward to the appropriate person / business area.

Reminder: If this email contains a request for information please remember that the Scottish Government is required to respond to all requests for information including e-mails, within 20 working days of receipt in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. Please refer to the FOI guidance Dealing with Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. All FOI requests received must be registered on Micase

Thank you,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Enquiry Officer | iTECS: Central Enquiry Unit | Digital Directorate | Scottish Government | Tel: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)  
Redacted Sect | Email: ceu@gov.scot

-----Original Message-----

From: **Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)**@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:01 AM  
To: Transport Scotland Info <info@transport.gov.scot>  
Subject: Two questions

Hi,

I have two questions which I hope you can answer:

1) Why is the Gaelic language only used for place names on directional signs, but not on directional road markings, and not on the wide range of other road signs and markings? If you go to Wales, every last word on a sign or road marking is bilingual (eg, ARAF/SLOW painted on the road) - and indeed this is also normal in other countries/cities around Europe which have bilingual signs. Why have we adopted such a tokenistic approach in Scotland, rather than treating Gaelic as an actual functional language? (Any argument that the addition of Gaelic to safety-related signs like "SLOW" would create confusion and cause accidents seems weak - Wales seems to operate perfectly well with bilingual signs; indeed, I often drive in Wales, don't speak Welsh, and get on fine, as I fully expect that every road sign and marking in Wales will be in both Welsh and English, and I switch to this expectation as soon as I cross the Wales-England border.)

2) Can you explain how the system of road numbering which Scotland shares with England and Wales is coordinated, and whether it has any statutory basis? If the Scottish government wanted to renumber an existing motorway in Scotland to be called the M4, for example, would there be any legal prohibition on its doing so, or are road numbers managed on a gentleman's agreement basis between the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments?

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best regards,

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Sent:** 08 January 2024 15:28  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CONTRIBUTION - FOI - 202300391858 - Gaelic road signs; and use of Gaelic on ScotRail services and property

Content thanks.

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) tley@transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CONTRIBUTION - FOI - 202300391858 - Gaelic road signs; and use of Gaelic on ScotRail services and property

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Some suggested lines re use of gaelic on road signs, largely lifted from the noted publication. Hopefully shouldn't need to add anything. Copying in <sup>Redacted Section</sup> for his clearance of these lines.

### Suggested lines

In 2002 Transport Scotland established a rationale for introducing bilingual road signs on trunk roads that pass through communities where Gaelic is spoken and which lead to west coast ferry ports. This was included in an agreement with The Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council to ensure continuity and consistency with the connecting local roads in the area. As a result, bilingual direction signing has been provided on the A82 trunk road from Tarbet to Inverness and those trunk roads leading to the ports at Kennacraig, Oban, Mallaig, Uig and Ullapool, i.e. the A83, A85, A830, A87 /A887 and A835 respectively.

The Scottish Government policy on the use of bilingual signing was extended in 2012 to include the A9. This policy is being implemented on the basis of opportunities created by programmed improvement works, including the A9 Dualling, or planned maintenance. It aligns with the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan, last updated in 2022. This provides an affordable and cost effective way of extending the bilingual signs coverage on the network within available funds. While Scottish Government policy applies only to the trunk road network (including slip roads and connector roads) for which Scottish Ministers are the Roads Authority, individual councils can determine their own policies for the use of Gaelic destinations on signs on their local roads as appropriate.

This policy on the use of bilingual traffic signs is set out in the following publication, last updated in November 2020: [Guidance on the use of Bilingual \(Gaelic – English\) traffic signs in Scotland \(transport.gov.scot\)](#)

It should be noted that warning signs, information signs and road markings are prescribed by regulations, namely the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2016 and any associated amendments enacted for use in Scotland. At present the regulations only prescribe bilingual translations of place names and associated words on the same sign, such as "Welcome to".

Transport Scotland has no proposals at present to change existing bilingual signing policy for the trunk road network or to amend the traffic signs regulations.

Regards

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

Head of Standards | Roads Directorate | Transport Scotland

T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | My working pattern is Monday to Thursday

---

**From:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) [jittle@transport.gov.scot](mailto:jittle@transport.gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:02 PM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [ley@transport.gov.scot](mailto:ley@transport.gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) son

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CONTRIBUTION - FOI - 202300391858 - Gaelic road signs; and use of Gaelic on ScotRail services and property

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

As far as I can see the contract itself is silent on where gaelic is permitted/used in relation to trunk roads however the attached link will take you to a document which provides guidance on the use of bilingual traffic signs (please check with Standards Branch to see if this is the latest version (2020)). This lists the route on which it is permitted: A82, A83, A85, A830, A87/A887, A835 and A9.

[Guidance on the use of Bilingual \(Gaelic – English\) traffic signs in Scotland \(transport.gov.scot\)](https://transport.gov.scot/guidance-on-the-use-of-bilingual-gaelic-english-traffic-signs-in-scotland)

Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**Transport Scotland**  
**Procurement and Commercial Branch | Roads Directorate**



Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Please see below request for information under FOI, grateful if you can provide the details for the first 2 questions for your units (separate emails are also being sent to the other OCs and DBFOs). Grateful for your contributions by COP 10 January.

Dear Transport Scotland,

I would like to know—

- (a) the areas and/or trunk roads where Gaelic is either used solely or bilingually with English,
- (b) what plans, if any, the Scottish Government has to expand this to more areas and/or trunk roads,
- (c) detail of use of Gaelic on ScotRail services, stations and other property, and
- (d) what plans, if any, the Scottish Government has to expand this.

Thanks

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Roads Administration Team Leader

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

[transport.gov.scot](https://transport.gov.scot)



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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 12 December 2023 12:29  
**To:** Redacted Section 38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Perfect. Thanks Redacted Sectio

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
Standards Advisor  
Roads - Standards Branch  
Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) 44

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)

Transport Scotland, George House, 36 North Hanover St, Glasgow G1 2AD



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**From:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) [@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)@ainmean-aite.scot)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot); Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot); Redacted Section 38(1)(b) [@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:Redacted Section 38(1)(b)@ainmean-aite.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Thanks Redacted Se that's not a problem and agree it seems more appropriate. Please see the updated text attached.

Le dùrachd  
Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

**Manaidsear Pròiseict**

Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | [www.ainmean-aite.scot](http://www.ainmean-aite.scot)



Tha am post-dealain seo agus faidhle sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach-uidhe a-mhàin. Mas tu an neach-uidhe ceàrr, an cuir thu fios chun an neach-sgrìobhaidh sa bhàd. 'S e beachdan an neach-sgrìobhaidh a tha sa phost seo, agus dh'fhaodadh nach iad na beachdan aig Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba  
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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 12 December 2023 11:46:40

To: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) ; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @gov.scot; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Subject: RE: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

PS I would have no problem with the shorter form being listed if this was the community preference, even though the longer form already appears on some signs (not sure how many). Signs will not be immediately replaced, this is just about having a reliable source so that when any new signs are installed it will be done so in a consistent way. Thanks.

---

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Standards Advisor  
Roads - Standards Branch

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

@transport.gov.scot

Transport Scotland, George House, 36 North Hanover St, Glasgow G1 2AD



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---

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:41 AM

To: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @ainmean-aite.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @gov.scot>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @ainmean-aite.scot>

Subject: RE: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
Hi

Thanks for this.

Yes, I think I'd rather avoid any reference to the Primary Destinations review. While it has prompted this request, the Skye Bridge actually already appears on signs so it is correct (even without the review) that the translations should be covered. See the link below as an example. As you can see, this uses the fuller form.

My preference would be something like: "Transport Scotland is seeking to ensure consistency in the Gaelic translation of Skye Bridge on road signs". Would this work?

Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

[A87 - Google Maps](#)

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Standards Advisor  
Roads - Standards Branch

T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) 44

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) @transport.gov.scot

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**From:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) [@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:@ainmean-aite.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:07 AM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>;

Redacted Section 3  
[@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:@ainmean-aite.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
Morning

Please find the proposed texts for the public consultation. I'm not sure the opening line fully follows your request, so happy to follow your guidance on this. Likewise Redacted Sect if you have any comments please let me know.

Le dùrachd

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

**Manaidsear Pròiseict**

Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

[www.ainmean-aite.scot](http://www.ainmean-aite.scot)



Tha am post-dealain seo agus faidhle sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach-uidhe a-mhàin. Mas tu an neach-uidhe ceàrr, an cuir thu fios chun an neach-sgrìobhaidh sa bhàd. 'S e beachdan an neach-sgrìobhaidh a tha sa phost seo, agus dh'fhaodadh nach iad na beachdan aig Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 07 December 2023 11:40:04

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b), Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot); Redacted Section 38(

**Subject:** RE: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Perfect. Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Le dùrachd 😊

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Standards Advisor

Roads - Standards Branch

T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)

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**From:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) [@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:ainmean-aite.scot)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 11:17 AM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:ainmean-aite.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
Hi

Of course not a problem. That was my intention. It would mention ensuring we have the most appropriate Gaelic form for a road sign and would have the two forms to choose from.

Le dùrachd

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

[Manaidsear Pròiseict](mailto:ainmean-aite.scot)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ](mailto:ainmean-aite.scot)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [www.ainmean-aite.scot](http://www.ainmean-aite.scot)



**Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba**  
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland

Tha am post-dealain seo agus faidhle sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach-uidhe a-mhàin. Mas tu an neach-uidhe ceàrr, an cuir thu fios chun an neach-sgrìobhaidh sa bhàd. 'S e beachdan an neach-sgrìobhaidh a tha sa phost seo, agus dh'fhaodadh nach iad na beachdan aig Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba

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---

**From** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 07 December 2023 10:56:54

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) , Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot); Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Hi there

Could I request please that any consultation only focuses on the translation; and I have no problem with it mentioning that the translation may appear on road signs. But it is important from our point of view that it does not mention any strategic issues relating to Primary Destinations or decisions on how or which destinations are signed on the trunk road. This should not be the subject of public consultation.

There is no great hurry for this. There is no plan to make any immediate changes to signs; it will only affect signs as they are replaced through maintenance etc.

Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Standards Advisor

Roads - Standards Branch

T. Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)

Transport Scotland, George House, 36 North Hanover St, Glasgow G1 2AD



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**From:** Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) [@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:@ainmean-aite.scot)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 10:47 AM

**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>; Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@ainmean-aite.scot](mailto:@ainmean-aite.scot)>

**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Madainn mhath <sup>Redacted S</sup>

We should have the draft text for the consultation ready on Monday. I will send it round for comment.

With the case of the Skye Bridge I feel we need to spread the consultation across the Island as far as possible to avoid/reduce any public backlash should someone decide they don't like what's been chosen. Therefore my proposal is an online questionnaire sent to community organisations across Skye, and immediately over the Bridge in Kyle and surrounding area.

We would therefore need an appropriate deadline. <sup>Redacted Se</sup> do you know what the rules are in terms of deadlines for bigger public consultations like this?

Le dùrachd

Redacted Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b) **Manaidsear Pròiseict**

Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | [www.ainmean-aite.scot](http://www.ainmean-aite.scot)



Tha am post-dealain seo agus faidhle sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach-uidhe a-mhàin. Mas tu an neach-uidhe ceàrr, an cuir thu fios chun an neach-sgrìobhaidh sa bhàd. 'S e beachdan an neach-sgrìobhaidh a tha sa phost seo, agus dh'fhaodadh nach iad na beachdan aig Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 06 December 2023 15:38:45  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot);  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Re: Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Hi <sup>Redacted S</sup>

If I'm remembering correctly I think locally it is simply known as **Drochaid an Eilein**. So I think it best that we do a bit of local consultation first before confirming a form.

And of course, once we are agreed on a form we would be happy to include this in the database.

Further to this, please send PDF proofs of any signs before they are printed to avoid typos. There have been a handful of signs appearing across Scotland with typos which are in particular related to the way Microsoft uses the apostrophe key these days that we need to watch out for.

Le dùrachd  
Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | [Manaidsear Pròiseict](#)  
[Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ](#)  
Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) | [www.ainmean-aite.scot](http://www.ainmean-aite.scot)



**Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba**  
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland  
Tha am post-dealain seo agus faidhle sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach-uidhe a-mhàin. Mas tu an neach-uidhe ceàrr, an cuir thu fios chun an neach-sgrìobhaidh sa bhhad. 'S e beachdan an neach-sgrìobhaidh a tha sa phost seo, agus dh'fhaodadh nach iad na beachdan aig Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba  
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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 06 December 2023 14:33:03  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
**Cc:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)  
**Subject:** Skye Bridge - Transport Scotland

Feasgar math <sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup>

<sup>Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)</sup> (cc'd) is in the process of updating the trunk road Primary Destinations which Transport Scotland will be presenting in Gaelic – using the Ainmean-Àite database as the source for these. Skye Bridge is among the new additions. We're mindful that Skye Bridge isn't currently in the Ainmean-Àite database. Can I first ask if you're content with a straightforward translation of Drochaid an Eilein Sgitheanaich? If so, is there an option for this to be added to the database for reference in future TS policy?

Le dùrachd,

Redacted - Sect on 38(1)(b)

Gaelic & Scots Division, Education Reform Directorate, Area 2-B(North) Victoria Quay Edinburgh Scotland EH6 6QQ

Roinn na Gàidhlig is Albais, Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim, Raon 2-B Cidhe Bhictòria, Dùn Èideann, Alba EH6 6QQ

The Scottish Government's [third Gaelic Language Plan](#) is now in force. If you'd like to find out more about the plan and how you can support Gaelic in government just let me know.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 29 November 2023 09:46  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic signing for Primary Destinations on trunk roads

Hi Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

I'm very keen that the list in the Traffic signs Manual is not presented as the definitive list of locations to be signed in Gaelic. Therefore I'd be against including the proviso below. I wouldn't be against including all placenames in Gaelic, I just don't think it's necessary, but it could be effective in separating this list from the policy.

I also wouldn't be against providing no Gaelic translations if this isn't the place for it.

Maybe worth a chat?

Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Standards Advisor  
Roads - Standards Branch

T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) 4

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot)

Transport Scotland, George House, 36 North Hanover St, Glasgow G1 2AD



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency  
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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 3:30 PM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)@transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Gaelic signing for Primary Destinations on trunk roads

Hi Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Thanks for getting in touch.

Would you be able to include a proviso saying the list of Gaelic placenames provided is correct according to the present bilingual policy but that in the event of the bilingual policy being updated advice should be sought for placenames not currently provided in Gaelic?

Alternatively, the majority of the placenames in the full list are historically Gaelic (Aberdeen, Ayr, Kincardine, Dumfries) or have historically established Gaelic equivalents (e.g. "Ceann Phàdraig" for Peterhead and either "A' Bhruaich" or "Baile nam Frisealach" for Fraserburgh). Would it be too much to provide a comprehensive list of Gaelic names but highlighting those which need to be used under the present policy?

Cheers

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

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**From:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Gaelic signing for Primary Destinations on trunk roads

Hi Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

I have a question for you.

We have a list of "Primary Destinations" which are prioritised for direction signing on the trunk road network. These are important destinations, for reasons such as their size, their strategic position on the network, the amount of traffic they generate. It includes most of the ferry ports to the islands.

We are currently in the process of updating the list. It is currently contained in appendix C of LTN 1/94, and this is outdated. See link.

[LTN 1/94 The Design and Use of Directional Informatory Signs \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The updated list will be published in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 2, along with the English Primary Destinations. See link.

[Traffic signs manual chapter 2 primary route destinations in England by region \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

It has been suggested by an Operating Company through our consultation that the published list should include the agreed Gaelic translations for destinations on routes which are covered by the bilingual policy. Based on our currently proposed list, and our current live policy, this would include the destinations listed below.

I'd like your view on whether you'd consider this translation being included in Traffic Signs Manual to be appropriate. I think it would be useful information to provide for designers developing signs. My one concern is if the policy for bilingual signing should change, and therefore the translations would be incomplete. To be clear, I would not suggest specifically stating within Traffic Signs Manual that these translations are the definitive list of what Primary Destinations should be provided with translations, but this is obviously the assumption that could be drawn.

I wonder if you could provide your views. Obviously happy to discuss.

Regards

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

#### List of Primary Destinations to be provided with Gaelic translations

Aviemore (A9)  
Campbeltown (A83)  
Crianlarich (A82, A85)  
Fort William (A82, A830)  
Inverness (A9, A82)  
Kingussie (A9)  
Mallaig (A830)  
Oban (A85)  
Perth (A9)  
Skye Bridge (A87, A887)  
Thurso (A9)  
Uig (A87)  
Ullapool (A835)  
Wick (A9)

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Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Standards Advisor  
Roads - Standards Branch

T: Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)

Redacted - Section 38(1)(b) [@transport.gov.scot](mailto:@transport.gov.scot)

Transport Scotland, George House, 36 North Hanover St, Glasgow G1 2AD



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