

# THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, LINGUISTIC AND WELLBEING IMPACTS OF FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL

REPORT FOR  
FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL  
MAY 2022

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This is an independent study that explored the range of impacts that the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Fèisean (as shown in Appendix 1) have generated. By bringing in the results of a separate related study we have carried out on Fèis Rois, we have been able to give a more complete picture of the impacts of the three arms of the Fèisean movement in Scotland – Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the Fèisean it supports, and Fèis Rois. We have found that, individually and together, they have developed into a significant force in the preservation, nurturing and development of traditional music and culture and the Gaelic language across Scotland and internationally; while impacting positively on the people and communities who deliver and take part in the community based Fèisean at the heart of the movement.

We have estimated that, in total, the Fèisean movement supported **116.5 full-time equivalent jobs** (FTEs) across Scotland in 2019/20, including **75 FTEs in the Highlands and Islands**; generating an **annual income from employment in Scotland of around £3 million**. This includes employed staff and freelance support from tutors, performers, sound engineers and other professionals. It also includes jobs created in providing accommodation and catering and indirect and induced jobs from associated spend.

Although not quantifiable, the movement has also generated significant impacts for:

## CULTURE

The Fèisean play a large part in passing Scottish and Gaelic culture between generations, as well as providing a setting within which that culture can flourish and grow.

## LANGUAGE

With a strong commitment to the Gaelic language, the Fèisean encourage and motivate the use of the language; naturalising Gaelic in an enjoyable setting.

## SOCIALLY

The Fèisean have strong local roots, with their annual events being a highlight of the year in communities around Scotland. Their organisation and delivery bring people together and promote social cohesion.

## WELLBEING

The Fèisean provide a sense of achievement and friendship which, for many participants, lasts a lifetime.

Each year some 20,000 people are directly touched by Fèisean activities. Some will attend a drama performance or a pantomime; some will take part in a series of Blasad Gàidhlig, a Taste of Gaelic, sessions at their school; some will participate in or attend a 5-day Fèis; some will go on to take regular classes to learn an instrument; and some will take part in a Cèilidh Trail or a showcase opportunity, performing to an audience. A number will go on to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the University of the Highlands and Islands (including Sabhal Mòr Ostaig) or another further or higher education institution. While studying, some will be engaged by a Fèis for a Cèilidh Trail or as assistant tutors at a Fèis and go on from there to become professional musicians or artists – returning subsequently to the Fèis as performers or tutors while also performing in a cèilidh band, as a musician or singer, or as an actor. We have been told by many of the people we have spoken to that many of the traditional musicians in Scotland today were inspired to see they could have a career in the profession because of attending a Fèis when they were young.

In carrying out this study we have looked at the core work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the work of the 43 local Fèisean it supports around Scotland, and Fèis Rois - a member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal but independently funded and operating at a different scale to local Fèisean with projects across Scotland and beyond. Between them, the Fèisean organisations had an expenditure of £2,719,867 over the year.

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Because of Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns, we have drawn impacts from the activity carried out in the 2019/20 financial year or, where the financial year is different, from the last year where activity took place unaffected by lockdowns.

The 43 local Fèisean deliver a variety of activities organised by their voluntary committees. The scale of operation varies as shown in Appendix 1 according to the capacity of the group, but it can include:

- Annual festivals, of 5 or fewer days, based around traditional music and the Gaelic language.
- Ongoing tuition.
- Workshops and masterclasses.
- Cèilidh Trails.
- The annual expenditure of the Fèisean was £849,593. Tutor fees and payments to artists made up 63% of the total at £537,280.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal supports the local Fèisean through a network of Development Officers, through channelling funding from Creative Scotland and some local authorities, and through services such as training and disclosure checks. It also delivers activities directly, including:

- Fèisgoil, its education services, including delivery of the Youth Music Initiative in Highland and Gaelic language and drama services in a number of local authority areas.
- Fuaran, a Gaelic archiving project.
- 5 Latha, a residential Gaelic language event.
- Fèis TV, including Oide, an online tuition channel.
- Blas, an annual festival delivered on behalf of Highland Council.
- Tasgadh, a grant programme delivered on behalf of Creative Scotland.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's direct expenditure in 2019 was **£1,033,873**, excluding the grants it pays to the local Fèisean and management fees charged to various projects it delivers. With those included, its expenditure was £1.4 million.

Fèis Rois organises 3 separate Fèisean aimed at different age groups from P4 to adults, an extensive set of weekly classes across Ross-shire, a Gaelic Conversation Circle and workshops and masterclasses giving the opportunity to take skills to a higher level. Its other activities in 2019/20 included:

- Care Experienced Young People: Weekly classes and a residential weekend course.
- YMI programmes: for Aberdeenshire, Angus, and Dumfries & Galloway Councils, as well as Highland Council in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- Cèilidh Trails: with one touring locally, one including sessions at the Cambridge and Sidmouth Folk Festivals, and one with sessions at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient.
- Under Canvas: programming 56 performance slots for emerging traditional musicians over an eight-week period in a pop-up bar and performance space on the lawn of Eden Court.
- Commissioned projects: for organisations such as schools, HM Prison Inverness and Historic Environment Scotland.
- Traditional Music Agency: sourcing traditional musicians on behalf of local events, touring companies, tourist businesses and others.
- International work: including programming the Scotland Pavilion at Lorient and working with the National Celtic Festival in Australia and Light into Europe in Romania.

Its direct expenditure in the year was **£836,401**.

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Allowing for some duplication with young people participating in more than one activity, we estimate that around 4-5,000 young people took part in activities organised by local Fèisean in the year. In addition, Fèisgoil activities, through YMI and Blasad Gàidhlig, are reaching over 5,000 young people, while Fèisgoil's drama arm reaches over 4,000. Adding participants in Fèis Rois activity would bring that total to some 20,000, including 150 young people attending its Junior and Senior Fèisean and 4,000 taking part in its educational and YMI programmes.

Since 2019/20, the numbers taking part in Fèisean activity has reduced and the Fèisean movement has had to adapt its offering to cope with the various lockdowns put in place. Some local Fèisean have gone into abeyance; and some have provided online access to classes and an online Fèis, with Fèisean nan Gàidheal providing support as well as access to specially commissioned online materials. This has opened up new opportunities but, as with many public facing organisations, the Fèisean found the pandemic difficult and will need continuing support to bounce back. This is true of both the input from volunteers and the participation levels. Given the impacts we have found we see such support as a sound investment.

Indeed, an important strength of the movement has been continuity over time; with a key outcome having been helping to limit the decline in the population of young people and families in many rural and remote areas across Scotland where overall population decline threatens the viability of local public and private sector services.

# GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

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Is e rannsachadh neo-eisimeileach a tha seo a rinn tomhas air buaidh obair Fèisean nan Gàidheal agus nam Fèisean (mar a chithear ann am Pàipear-taic 1). Ann a bhith a' dèanamh sgrùdadh fa leth, ach ceangailte, air obair Fèis Rois, tha e air a bhith an comas dhuinn dealbh nas coileanta a thoirt seachad air buaidh nan trì earrannan de dh'iomairt nam Fèisean ann an Alba: Fèisean nan Gàidheal, na Fèisean ionadail agus Fèis Rois. Tha ar rannsachadh a' sealltainn gu bheil iad, fa leth agus le chèile, air a bhith buadhach a thaobh ceòl agus cultar na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh, a neartachadh agus a leasachadh air feadh Alba agus thall thairis cuideachd. Tha buaidh dheimhne cuideachd air daoine agus coimhearsnachdan a tha a' libhrigeadh agus a' gabhail pàirt anns na Fèisean ionadail, a tha aig cridhe na h-iomairte.

Nar rannsachadh, tha sinn a' tomhas gu bheil na Fèisean air co-ionnan ri **116.5 cosnaidhean làn-ùine** a chruthachadh air feadh Alba eadar 2019 is 2020, **75 dhiubh** air

a' Ghàidhealtachd agus anns na h-Eileanan; a' toirt seachad teachd-a-steach de mu £3 **millean**. Tha an àireamh seo a' gabhail a-steach luchd-obrach agus daoine mar luchd-teagaisg, luchd-ciùil, einnseanairean-fuaim agus proifeiseantaich eile. Tha e cuideachd a' gabhail a-steach obraichean a chaidh a chruthachadh ann a bhith a' tabhann àiteachan-fuirich, biadh agus seirbheisean co-cheangailte.

Ged nach tèid iomradh cunntasail a dhèanamh, chithear cuideachd buannachdan nam Fèisean air na leanas:

## CULTAR

Tha na Fèisean air a bhith air leth cudromach cultar na Gàidhlig agus na h-Alba a chumail beò eadar ginealaichean, a bharrachd air a bhith a' cruthachadh àrainneachd far am faodar an cultar ud a bhith beò agus torrach.

## CÀNAN

Tha na Fèisean dealasach a thaobh na Gàidhlig, a' brosnachadh dhaoine an cànan a chleachdadh agus a' cruthachadh shuidheachaidhean nàdurra anns an tèid a bruidhinn.

## COIMHEARSNACHD

Tha freumhan làidir aig na Fèisean gu h-ionadail agus bidh na tachartasan aca a' tarraing dhaoine còmhla ann an coimhearsnachdan air feadh Alba gach bliadhna.

## SLÀINTE AGUS SUNND

Bidh na Fèisean a' toirt buaidh dheimhinne air slàinte dhaoine agus thèid ceanglaichean fad beatha a dhèanamh am measg chom-pàirtichean.

Gach bliadhna, tha buaidh air gnìomh nam Fèisean air mu 20,000 neach. Thèid cuid gu cuirm dràma no gu panto; thèid cuid eile an sàs ann an seiseanan Blasad Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean; thèid feadhainn gu Fèis 5 Latha; thèid feadhainn eile an sàs ann an clasaichean ciùil leantainneach; gabhaidh cuid eile an cothrom a bhith a sàs ann an Cèilidh air Chuairt no a bhith a' cluich air an àrd-ùrlar aig cuirm-ciùil. Thèid cuid air adhart gu foghlam aig àrd-ìre aig Conservatoire Rìoghail na h-Alba, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean/Sabhal Mòr Ostaig no gu ionad-foghlaim eile. Fhad 's a bhios iad nan oileanaich, leanaidh cuid orra a bhith an sàs ann an Cèilidhean air Chuairt no cumaidh iad taic ri teagasg aig na Fèisean. An uair sin, thèid iad air adhart gu math tric gu bhith nan ceòladairean no nam proifeiseantaich anns na h-ealain chruthachail eile, a' tilleadh gu Fèisean mar luchd-ciùil no luchd-teagaisg fhad is a tha iad a' dèanamh beò-shlaint mar cheòladairean, seinneadairean no cleasaichean. Chaidh innse dhuinn le iomadh neach ris an do bhruidhinn sinn gun d' fhuair tòrr luchd-ciùil a tha an sàs ann an ceòl traidiseanta ann an Alba an-diugh brosnachadh beò-shlaint a dhèanamh à ceòl tro bhith an sàs ann am Fèis nan òige.

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Ann a bhith a' cur an rannsachaidh seo an gnìomh, tha sinn air sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air prìomh obair Fèisean nan Gàidheal, obair nam Fèisean ionadail a gheibh taic bhon bhuidheann agus cuideachd air Fèis Ròis - a tha na bhall de Fèisean nan Gàidheal ach aig a bheil maoinachadh fa leth agus inbhe nas àirde na tha aig na Fèisean ionadail air feadh Alba agus thall thairis. Gu h-iomlan, chosg gnìomhachas nam Fèisean £2,719,867 thairis air a' bhliadhna.

Ri linn droch bhuidh Covid-19 agus na glasaidean a bha na chois, tha sinn air sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air buaidh nam Fèisean sa bhliadhna ionmhais 2019/2020 no far a bheil a' bhliadhna ionmhais eadar-dhealaichte, a' bhliadhna mu dheireadh air nach tug glasaidean buaidh.

Bidh comataidhean saor-thoileach aig na 43 Fèisean ionadail a' libhrigeadh grunn thachartasan eadar-dhealaichte. Chithear ann am Pàipear-taic 1, mar a bhios diofar ìrean an lùib na h-obrach seo a rèir meud na sgioba, ach dh'fhaodadh na leanas a bhith mar phàirt den obair aca:

- Fèisean bliadhna, a mhaireas suas ri 5 latha, stèidhichte air ceòl traidiseanta no air a' Ghàidhlig
- Clasaichean ciùil leantainneach
- Bùthan-obrach agus sàr chlasaichean
- Cèilidhean air Chuairt

B' iad cosgaisean bliadhna nam Fèisean £849,593 agus chaidh 63% seo a chosg air cosgaisean luchd-teagaisg aig £537,280.

Bidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' toirt taic dha na Fèisean ionadail tro lionra de dh'oifigearan leasachaidh, tro bhith a' toirt seachad maoinachadh bho Alba Chruthachail agus cuid de dh'ùghdarrasan ionadail, a bharrachd air seirbheisean mar thrèanadh agus taic le deuchainnean sgrùdaidh. Bidh e cuideachd a' libhrigeadh gu dìreach na cothroman a leanas:

- Fèisgoil, seirbheis foghlaim Fèisean nan Gàidheal, na lùib, a' libhrigeadh Iomairt Ciùil na h-Òigridh ann an sgìre Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus clasaichean Gàidhlig agus dràma ann an grunn ùghdarrasan ionadail
- Fuaran, pròiseact tasglann Gàidhlig
- 5 Latha, cùrsa-còmhnaidh Gàidhlig
- Fèis TV, m.e. Oide, seanail teagaisg air loidhne
- Blas, Fèis bhliadhna air a ruith as leth Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
- Tasgadh, prògram maoinachaidh air a ruith as leth Alba Chruthachail

B' iad cosgaisean dìreach Fèisean nan Gàidheal ann an 2019 £1,033,873. Chan eil seo a' gabhail a-steach tabhartasan do na Fèisean ionadail no cisean stiùiridh air na pròiseactan sònraichte a bhios a' bhuidheann a' libhrigeadh. Leis na cisean seo na lùib, tha na cosgaisean iomlan a' streap ri £1.4 millean.

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Bidh Fèis Rois a' ruith 3 Fèisean fa leth ag amas air diofar ìrean eadar Clas 4 agus inbhich, clàr farsaing de chlasaichean seachdaineil air feadh Siorrachd Rois, cearcall còmhraidh Gàidhlig, a bharrachd air bùthan-obrach agus sàr-chlasaichean a bheir cothrom do chompàirtichean an cuid sgilean a thoirt air adhart gu sàr ìre. Am measg nan tachartasan eile a bha aca ann an 2019/20 bha:

- Clasaichean trèanaidh do dhaoine òga a tha air a bhith ann an cùram
- Iomairt Ciùil na h-Òigridh: Ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain, Siorrachd Aonghais, Comhairle Dhùn Phris agus Ghall-Ghàidhealaibh agus cuideachd ann an Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ann am compàirteachas ri Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- Cèilidhean air Chuairt: Tha diofar bhuidhnean air siubhal a dhèanamh gu h-ionadail agus cuideachd gu Fèisean Chambridge is Sidmouth agus gu Fèis Cheilteach Lorient.
- Fo Chanabhas: A' cur air dòigh 56 cothroman air an àrd-ùrlar do luchd-ciùil traidiseanta ùr ann an àite-taisbeanadh taobh a-muigh Talla-cluiche Eden Court
- Pròiseactean sònraichte: Do bhuidhnean mar sgoiltean, Priosan Inbhir Nis agus Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil na h-Alba.
- Seirbheisean-taic ann an Ceòl Traidiseanta: a' sireadh luchd-ciùil do thachartasan ionadail, buidhnean-ealain a bhios a' siubhal gu diofar sgìrean agus gnìomhachasan eile.
- Obair eadar-nàiseanta: a cuir air dòigh Pàillean Alba aig Fèis Cheilteach Lorient agus ag obair le Fèis Cheilteach Nàiseanta Astràilia agus Light into Europe ann an Romàinia.

B' iad cosgaisean bliadhna Fèis Rois £836,401.

Tha sinn ag aithneachadh gum bi cuid de dh'òigridh a' nochdadh aig còrr is aon tachartas, agus mar sin, tha sinn a' tomhas gu bheil eadar 4,000 agus 5,000 neach òg air a bhith an sàs ann an tachartasan nam Fèisean thairis air a' bhliadhna. A bharrachd air seo, tha tachartasan Fèisgoil, Iomairt Ciùil na h-Òigridh agus Blasad Gàidhlig air còrr agus 5,000 neach òg a ruighinn. Tha clasaichean dràma Fèisgoil air 4,000 neach a ruighinn. Le bhith a' cur nan àireamhan seo ri figearan Fèis Rois (150 de dh'òigridh an làthair aig na Fèisean agus 4,000 a ghabh pàirt ann am prògraman foghlaim), bidh an àireamh iomlan timcheall air 20,000 neach.

Bhon a' bhliadhna 2019/20, tha na h-àireamhan a ghabh pàirt ann an tachartasan aig Fèisean air tuiteam agus b' fheudar dha na Fèisean na modhan-obrach aca atharrachadh gus fuasgladh fhaighinn aig amannan glasaidd. Tha cuid de dh'Fhèisean nach eil a' tachairt idir an-dràsta, ach chaidh clasaichean agus Fèisean eile a libhrigeadh air loidhne, le taic bho Fèisean nan Gàidheal na tachartasan a chur air bhonn agus stuthan-taic sònraichte a chruthachadh. Tha seo air dorsan ùra fhosgladh, ach, coltach ri iomadh buidheann phoblach eile, is e àm dùbhlach a bha seo dha na Fèisean agus bheir e ùine agus bidh feum air mòran taic mus till iad gu suidheachadh fallain a-rithist. Tha seo fìor an dà chuid do na daoine a tha ag obair gu saor-thoileach agus cuideachd do luchd-compàirteachaidh nam Fèisean. Ann a bhith mothachail air buaidhean deimhinne nam Fèisean a thàinig am bàrr san rannsachadh, tha sinn a' faireachdainn gum biodh fìor luach ann an taic seo a thoirt seachad.

Gu deimhinne, is i neart chudromach iomairt nam Fèisean gu bheil iad air a bhith cho leantainneach thairis air na bliadhnaichean. Tha an iomairt air a bhith na taic ann a bhith a' cur maill air crìonadh àireamhan de dhaoine òga agus de theaghlaichean ann an sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach air feadh Alba, far a bheil crìonadh san àireamh-sluaigh san fharsaingeachd air droch bhuaidh a thoirt air seirbheisean poblach agus priobhaideach.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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2.1 This is an independent report which aims to quantify the cultural, social, economic, linguistic and wellbeing impacts of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and the activities it delivers and supports. It has been designed to achieve the objectives identified in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's commissioning brief:

(a) To measure direct employment and earnings impacts considering those employed either directly by Fèisean nan Gàidheal or local Fèisean on a long-term or temporary basis to deliver activities, including:

- Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff
- Staff employed by individual Fèisean
- Fèis or Fèisgoil supervisors, tutors or trainers
- Performers, administrators, sound and light engineers and others contracted for events
- Other contracted workers.

(b) To measure indirect employment and earnings impacts; quantifying full time equivalent job years (FTEs) and earnings for the delivery of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèis activities through any third party, induced employment and spend on supplies and services. This includes:

- An overall view of all Fèisean nan Gàidheal programme activities
- A separate micro economic impact assessment of the Blas Festival
- A separate micro assessment of outcomes from the Tasgadh fund since its establishment

- Delivery of contracts for supplies and services from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, through Fèisgoil and other initiatives outlined in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's programme.
- Valuing additional visitor spend (including overnight stays) attributable to the activities considered.

(c) To measure longer-term impacts; considering the success of the Fèis movement in stimulating growth in various sectors within the cultural and creative industries and in creating employment opportunities and a supply into the related labour market. This would include current and former Fèis students now involved, or hoping to be involved, in areas such as media, Gaelic development, the music industry (as performer, promoter, organiser, technician or other support role), or teaching – whether on a casual, semi-professional or professional basis.

(d) To measure impacts on Gaelic language promotion; considering benefits in terms of increased awareness and use of Gaelic among people engaging in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's programme and how they identify with the language. This includes investigating the extent to which Fèisean nan Gàidheal's programme:

- Offers opportunities to use Gaelic
- Offers opportunities to improve skills in Gaelic
- Shows people that Gaelic makes a difference to their lives
- Enables people to appreciate ways in which Gaelic is important to Scotland.

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(e) To measure impacts in terms of economic opportunity and increased sustainability in fragile areas in the Highlands and Islands, including gathering evidence of the following:

- Sustaining employment in fragile areas
- Enhancing visitor’s experience of fragile areas
- Creating income opportunities for local Fèisean/Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff.

(f) To compare impacts with organisations of comparable size involved in similar work whether in Gaelic/traditional arts or otherwise (including international comparisons where relevant analysis has been completed).

(g) To inform future planning by setting out recommendations for the potential role of Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal in the future delivery of Scottish Government’s Economic and Cultural Strategies, Scotland’s National Islands Plan, and the National Gaelic Language Plan, as well as plans and strategies specific to Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

1.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal commissioned this work to mark over 40 years since the establishment of the first Fèis – Fèis Bharraigh – which has been the model for subsequent Fèisean development. The second Fèis to be established, in 1986, was Fèis Rois, and alongside this study a separate but linked impact study has been carried out on the work of Fèis Rois. For that reason, although Fèis Rois is a member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the impacts of its activities are dealt with separately and brought into Section 12 of this report, showing a comprehensive picture of the impacts of the Fèisean.

1.3 The work for this study has been carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic and the various restrictions on movement and activity that have been in force. That has affected the methodology for the study, with most contacts carried out remotely, over the telephone or using Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

1.4 It should be noted that financial figures used in this report do not necessarily fit with those in annual accounts and financial statements. We have aimed to base our work on the last year of “normal” activity, before the start of Covid-19 lockdowns, generally 2019/20. Where possible we have used actual expenditures in 2019/20 without taking account of accruals and other factors which can affect published annual accounts. Depending on their accounting year, for individual Fèisean, financial statements can be based on the financial year, the calendar year or the school year, which can mean that the last “normal” year varies from Fèis to Fèis.

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1.5 Our research and consultation for this impact study has included:

- Liaison with and receipt of information from Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- Discussion with individual members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff.
- Discussion with, and receipt of information from, individual Fèisean.
- Discussion with a sample of tutors, clients and creative industry representatives.
- Discussion with funders and partners.
- Discussion with contractors regularly engaged by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- Discussion with past Fèis participants.
- An online survey of tutors.
- An online survey of Tasgadh applicants
- An online survey of members of the Tasgadh decision making panel.

1.6 We are particularly grateful to Fèisean nan Gàidheal and its staff for providing a wide range of information throughout the study and to Fèisean organisers for the time that they found to speak to us and provide financial and other information from their records.

## 2. THE FÈISEAN

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- 2.1 A Fèis is a traditional arts tuition festival, often run as a 5 day event during school holidays for young people aged between 8 and 18, organised and delivered by a local, independent, voluntary group. Tutors are engaged to deliver sessions in a variety of instruments, in song and drama, in art and media and other activities; and children can choose which sessions they take part in over the week. The first Fèis was held in Barra in 1981, and since then the number of Fèisean in Scotland has grown to approaching 50. The majority are held in the Highlands and Islands, but a growing number have been established in other areas so that Fèisean are now accessible to many of the young people in Scotland.
- 2.2 As with all voluntary groups there can be periods of growth and periods of contraction, and the number of Fèisean being delivered can vary from year to year depending on the health of the local groups. Each Fèis group organises its activities to meet the needs of its own community and so there are many variations on the model of Fèis being delivered. The original 5 day event can be complemented by activities directed at different age groups: for example, a Fèis Bheag or Wee Fèis for pre-school children, a Fèis Mheadhan or intermediate Fèis for under 8s and a main Fèis for 8-18 year olds. Rather than a 5 day event, the fèis might be over a shorter period or delivered as weekends spaced through the year. Alongside that, the Fèis group may organise ongoing instrumental classes and other activities such as workshops or a Cèilidh Trail. A few also take part in international activities, sending groups of young people to other parts of the world to take part in festivals.
- 2.3 44 Fèisean were active in 2019/20: 17 in Highland, 7 in the Western Isles, 7 in Argyll & Bute and 13 elsewhere in Scotland. 33 of these were in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise area with 15 located in fragile areas, although others had participants from fragile areas. Fragile Areas, as identified by HIE in 2014, are characterised by negative population change, low household incomes, unemployment, and remoteness from the nearest mid-sized service centre. These figures include Fèis Rois, whose activities and impacts are otherwise dealt with in a complementary study and brought into Section 8 of this report. Another 4 Fèis groups are currently in abeyance but may start their activities again in the future. Summary information on the activity of each Fèis group is given in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Contact was made with all the individual Fèis groups, and most were able to provide figures and information on their activity in the last year of operation before the pandemic lockdowns, usually 2019/20. Where full detail was not provided by the Fèisean we estimated figures from material provided by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and through parallels with comparable Fèisean.
- 2.5 32 Fèis groups held a main Fèis in 2019, usually over 5 days, with the others following a different model, most often weekly classes or monthly workshops. 35 Fèisean were providing tuition or workshops in addition to or instead of a main Fèis. 6 delivered a Cèilidh Trail, where a group of young musicians received training and undertook a tour of venues in the local area. Further information on the Cèilidh Trails is given later in this report.
- 2.6 Total expenditure by Fèisean groups in 2019 was £849,593. For the purposes of aggregating expenditures consistently across the Fèisean, the expenditure categories in the table below were used, and to allow for impacts to be calculated for different geographical areas, estimates were made of total expenditure in the local area, in fragile areas, in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise area, in Scotland and elsewhere.

Fèisean Expenditure	Total in local area	Total in fragile areas	Total in HIE area	Total in Scotland	Expenditure elsewhere or unknown	Total Fèisean expenditure
Salaries	£38,261	£11,833	£29,254	£49,480	£0	£49,480
Administration (e.g. stationery, postage)	£7,243	£1,521	£5,669	£8,461	£328	£8,789
Tutors Fees	£233,867	£71,303	£261,297	£482,105	£0	£482,105
Tutors Travel	£17,972	£6,083	£22,386	£34,439	£0	£34,439
Tutors Accommodation/ Subsistence	£34,117	£11,123	£31,858	£35,458	£0	£35,458
Volunteers Travel	£30	£0	£0	£30	£0	£30
Volunteers Accommodation/ Subsistence	£1,846	£1,146	£1,846	£1,846	£0	£1,846
Participants Travel	£6,296	£3,085	£6,910	£10,145	£0	£10,145
Participants Accommodation/ Subsistence	£30,164	£19,110	£29,801	£33,870	£0	£33,870
Artist Fees	£20,213	£3,405	£23,791	£54,775	£400	£55,175
Equipment	£1,841	£513	£1,316	£2,253	£1,664	£3,917
Advertising and Marketing	£5,215	£474	£2,465	£8,267	£0	£8,267
Venue/hall hire and costs	£38,735	£9,880	£23,688	£41,047	£0	£41,047
Merchandising (e.g. t shirts)	£2,932	£623	£2,357	£5,358	£510	£5,868
Instruments (purchase/repair/ other costs)	£9,091	£2,156	£7,956	£23,916	£0	£23,916
Subscriptions/Grants to other bodies	£1,370	£300	£2,670	£4,691	£0	£4,691
Accountancy/financial management	£2,160	£30	£4,260	£5,086	£0	£5,086
Gifts	£0	£0	£0	£105	£10	£115
Miscellaneous/Other	£21,729	£5,781	£14,247	£42,106	£3,242	£45,348
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£473,082</b>	<b>£148,365</b>	<b>£471,772</b>	<b>£843,439</b>	<b>£6,154</b>	<b>£849,593</b>

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2.7 These figures relate only to the activity of Fèisean groups (other than Fèis Rois) and exclude activities organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal which are covered in Section 3 of this report.

2.8 Salaries include payments for administration through Fèisean nan Gàidheal's annualised hours grant scheme, sometimes supplemented by local funds, and the payment of development officers and other administrators; for example for the Cèilidh Trails.

2.9 The largest element of expenditure relates to tutor fees and payments to artists who are playing in concerts and other events. At a total of £537,280 together these make up 63% of overall expenditure. Fèisean nan Gàidheal itself pays industry standard rates to all tutors it employs directly and asks, through conditions of grant, that Fèisean be aware of Musicians' Union rates and work towards paying those to tutors. The Musician's Union recommended a teaching rate of £35.00 per hour in 2019/20. At that rate the expenditure equates to 15,350 hours of work. In reality the figures include Assistant Tutors and Supervisors who would be paid at a lower rate and not all Fèisean fully met the recommended rate, so that the actual number of hours would have been higher.

2.10 A 5-day Fèis offering a range of subjects can engage up to 30 tutors, and we estimate that for the main Fèisean 526 tutors were employed for a total of 2,379 tutor days. A further 202 tutors were engaged for ongoing instruction, often delivering weekly sessions over the school term, or one-off workshops. Some tutors will have worked at more than one Fèis and may also have delivered classes. These figures also include

Assistant Tutors, often local young people who have previously attended the Fèis and may have left home for study; they also include supervisors and those engaged to deliver the Fèis Beag for the younger children.

2.11 Tutor fees are allocated to the normal residence of the tutors. A number now live elsewhere in Scotland for employment or family reasons but originally lived in smaller Highlands and Islands communities, with many being former Fèis students. A survey of the tutors registered with Fèisean nan Gàidheal was carried out and more information is given in a later section. Individual Fèisean will often use the same tutors each year, although generally each will use some new tutors each year to keep the offering fresh. Fèisean nan Gàidheal provides a service to carry out and renew disclosure checks for tutors engaged by the Fèisean. In 2019/20, 108 paid disclosure checks were carried out for tutors - 43 for new tutors being engaged for the first time and 65 to update existing checks.

2.12 Fèisean are keen to minimise the travel and accommodation costs for tutors. Where possible local tutors are engaged, although it is important to ensure the right range of expertise and to keep a balance between those known to the participants and those bringing something new. Often tutors may live elsewhere but have connections in the local area so that they are able to stay with relatives or friends while teaching at the Fèis. Tutor travel in 2019/20 cost £34,438 with a further £35,458 for accommodation. The travel costs were largely mileage costs although they also include public transport and ferries to and from the islands. Accommodation is largely in local bed and breakfasts and self-catering accommodation.

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2.13 Expenditure on volunteer travel and accommodation is relatively minimal and is spent locally, with accommodation largely relating to volunteers acting as house parents at residential events. The Fèisean found it difficult to estimate the numbers of volunteers involved and their total input, but all Fèisean depend on volunteers in organising and delivering the event and the importance of voluntary input should not be underestimated. Committee members put a significant amount of time into bringing the Fèis together and, where offered, maintaining the programme of weekly classes and workshops. Parents often provide voluntary input during the Fèis, helping to supervise the children during breaks and getting them to the right room for their next session.

2.14 Participant travel and accommodation is also spent locally. Some Fèisean offer a transport service, running buses from nearby towns to collect participants each morning. Some offer a residential option or operate the Fèis in a residential venue. There are also travel and accommodation costs associated with the Cèilidh Trails which can be outside the immediate local area, although almost all the £45,891 (including volunteers) will have gone to local bus companies and accommodation providers.

2.15 Venue costs relate to the use of halls, schools or other places for the Fèis or for classes. Where village halls are used the fees are usually modest yet can be important in the ongoing sustainability of the hall. Local authorities take different approaches to the use of schools. In some areas, use by the Fèisean is free of charge but in others there can be a substantial charge, sometimes offset by grant support.

2.16 In 2019/20, 41 Fèisean were offered grants through Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Grants Scheme. Grants are made up of a contribution of up to 25% of the eligible costs for the main Fèis, and up to 40% of the eligible costs of a programme of classes or workshops at other times of the year. Highland and Argyll and Bute Councils channelled their support for Fèisean through the scheme, so that Fèisean in those areas received additional support.

2.17 Those not receiving support through Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Grants Scheme were:

- Fèis Rois, which receives funding independently;
- Fèis a' Bhealaich (Applecross), which operated a limited programme introducing Gaelic to younger children;
- Fèis Ghleann Albainn, which delivered an adult only Fèis.

2.18 Fèisean nan Gàidheal also offers support for ongoing activities and for Cèilidh Trails as well as small grants to allow Fèisean to employ local administrators. In total the Fèisean received grants of £264,964 from Fèisean nan Gàidheal in 2019 (note that this may differ from Fèisean

nan Gàidheal's accounts due to the different timescales of accounting). Also, in some cases Fèisean accounts do not differentiate grants from Fèisean nan Gàidheal and those from the local authority delivered through Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

2.19 Overall, income was as follows:

Fèisean income	Fèis Specific	Cèilidh Trail Specific	Workshops etc	Total
Fèisean nan Gàidheal	£124,685	£28,948	£111,331	£264,964
Local Authority	£49,106	£1,000	£8,053	£58,159
Other Grants	£56,453	£1,350	£31,151	£97,069
Fees & Tuition charges	£146,394	£271	£82,180	£305,504
Other earned income	£23,594	£17,512	£9,832	£75,392
Other income	£7,703	£431	£228	£47,730
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£456,018</b>	<b>£51,902</b>	<b>£340,898</b>	<b>£848,817</b>

2.20 Grants in total made up slightly less than 50% of income. Fees from participants and other earned income – through concerts, selling of merchandise, instrument hire and catering – provided 45%, with the balance coming from donations, raffles and other fundraising.

## 3. FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL

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3.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established in 1991 as the umbrella organisation for Fèisean around Scotland. It has built its core role in providing a network of Development Officers and acting as a channel for grant funding to individual Fèisean, from Creative Scotland and some local authorities. As such it supports new Fèisean to become established, works with the voluntary committees to developing their Fèisean activities and acts as a mechanism for spreading good practice. It also provides practical support such as an insurance policy which covers all Fèisean for their normal activities, dealing with disclosure checks on their behalf and operating a Musical Instrument Bank to make instruments available for Fèisean and individuals learners. While these support roles are still the organisation's primary purpose, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Programme Plan for 2018-2021 identified four key areas of work:

- Support and Development of Fèisean
- Enhancement of Skills and Creative Talent
- Enhancement of Gaelic Arts and Culture in Creative Learning
- Audience Development and Engagement.

3.2 In taking these areas forward it has developed and expanded its operation so that its activities now include:

- Promoting activities at a national and international scale, allowing Fèis participants to develop their skills further.
- Supporting a network of Cèilidh Trails with training through an annual Fèis Alba event.
- Supporting the development of Gaelic in schools through its Fèisgoil initiative.

- Co-ordinating the delivery of the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative in some local authority areas.
- A Mòd Academy, preparing young people to take part in the Mòd.
- Delivering a programme of Gaelic drama, including Theatre in Education, an annual pantomime and an annual Gaelic Drama Summer School.
- A resource bank of materials for use by Fèisean and others.
- Collecting and archiving Gaelic songs and tunes.
- Delivering the annual Blas Festival.
- Delivering various grant programmes related to Gaelic language and traditional culture, such as Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig.
- Delivering Gaelic Awareness Training in support of Gaelic Language Plans.
- Delivering online services through Fèis TV, including online Fèisean, the streaming of events and bilingual online music tuition.

3.3 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's accounts for 2019/20 show an operating expenditure over the year of £1,380,103, including expenditure from various restricted funds. We have analysed expenditure closely to allocate it in more detail to similar categories to those used in Section 2 above. Expenditure is divided between core costs and the main specific initiatives delivered directly by Fèisean nan Gàidheal. treated differently in the accounts.

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3.4 On that basis, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's direct expenditure in 2019/20, as shown below, totalled £1,033,873, with an additional £264,964 which is shown as received in the accounts of individual Fèisean and £112,000 detailed in the accounts as Management Charges, giving a total figure of £1,410,837. This figure differs from the published accounts because of factors such as the differing accounting timescales for the receipt of grant support by individual Fèisean. The total also excludes various elements of the accounts such as depreciation and accruals which move expenditure between years but does include spending on items of equipment which for accounting reasons have been deemed capital expenditure.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION - EXPENDITURE	Core costs	Fèisgoil	Blas	5 Latha	Fuaran	Cèilidh Trails	Total
Salaries	£296,135	£17,240	£13,170				£326,545
Employers NI and pension contributions	£41,299						£41,299
Staff expenses	£16,165						£16,165
Administration (e.g. stationery, postage)	£27,800						£27,800
Website, digitisation, Fèis TV	£26,434						£26,434
Training	£5,107						£5,107
Tutors Fees	£18,730	£233,639		£4,570	£16,930	£8,463	£282,332
Tutors Travel		£4,617			£231		£4,848
Tutors Accommodation/ Subsistence		£19,324	£14,031		£1,198		£34,552
Volunteers Travel							£0
Volunteers Accommodation/ Subsistence							£0
Participants Travel	£2,014			£762	£11,210	£1,550	£15,536
Participants Accommodation/ Subsistence	£12,692			£2,701		£9,362	£24,755
Artist Fees	£766		£41,207				£41,973
Equipment	£24,701		£13,327				£38,028
Advertising and Marketing			£14,442				£14,442
Venue/hall hire and costs		£4,766	£1,817		£1,755	£300	£8,638
Property costs	£25,494						£25,494
Insurance	£7,501		£736				£8,237
Merchandising (e.g. t shirts)							£0
Instruments (purchase/ repair/other costs)	£3,190	£9,047					£12,237
Subscriptions/Grants to other bodies	£27,421						£27,421
Accountancy/financial management/legal	£10,062		£1,100				£11,162
Committee/AGM	£17,587						£17,587
Gifts							£0
Miscellaneous/Other	£11,510	£1,818	£4,808	£1,606	£425	£3,116	£23,282
Direct expenditure	£574,607	£290,450	£104,638	£9,639	£31,748	£22,791	£1,033,873
Grants to Fèisean							£264,964
Management charges							£112,000
<b>Total</b>							<b>£1,410,837</b>

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- 3.5 Core staff costs (including contracted staff) for the year were £296,135, with a further £41,299 of social security and pension costs. 10 FTE (full time equivalent) staff were employed in the year, with 4 based in Portree and 6 in Inverness. Adding in other contracted staff related to Fèisgoil and Blas brings the total to £326,745.
- 3.6 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's other core costs in 2019/20 relate largely to support costs such as property related and administrative costs, including the insurance which it provides for all Fèisean. Other costs directly related to supporting Fèisean include the instrument bank and the costs of the disclosure check scheme. There are also various governance costs including accountancy and the expenses and accommodation/venue costs related to the Annual General Meeting and Board meetings. The AGM is a residential weekend event which also includes an evening performance.
- 3.7 In 2019/20 Fèisean nan Gàidheal invested in equipment to develop its online provision through Fèis TV and Oide, its online tuition service. This was particularly timely as it allowed for the development of expertise which would prove very beneficial during the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns which prevented face to face work. This expenditure on equipment was the only major expense which involved spending outside Scotland.
- 3.8 In addition to the grants to participating Fèisean which are included in the table at 2.19 above, Fèisean nan Gàidheal spent £22,790 in supporting the Cèilidh Trails. This included Fèis Alba, a residential event which provides a training opportunity for participants in the various Cèilidh Trails organised by Fèisean around Scotland. In 2019 Fèis Alba cost £12,888, made up of:
- Accommodation (Highland Council) £5,360
  - Accreditation (UHI) £2,900
  - Tutors (20) £4,628
- 3.9 With support from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Youth Talent Development Fund it was also possible to run a residential masterclass weekend open to young pipers, fiddlers, Gaelic-singers and dancers aged 15-25. More information on the Cèilidh Trails and the masterclass is given in the next section.
- 3.10 5 Latha is a residential event which gives Gaelic speaking high-school pupils the opportunity to experience life in a Gaelic speaking community in Lewis. There is no requirement for participants to have a musical ability, but music and song lessons are offered; with tutors providing sessions to complement activities such as baking, crofting and weaving. It took place in April 2019 with 15 participants and around 100 people attending the community cèilidh which rounds off the 5 days.

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- 3.11 Fuaran is a heritage initiative established by Fèisean nan Gàidheal to encourage a new generation of Gaelic speakers and singers to actively engage in the research and collection of Gaelic songs in their local area. Originally funded by the Heritage Lottery it began in 2015. Young people participating are offered training and song workshops, led by leading Gaelic song and research experts. They can go on to conduct more in-depth research, including interviews with people in their communities, as well as exploring online archives and physical collections to find songs which they can go on to record. The recordings, with accompanying research notes, are collected in an online archive available online.
- 3.12 In 2019/20 funding was achieved to allow Fuaran participants to visit the Celtic Colours festival in Cape Breton where they could perform, lead workshops and present their work. They also joined forces with a similar Gaelic mentorship youth group from Cape Breton, Na Gaisgich Òga (The Young Heroes), for two collaborative concerts. The costs of this trip are included above, including £6,072 for international flights and £3,028 for domestic flights. Accommodation, food and travel costs whilst in Cape Breton was paid by Celtic Colours and so are not included.
- 3.13 This brought total expenditure on Fuaran in 2019/20 to £31,748.
- 3.14 Fèisgoil is a major educational initiative delivering Gaelic language, music and drama to schools and communities across Scotland. Expenditure in 2019/20 was £290,450, and more information is given in section 5 of this report.
- 3.15 The Blas Festival in 2019/20 involved expenditure of £104,638 and is dealt with in more detail in Section 6 of this report.
- 3.16 Overall, expenditure on tutors and artists in 2019/20 totalled £324,304, largely attributable to Fèisgoil and Blas and detailed in later sections. At the Musician's Union rate of £35 per hour this would represent 9,266 hours of work. This is in addition to the £537,280 spent by individual Fèisean on tutors and artists.

## 4. CÈILIDH TRAILS

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- 4.1 Fèis Rois established its successful Cèilidh Trail programme in Ross-shire in 2000 to help teenage musicians develop their performance skills and to create a vibrant traditional music entertainment programme in the Highlands. It provided a paid summer job for around 8 young musicians who carried out a tour of venues across the local area. Fèis Rois has gone on to develop a national trail which performs in locations across Scotland, not covered by the smaller community Cèilidh Trails, and often involves an element of international work.
- 4.2 The Fèis Rois Cèilidh Trail has inspired other Fèisean to replicate the project in other areas, and local Cèilidh Trails are now an established feature complementing the work of local Fèisean and providing a pathway for those wishing to further develop their interest in music.
- 4.3 In 2019, in addition to Fèis Rois, there were 6 Fèis Cèilidh Trails supported by Fèisean nan Gàidheal:
- Fèis an Earraich, Ceilear, touring in Skye and Lochalsh
  - Fèis Fhoirt, touring in Stirling and the Trossachs
  - Fèis Inbhir Narainn, the Caledonian Cèilidh Trail touring in Inverness and Nairn
  - Fèis Lochabair, touring in Lochaber
  - Fèis Latharna, touring in Argyll
  - Fèis Phàislig, touring in Renfrewshire
- 4.4 Training is an integral part of the Cèilidh Trails, with participants improving their instrumental and groupwork skills as well as learning about the elements of touring, such as PA equipment, dance calling, marketing and pricing. Each Trail organises training locally, but this is supplemented by Fèis Alba, a core residential training week organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal which Trail participants attend. Cèilidh Trail participants have the opportunity to gain National Progression Awards in Performance and Sound Production during their time at Fèis Alba, delivered through UHI. In 2019, 18 of the 29 attendees achieved the Live Performance qualification and 21 the Sound Production qualification.
- 4.5 In 2019, the 6 local trails involved 28 young people. For each Trail a co-ordinator is employed to organise the tour and support the musicians during it. Gaelic is used extensively in all the Trails, with the participants usually including a mix of fluent speakers and learners. Non fluent participants receive tuition in Gaelic to help them integrate the language into sets. Advertising is generally bilingual and sets usually include Gaelic song, with introductions carried out bilingually.
- 4.6 Venues vary from residential homes to pubs and hotels, and the Trails can also include playing at public events such as Highland Games and at public venues such as shopping centres. Concert fees are charged where possible but otherwise donations are sought and additional funds raised through raffles and other fundraising where appropriate. Overall, in 2019 the Trails delivered 94 performances and more than 6,000 people were part of the audience, whether at a concert or cèilidh or as part of their day out at a Highland event.

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4.7 Cèilidh Trail participants can also benefit from other opportunities to perform and learn. For example, in 2019 the 6 young people engaged by Fèis an Earraich also performed at:

- the Beò festival at Armadale Castle
- Skye Live in Portree
- the Blas festival at venues in both Skye and Lochalsh
- a German cruise ship visiting Portree Bay
- the 33rd Internationale Festwoche Wewesburg in Germany

4.8 As well as the formal Cèilidh Trails, some Fèisean organise tours by participants in their Fèis and ongoing classes, and they can also attend Fèis Alba. For example, in 2019 Fèis Chataibh supported a tour by a group of 5 young people, going to venues in Sutherland and Caithness; and Fèis Spè organised a mini-tour delivered by its cèilidh band, Monadh Ruadh, performing at various local venues in July and August.

4.9 Taking part in a Cèilidh Trail is an important developmental step for many young people interested in following a career in music, whether full time or playing in a band alongside another job. The Cèilidh Trails offer summer employment for young people and create opportunities for local people and visitors to enjoy high quality performances of traditional music. More importantly they are a first experience of professional performance and have been a route to a career in professional or semi-professional music for many of their participants.

## 5. FÈISGOIL

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5.1 Fèisgoil is the arm of Fèisean nan Gàidheal which delivers language, music, drama and other arts and cultural services to schools, local authorities, public bodies and community groups across Scotland. Fèisgoil delivers many of its projects in schools where the curriculum is delivered through Gaelic but also works in schools where Gaelic is delivered as a second or a third language. The services offered include:

- Blasad Gàidhlig, progressive Gaelic language and culture sessions for children and their teachers in nursery and primary schools where Gaelic is being taught as an additional language.
- Music classes through the Youth Music Initiative (YMI)
- Gaelic taster days
- Hùb Hàb: Musical Theatre in Education for early years where children are learning through Gaelic or learning Gaelic as an additional language, offering live or filmed performance and follow up workshops as well as accompanying resources.
- Meanbh-chuileag, Theatre in Education for children in upper primary and lower secondary learning through Gaelic, offering live or filmed drama performance and follow up workshops as well as accompanying resources.
- Sporan: Theatre-in-Education for children in upper primary and lower secondary learning Gaelic as a second or third language, offering live or filmed drama performance and follow up workshops.
- An annual pantomime in Gaelic, specially written and offered as a live or filmed performance.
- An annual Gaelic drama summer school usually residential and running for two weeks in the school holidays.
- Acadamaidh a' Mhòid/Mòd Academy, providing preparatory lessons for local mòds and in advance of the National Mòd
- Gaelic Awareness Training for public bodies and other organisations to support with the delivery of Gaelic Language Plans.
- Gaelic adult language and culture learning.
- Bearteas, an intergenerational programme to match community-based fluent Gaelic speakers with schools and community groups.
- Caraidean Còmhraidh, small friendship groups paired with a young Gaelic-speaking adult.
- Café Bheairteis, a weekly online informal gathering for young people aged 12-26 with a guest speaker each session (this has recently moved out of the Fèisgoil portfolio and into the Fèisean portfolio).
- Meanbh-fhèis: Gaelic arts taster days in secondary schools.
- Delivery of bespoke creative art projects in schools.

5.2 Fèisgoil activities in 2019/20 cost a total of £290,450, most of which was spent on paying tutors and performers for the various aspects of Fèisgoil's work. This excludes the central costs of operating Fèisgoil, including the associated staff, which are included in the core costs of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

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5.3 Traditional Music tuition in Highland Council primary schools is provided through an agreement with High Life Highland under the Youth Music Initiative. In 2019, 38 tutors delivered 1,310 sessions for 4,063 pupils in 168 primary schools. Each child in P5 can access 10-12 sessions in the year. This gives them an introduction to playing an instrument, some basic music skills and confidence to go on to further tuition if desired, which may be through the school, through the Fèis or through ongoing classes. The sessions are organised in partnership with local Fèisean, with a representative of the Fèis receiving a payment to provide local liaison and administration. As this is a payment to a named individual it is not included in the figures shown for Fèisean expenditure and income in Section 4 above. The Fèisean involved are:

- Fèis an Earraich
- Fèis Chataibh
- Fèis Inbhir Narainn
- Fèis Loch Abar
- Fèis Rois
- Fèis Spè

5.4 Fèisgoil worked with An Comunn Gàidhealach to deliver a Mòd Academy, providing preparatory lessons for local mòds and in advance of the National Mòd in Glasgow. 12 tutors worked with 532 children in 15 schools, delivering 560 sessions. Fèisgoil has worked with other local authorities, such as The Highland Council, to provide a Mòd Academy in years where the Mòd has been in its area.

5.5 A mini-Fèis was held for all S1 pupils in Portree High School at the end of June 2019. 6 tutors provided 18 sessions for the children, with 77 taking part. A similar event was organised in Kilmarnock Academy with 3 tutors providing a choice of 12 sessions for around 40 children.

5.6 In language provision Fèisgoil worked with the local authorities in Falkirk, Glasgow and Edinburgh to deliver its Blasad Gàidhlig initiative. Blasad Gàidhlig (a Taste of Gaelic) provides Gaelic language and culture sessions for children and their teachers in nursery and primary schools where Gaelic is being taught as an additional language. The sessions are delivered primarily through active learning, games and song. 15 tutors were involved in 2019, delivering sessions to 2,655 children across the school year.

5.7 Beairteas, an intergenerational programme to match community-based fluent Gaelic speakers with schools and community groups, was piloted in 2019 and delivered in Inverness and Skye. 5 tutors took part in these sessions, reaching 383 pupils in the year.

5.8 Gaelic Awareness training for employers is also provided through Fèisgoil. In 2019 half-day sessions were delivered to staff at organisations such as the National Libraries of Scotland, SQA, CMAL and Eden Court Theatre. In the sessions 2 Gaelic tutors delivered 17 hours of tuition to 40 staff.

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5.9 Gaelic language drama is an important part of the Fèisgoil offering, both in providing opportunities for young people to develop their skills and in delivering drama product for Gaelic speakers. The Early Years theatre-in-education service Hùb Hùb provides sessions for playgroups, nurseries and schools with 2,074 children involved. Meanbh-chuileag theatre-in-education produces and tours an annual theatre-in-education play for Gaelic medium schools. Through its Sporan initiative, Fèisgoil offers drama workshops for primary school pupils learning Gaelic as an additional language (as L2 or L3 in the 1+2 approach to language learning), creating the opportunity to learn some Gaelic words and phrases. In addition, an annual Gaelic language pantomime aimed at Gaelic speaking primary children is produced for touring throughout the country. Through these initiatives Fèisgoil reached audiences of 4,149 children throughout Scotland, although this would include some children attending more than one performance. These drama initiatives also provided employment for 10 actors/tutors in 2019.

5.10 Fèisgoil's annual Gaelic Drama Summer School took place in Portree from 8 to 20 July with 18 participants. Costs included £7,550 for creative support and tutoring and £7,440 paid to Highland Council for the accommodation and venue.

5.11 Fèisgoil provides training for tutors involved in its programmes. Venues in Inverness and Glasgow are used. In 2019, 13 tutors delivered 21 training workshops to 68 tutors.

## 6. BLAS

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- 6.1 The Blas Festival began in 2004 and has grown to become the Highlands' premier Gaelic and traditional music festival. It was established by The Highland Council after a visit to Cape Breton's Celtic Colours festival and is delivered through a Service Level Agreement between the Council and Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Fèisean nan Gàidheal established a wholly owned company, Blas Festival Ltd, in 2006.
- 6.2 The agreement for delivery of the Blas Festival sets out 5 aims for the festival:
- Celebrate and strengthen traditional Highland music and promote Gaelic.
  - Involve communities as proactive participants and grow new audiences.
  - Involve young people from the Highlands.
  - Build an international event and have visiting artists, but not exclusively, from Nova Scotia.
  - Present an innovative and engaging programme.
- 6.3 One of the intentions for the festival was for it to be delivered in September, so providing an added attraction in the shoulder months and extending the tourist season. However, in recent years funding issues and, more recently, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have influenced the planning of the festival and delayed it to November. This timing has been continued into the 2021 festival.
- 6.4 The festival promotes events around the Highlands, from small venues such as village halls to Eden Court and the Ironworks in Inverness and An Lanntair in Stornoway, working with voluntary and professional promoters. As well as evening concerts and cèilidhs there are afternoon performances, and performers visit schools and other community venues for performances and workshops.
- 6.5 Although Highland Council has been a major funder of Blas since its inception, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has successfully supplemented the Council contribution from other sources. Other important funders have included Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and the adjacent local authorities, Argyll & Bute Council and, more recently, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
- 6.6 An extensive schools and community programme is an important element of the overall programme, and until 2015 this was delivered in partnership with the Council and, following its formation in 2011 as the charitable company delivering services on behalf of the Council, with High Life Highland. Funding issues led High Life Highland to withdraw its input, and this has had an impact on the level of the schools and community programme. In 2018, funding was sourced as part of the Year of Young People, and this allowed young people to become involved in every aspect of that year's festival.

6.7 For these reasons each of the recent festivals has had a different profile in terms of the timing and scale of the event. In addition, the pandemic has had a major effect. Although Fèisean nan Gàidheal had invested in its online presence and had begun to stream events online and to make some events available after the event, this had to be accelerated in 2020 when Blas was delivered entirely online, with content either pre-recorded or streamed live.

6.8 Since 2017 the pattern of Blas is shown in the table below:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dates	2-10 September	7-15 September	22-30 November	20-30 November
Concerts	38	37	29	23
Income	£187,826	£290,775	£122,542	£123,850
Expenditure	£185,945	£290,746	£119,638	£116,260
Highland Council	£69,869	£65,885	£62,869	£62,869
Box office	£30,272	£26,494	£11,763	£5,681

6.9 Looking at the festival expenditure in more detail across these years gives the following picture. Note that these figures are taken from ledger accounts and so may differ from published accounts. They also exclude items such as depreciation and Fèisean nan Gàidheal's management fee.

Expenditure	2017	2018	2019	2020
Commissions		£4,500		£3,950
Artistes fees	£63,732	£71,195	£41,307	£34,191
Catering		£536		
Artistes travel	£5,632	£13,281	£3,666	£2,187
Artistes Accommodation	£10,478	£20,599	£4,800	£1,817
Artistes Meals	£1,693	£13,796	£4,023	£154
Fear	£550	£1,024		
International Flights	£1,767	£1,328		
International Travel Internal	£251	£3,950	£1,767	
Work permits		£42		
Website		£25		£256
Printing	£7,811	£9,056	£1,369	
Press Advertising	£12,950	£13,412	£8,755	£3,531
Photography and filming		£1,912		£20,075
PA & Lighting	£16,270	£60,503	£13,327	£11,053
Launch		£350		
Venue hire	£1,413	£1,984	£1,817	£1,990
Promoter Commission	£7,380	£3,379	£4,275	
Equipment purchase/hire	£21,976	£2,316	£4,808	£2,187
Festival Director	£15,050	£15,260	£12,000	£13,500
Contractor fees	£1,800	£17,510	£1,452	£1,780
Postage & Stationery		£1,009		£138
Legal & Accounting	£1,060	£1,070	£1,070	£1,100
Insurance	£810	£1,590	£736	£240
Sundries/Contingency	£320	£14,376	£56	£3,113
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£170,944</b>	<b>£275,582</b>	<b>£105,226</b>	<b>£98,147</b>

6.10 As can be seen, the main items of expenditure relate to the performers, both in terms of fees and in their travel and support. As an international festival with regular performers from Cape Breton and Ireland travel costs often include international flights and internal connections. A Festival Director is appointed each year and, for 2018 with its Year of Young People focus, a separate Oran Mòr Co-ordinator was engaged for a signature event at the Northern Meeting Park in Inverness which brought together young people from schools and Fèisean from around the Highlands with leading traditional music bands. Contractors also include publicity and marketing help.

6.11 Blas looks to commission new work each year, though this is not always shown separately in records. In 2017 the commission was a celebration of the late Rev William Matheson’s life and the contribution he made to the Gaelic language and culture. In 2018 a suite of Gaelic songs was set to new music, and in 2019 a concert, Gaol no Gonadh (Love or Loss), was created, bringing together some of the most beautiful Gaelic love songs. The 2020 commission features music and song related to the coasts and waters of Scotland and involved working with 30 young people from Fèisean around Scotland to create the opening concert. In addition, four composers produced new Gaelic songs to be performed at the closing concert.

6.12 Statistics collected by Fèisean nan Gàidheal show the following across the 4 years of festivals:

Statistics	BLAS Festival			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Staff	12	14	12	12
Volunteers	380	422	210	2
Contractors	14	70	35	15
Performers	421	917	347	125
Audience/Tickets and passes sold	11,134	8,085	4,186	3,867
Online Audience	865	865	737	55,553
Tutors				11

6.13 These figures include Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff involvement in Blas. The number of performers includes young people’s involvement through showcase events as well as paid artistes.

6.14 Fèisean nan Gàidheal carries out an audience survey at each event, originally with a paper questionnaire and more lately through an online survey available after the event. This allows audience satisfaction figures to be collected:

Audience satisfaction	2017	2018	2019	2020
Value for money	96%	93%	98%	91%
Enjoyment	94%	95%	98%	90%
Use of Gaelic	86%	88%	92%	86%
<b>Overall satisfaction</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>89%</b>

6.15 The survey also collects geographic data on the home location of respondees. This has been categorised in different ways over the years but gives the following picture:

Location	2017	2018	2019	2020
Local	56.2%	53.2%	85%	
Highlands	13.7%	36.7%		28%
Western Isles				12%
Scotland elsewhere	15.1%	5.2%	8%	36%
UK elsewhere	9.6%	2.7%	5%	12%
Overseas	5.5%	2.2%	2%	12%
Sample size	73	139	69	149

6.16 The sample size in these surveys is relatively small compared to total audience size but they do present a consistent pattern over the years when audiences could attend in person. As might be expected, the bulk of the audience is seen to come from the shortest distance, the local area or the Highlands more widely. Around 15% of the audience is travelling further to the event or attending it while on holiday in the festival area. Most of these are from elsewhere in Scotland but a reasonable number come from further afield, from other parts of the UK or from overseas.

6.17 As a comparison, Highland had a total of 12,486,000 visitors in 2019. Of those 9,579,000 (76.7%) were day visits (more likely to be local people), 1,541,000 (12.3%) were overnight stays by people normally living in Scotland, 906,000 (7.2%) were from elsewhere in the UK and 459,000 (3.7%) were from overseas. These figures suggest that the geographical breakdown from the audience survey may provide a reasonable picture

6.18 In 2020, when the festival was presented online, the geographical audience figures are somewhat different, with only 30% in the Highlands and Islands. With events online, distance became no obstacle and Blas attracted a higher proportion of its audience from further afield, with almost 25% coming from outside Scotland. Overseas audience members watched events from the USA, Canada, Ireland, Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Finland and The Netherlands.

## 7. TUTORS AND PERFORMERS

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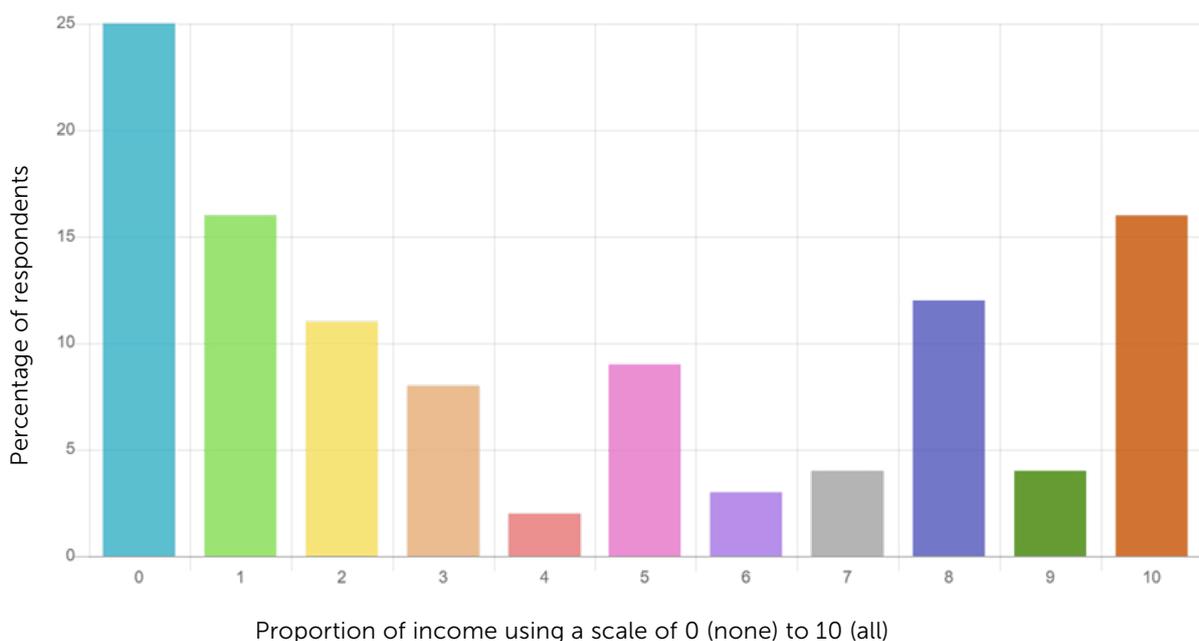
- 7.1 Tutors and performers play a key role in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's work, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal aim to play a key role in the development of tutors and performers and in creating income earning opportunities for them. As part of this impact study we carried out an online survey, with a link sent to all 815 tutors in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's database with an active email address. There were 117 responses, a return rate of 14.4% which is relatively low but, taking into account that the database includes contact details collected over an extended timeframe, is considered acceptable.
- 7.2 We asked about respondents' location. Of the 117 replies, 46 (39%) said they lived in Highland, 22 (19%) in Glasgow and 14 (12%) in the Western Isles. Of the others, there was a wide spread across Scotland, with 21 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas being mentioned. In addition, one respondent was based in England and one abroad, in Norway. Of the 46 living in Highland, only 5 were based in Inverness with the remainder covering most areas of Highland, including Badenoch, Caithness, Lochaber, Ross-shire, Skye and Sutherland.
- 7.3 We asked whether respondents had attended a Fèis as a participant. 41% said they had, with a further 14% saying they had attended more than one. Looking at other Fèisean organised activities, 25% said they had attended follow-on classes and 18% said they had taken part in a Cèilidh Trail. 17% had taken part in Masterclasses and 12% had participated in 5 Latha. 4% had taken part in the Drama Summer School. 61% had gone on to attend tutor training organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and 22% Fèisgoil training.
- 7.4 Asked to rate on a scale of 1-5 (where 1 is *Not at all* and 5 is *To a great degree*) how involvement with the Fèisean as a participant, tutor or performer has influenced their musical/ artistic development, 74% gave a score of 4 or 5. Similarly asked to rate how involvement with the Fèisean has helped them gain skills which have been of use in their chosen career, 68% gave a score of 4 or 5. Less pronounced was the rating for how involvement has influenced where the respondent now lives, with only 16% scoring 4 or 5 and 41% saying not at all.
- 7.5 In terms of their Gaelic language skills, 34% described themselves as fluent, another 34% as a learner, 19% as a beginner and 13% as a non-speaker. However, 84% said that their involvement with Fèisean activities has encouraged them to use Gaelic more often, 85% that involvement has enhanced their Gaelic skills, and 87% that it has made them believe more strongly that Gaelic is important to Scotland.
- 7.6 Almost all respondents, 98%, agreed that their involvement with Fèisean has made them believe more strongly that the traditional arts are important to Scotland. 90% also believed that the Fèisean had improved their well-being, with comments including:
- "I feel that I am doing something good for the area and the young people who live here".*
- "Music has brought me joy since the age of 10 when I was handed a fiddle".*
- "Traditional music has a major positive impact on my mental health as well as the enjoyment of being in the company of like-minded individuals".*

- 7.7 One respondent did suggest that there is too much emphasis on traditional music rather than the language, drama or music that might push the boundaries.
- 7.8 52% said that their involvement had influenced their career path.
- 7.9 66% act as tutors for Fèisean related activity, mostly at Fèisean but also for ongoing classes (53%) for Cèilidh Trails and for Fèisgoil. Those who do teach mostly teach instrumental (65%), with 10% teaching singing and 7% drama. Others teach dance, art, shinty and Studio Tech. Asked to name the Fèisean they had worked for in 2019 most listed 1 or 2, but several had taught at 3 and one at 6.

7.10 In addition, respondents had also carried out work relating to Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s wider programme, with 35 being engaged for Blas, 25 for YMI, 15 for Fèisgoil, 11 for Fèis Alba, 6 for 5 Latha and 3 for the Drama Summer School.

7.11 Asked how many days work they would undertake for Fèisean nan Gàidheal activities, including individual Fèisean, in a normal (non-Covid) year, those respondents able to give an estimate gave answers ranging from 5 to 120, with an average of 23.

7.12 Respondents were asked to estimate the proportion of their total income coming through all their tutoring or performing work, using a scale of 0 (none) to 10 (all). The results in the chart below show that 37% answered 6 or more, suggesting that more than half of their income came from this source.



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- 7.13 We also asked what proportion of their total income comes through tutoring or performing work for Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal? 11% scored this at 6 or above.
- 7.14 Asked whether the rates of pay from Fèisean nan Gàidheal are fair, 84% rated them 6 or above on the same 10 point scale, with 26% rating them 10 or extremely good.
- 7.15 Respondents were invited to provide other comments on how their development and current employment has been influenced by the activities of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Fèisean. Almost all responses were very positive, with some given below.

*Fèisean nan Gàidheal's support and training is very helpful especially in giving young people confidence and the opportunity to work just as they are just starting work.*

*Thankful to the opportunities Fèisean nan Gàidheal has provided over the years.*

*Going to a Fèis when I was young made me go and learn Gaelic, the best thing I've ever done in my life, and I don't think I would have done that if it wasn't for that Fèis.*

*The Fèis highly influenced my decision to study music at university and tutoring at local Fèis allowed me to develop and enhance my teaching skills and love for it! This then led me to complete my PGDE in primary Ed. I would wholeheartedly say that being part of the Fèis has very much influenced my life choices - I do often wonder where my life would have gone if my parents hadn't put me to it that fateful year! Great memories and life-long friends made during Fèis days.*

*Maybe I don't play music or speak Gaelic if I didn't go to the festival when I was young.*

*I can trace a clear path to the BA Course in Traditional Music established in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama RSAMD in 1996 - on which I also taught - now continuing in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS).*

*I am so grateful to the Fèis movement for all the music and experiences I had as a participant and thereafter as a tutor for all it's done for my Gaelic and Music and friendships and communities. It's a wonderful organisation.*

*I'm slowly realizing how many opportunities to use Gaelic and music in Scotland are today - that's so important and I feel optimistic about our culture, our music and our language.*

*The opportunity to teach dance in a different environment without expectations for things like exams and competitions allowed me to realise my passion for teaching artistry. I was able lead classes in an experimental manner and explore different ways of teaching and working with the participants to empower them to create dances and choreography themselves. I've been able to break free from the standardised dance teacher constraints and really begin to move forward in my practice as a dance artist and teaching artist.*

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*Working with the Fèisean has been very important for me - meeting other artists, especially experienced artists who have helped me a lot, seeing what was possible, seeing that one could make a living from the work - as well as the National Gaelic Youth Theatre, Fèisean nan Gàidheal was transformative. I have since worked internationally, as a musician, but mainly in theatre and film, as well as in fundraising and project development. So yes, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has quite a major impact.*

*I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now without the Fèisean, and as a professional musician, the work opportunities provided by the Fèisean is vital in terms of both income and professional development.*

*Being given the opportunity to learn the fiddle at the fèis as a young boy has given my life direction.*

*I am so grateful to the Fèis. I would not be doing what I do now as a Highland based folk musician, composer and educator if it wasn't for those special years as a teenager at the Fèis. I met my lifelong friends at the Fèis. I learned my first words of Gaelic.*

*I think the less formal teaching allowed me grow at my own pace in a far more creative way than I would have in formal education.*

## 8. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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- 8.1 The employment and income impacts by category of expenditure by FnG and the Fèisean (excluding Fèis Rois) in Table 8.1 below relate to the 2019 activity information given in Sections 2-7 above. Tasgadh impacts are shown in Section 10 below.
- 8.2 In some cases, earnings per full time equivalent job year (FTE) are estimated from the rates of pay that particular work would be expected to pay; in others (e.g. FnG's direct employment) actual earnings are known. Indirect impacts relate to purchases other than of staff, musicians, tutors, etc time that generate employment impacts (including supply chains); and induced impacts relate to expenditures from additional direct and indirect earnings.
- 8.3 The impacts in Scotland as a whole include those from Fèisean and other activity supported by FnG funding in parts of Scotland other than the Highlands and Islands, as well as the indirect and induced impacts elsewhere in Scotland from activities taking place within the Highlands and Islands (e.g. tutors resident elsewhere in Scotland teaching at Fèisean in the Highlands and Islands). Impacts are broadly by residence of the individuals benefitting from the employment.
- 8.4 The estimated employment impacts below are given to the nearest 0.5 of an FTE, and earnings generally to the nearest £1,000.
- 8.5 Not all impacts are 100% attributable to FnG's expenditures and support as other public funding, e.g. from Local Authorities, was also provided towards the activities.
- 8.6 Impacts that derive from Fèis Rois activities are added to those given in Table 8.1 in Section 13 of this report.
- 8.7 The impact analysis is comparable to that used in the reports on FnG that we produced for HIE in 2010 and 2012, which enables comparisons in impacts (see Section 13 below, with Fèis Rois impacts included).

**TABLE 8.1**  
**IMPACTS FROM FNG'S OPERATIONS & SUPPORTED**  
**ACTIVITIES IN 2019**

	HIE Area FTEs	Scotland FTEs	HIE Area Earnings (£)	Scotland Earnings (£)
(1) FnG Staff	11	11	327,000	327,000
(2) Fèisean Staffing	2	3	27,000	45,000
(3) Fèisean and Other Tutors	11	19.5	272,000	492,000
(4) Other Fèisean-related employed people	1	2	24,000	55,000
(5) Cèilidh Trails Additional Pay	1	2	20,000	40,000
(6) Fèisgoil Additional Pay	9	9.5	220,000	234,000
(7) Blas Additional Pay	2	2	41,000	41,000
(8) Employment Generated by Other Expenditures	8.5	15	230,000	410,000
(9) Induced Employment from (1) to (8)	9	19	225,000	475,000
(10) Tourism-related Employment Impacts	1.5	2	33,000	50,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1,419,000</b>	<b>2,169,000</b>

## NOTES ON THE IMPACTS

### (1) FnG Staff

This relates to the 6 FTE staff based in Inverness, 4 FTE staff in Portree, and contracted staff related to Fèisgoil and Blas as given at 3.5 above.

### (2) Fèisean Staffing

These staff incomes, across a number of people, relate to the Fèisean expenditures shown at 2.6, with adjustment for some employer's NI and pension payments. The FTEs are assumed to pay an average of c£15,000 per annum.

### (3) Fèisean Tutors

Allowing for teaching rates to be up to £35 per hour, some tutors being assistants, and unpaid time spent at Fèisean and travelling to and from their tuition locations, it is assumed that tutors earn the equivalent of £25,000 per year.

### (4) Other Fèisean-related Employed People

These are mainly musicians and other artists, who are assumed to earn an average of c£25,000 per annum pro-rata.

### (5) Cèilidh Trails Additional Pay

FnG paid tutors £8,500 in addition to their payment towards Fèisean tutors. It is assumed that funding from a variety of sources enabled the Cèilidh Trails (excluding Fèis Rois) to provide 2 FTE jobs (mainly for young people) at an average annualised pay rate of £20,000 per FTE.

### (6) Fèisgoil Additional Pay

£234,000 of funding from FnG will have supported the employment of c7.5 FTE tutors, mainly in the Highlands and Islands.

### (7) Blas Additional Pay

Artistes received pay from FnG totalling £41,000, which is assumed to support 2 FTEs in both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.

### (8) Employment Generated by Other Expenditures

The categories of spend by the Fèisean groups shown in the table at 2.6, excluding those relating to people paid directly who are covered in (2) above, that will have generated employment impact sum to the following approximate totals:

Spend in the Highlands and Islands  
£150,000

Spend in Scotland  
£250,00

The categories of spend by FnG shown in the table at 3.4, excluding those staff paid directly who are covered in the (1) above and in (5), (6) and (7) above, that will have generated employment impact sum to the following approximate totals:

Spend in the Highlands and Islands  
£200,000

Spend in Scotland  
£300,000

Other spend across categories (5) to (7) above that will have generated earnings for people other than staff, tutors and performers, plus spend by FnG on 5 Latha and Fuaran, is estimated to total the following:

Spend in the Highlands and Islands  
£150,000

Spend in Scotland  
£200,000

The figures in Table 8.1 above relate to the following attributable spend totals and assume (from Input-Output tables) that direct plus indirect impacts will support 1 FTE per £50,000 spend in Scotland and an estimated 1 FTE per c£60,000 spend in the Highlands and Islands, with average earnings of £27,500 per FTE.

Spend in the Highlands and Islands  
£500,000

Employment Generated  
8.5 FTEs

Related Earnings  
£230,000

Spend in Scotland  
£750,000

Employment Generated  
15 FTEs

Related Earnings  
£410,000

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### **(9) Induced Employment from Categories (1) to (8)**

Induced impacts, from Type 2 Input-Output multipliers for Scotland, and estimated multipliers for the Highlands and Islands, based on the types of direct and indirect jobs generated are assumed to add 0.3 FTE to each direct plus indirect FTE in Scotland, and 0.2 FTE in the Highlands and Islands. Taking account of the types of induced jobs that will have been generated, the average induced FTE is assumed to earn £25,000.

### **(10) Tourism-related Employment Impacts**

These impacts are very approximate and relate mainly to overnight stays in local areas by audiences at Fèisean and at Cèilidh Trail and Blas events attributable to these attendances, as well as by participants at these events whose expenses are not covered in category (8) above. These expenditures are estimated to total £100,000 in Scotland and £80,000 in the Highlands and Islands, with 1 FTE (direct plus indirect plus induced) supported by £60,000 spend in the Highlands and Islands, and 1 FTE by £50,000 of spend in Scotland; and with the average FTE earning £25,000 per annum.

## 9. OTHER IMPACTS

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9.1 In addition to the economic impacts quantified in Section 8 above, we considered the cultural, social, linguistic, and wellbeing impacts of Fèisean activity. Whilst our research indicated that the Fèisean have a strong impact in each of these spheres, and although the number of participants in different activities can be quantified, it is difficult to measure such impacts quantitatively. The impacts are also interlinked. For example, wellbeing can be influenced by social, cultural and linguistic factors, just as an increase in wellbeing can generate social, cultural and/or linguistic impacts.

### LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

9.2 The Gaelic language and Scotland's traditional arts are deeply embedded in the Fèisean movement. The culture the children are involved with through the Fèisean is directly from the Gaelic tradition. Instruments typically taught are those most used in cèilidh bands – the chanter or pipes, fiddle, whistle, guitar, accordion, clàrsach and percussion – and the music played is from a traditional repertoire. The Gaelic language is used to some extent in all Fèisean, either at an introductory level or through partial or complete delivery in the Gaelic medium. Gustav Mahler is quoted as saying that *“Tradition is tending the flame, not worshipping the ashes”* and the work of the Fèisean and of Fèisean nan Gàidheal tend the flame by protecting, promoting and revitalising Scotland's linguistic and cultural traditions; introducing them to a new generation and nurturing their ongoing development.

9.3 The commitment to Gaelic development is recognised in Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Gaelic policy, which states that Gaelic and its culture are at the heart of the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and its members. Each individual and group that works with Fèisean nan Gàidheal has to recognise and develop this work and adopt

the organisation's Gaelic policy; with every Fèis appointing a Gaelic Officer as part of their committee. At each Fèis the expectation is that:

- For tutors who are fluent in Gaelic: Gaelic will be used as far as possible to establish a Gaelic environment.
- For tutors with different levels of fluency: Gaelic will be used as much as possible. Efforts will be made to give tutors extra support to expand their language abilities.
- For tutors with no Gaelic: basic phrases will be learned for use in tuition to acknowledge the Gaelic environment of Fèisean. Efforts will be made to give tutors extra support to expand their language abilities.

9.4 From our discussions with Fèisean groups and examination of their annual reports and returns, we estimate that some 3,000 young people took part in a multi-day Fèis in 2019/20, with a further 2,000 taking part in workshop days and ongoing classes. Allowing for some duplication, this suggests that around 4-5,000 young people took part in Fèisean activities in the year. As pointed out to us by Fèis Bharraigh and others, it is not only the children who benefit from the activity, but the whole community; with Fèis participants playing at community events through the year.

9.5 In addition, Fèisgoil activities, through YMI and Blasad Gàidhlig, are reaching over 5,000 young people, while Fèisgoil's drama arm reaches over 4,000. Although there will be some duplication in participation, with Fèis attendees participating in YMI, the reach of YMI is extensive across the Highland Council area as all P5 pupils are involved. Similarly, in schools which offer Blasad Gàidhlig, all pupils are involved.

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- 9.6 Overall then, the activities of the Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal will reach some 15,000 young people each year, with another 8,000 making up audiences at Fèis and 4,000 at Blasad events.
- 9.7 For many of the young people, Fèis activities have a relatively light touch. YMI provides 10/12 sessions of instrumental tuition for P5 pupils, and Blasad Gàidhlig provides regular but limited sessions for primary school pupils – sometimes only 30 minutes per week. Talking to those involved, such initiatives, just as attendance at a Fèis, cannot in themselves make the young people proficient in an instrument, in drama or in the Gaelic language. They do however provide an introduction, instil confidence, and show them the enjoyment they can get from taking instruction further. Such progress can be constrained, however – for example, in Falkirk, where a number of primary schools deliver Blasad Gàidhlig, there is no Gaelic Medium at high school level, and Fèis Fhoirt, which serves Stirling and Falkirk, has not been active in Falkirk recently.
- 9.8 Teaching the Gaelic language is not a primary aim of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, although individual Fèisean do offer Gaelic language classes, and one, Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar in East Dunbartonshire, offers ongoing Gaelic tuition leading to SQA National certification at levels 3 or 4. Rather, Fèisean nan Gàidheal provides an environment where the use of Gaelic is normalised; providing an introduction to the language for non-speakers and a foundation for those wishing to take it further. The Fèisean provide activities in a setting which gives inspiration, motivation and opportunity to use the language. They promote a realisation that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's traditional culture, with hearing and speaking Gaelic incidental to the enjoyment of a Fèis.
- 9.9 Although relatively few Fèisean are delivered wholly in the Gaelic medium and not all tutors are fluent speakers of the language, Gaelic is an integral part of all Fèisean. Our survey showed that 34% of tutors described themselves as fluent, and 13% as non-speakers; although 84% said that working with Fèisean encouraged them to use Gaelic more often and 85% said their Gaelic language skills had improved as a result.
- 9.10 Some Fèisean have strong links with Gaelic Medium education, and for those the Fèis provides a setting where they can experience and enjoy the culture and use the language outside formal education. For many children in GME, Gaelic is not the language of the home, and joining together in a Fèis or to experience other activities such as a Gaelic pantomime or drama performance can help cement their school learning.
- 9.11 While some children attending a Fèis may be attending Gaelic Medium education, a large proportion are not. For those with no Gaelic, the Fèis offers an introduction to the language in a relaxed setting. All children at a Fèis usually learn a Gaelic song; tutors use Gaelic appropriately for the participants, introducing Gaelic words to non-Gaelic speakers as they teach; signs are in Gaelic or bilingual Gaelic/English; and games and rhymes for the young ones are in Gaelic. The same is true for those pupils taking part in Blasad Gàidhlig sessions.
- 9.12 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's activities develop a foundation of Gaelic words and phrases, with the traditional music and drama creating a motivation to learn more in a fun setting. Those taking the opportunity for ongoing classes will encounter more of the language, seeing it as a settled and normal part of their life.

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- 9.13 We spoke to Shona Masson, a Gaelic Education Officer for Ceòlas Uibhist and musician, who remembers, having not gone through Gaelic Medium Education, attending Fèis an Earraich one year and thinking how she would very much like to learn the language when she was older. She believes the Fèisean were one of the biggest things which helped, and which pushed her to progress towards learning the language. She then had lots of opportunities to be involved in many Fèisean nan Gàidheal projects and events using the language, going on to her subsequent career.
- 9.14 Similarly, Karen Elder, a journalist, broadcaster and singer from Barra, who presents the news on BBC Alba and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, attended Fèis Bharraigh and Fèis Tir a' Mhurain as a child along with winter evening piping classes in Barra. Karen told us she feels the Fèisean had a definite impact on her Gaelic as it was not the language of the home, and the Fèis settings were an important additional opportunity to use the language. She subsequently went on to complete a Diploma in Gaelic Media at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
- 9.15 Fèisean nan Gàidheal believe that around 50% of Fèisean have now increased their Gaelic medium work, particularly with early years groups; and this resonates with the discussions we held with individual Fèisean as part of this study. At Fèis Obar Dheathain, in Aberdeen, where around half of Fèis participants attend a Gaelic Medium unit, each day begins with half an hour of conversation using Gaelic. Some of the newer Fèisean are closely linked with a Gaelic Medium school or unit. This has advantages with Gaelic being the main language of the Fèis and the Fèis being a feature of school activities. Feedback we have received suggests that, whilst non-Gaelic speakers are welcome most participants are pupils of the Gaelic Medium school/unit. This could result in Gaelic being seen as more exclusive and risks isolating it from the wider community.
- 9.16 Even for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education, attendance at a Fèis can be important for their language and cultural development. Ramsay McMahon, a Gaelic television presenter and researcher, told us he attended Fèis Dhùn Èideann and Fèis Bharraigh from a young age, through his primary school days, and attended night classes and follow-on workshops. As a GME pupil, Ramsay already had the language, but using it in other settings outside of school increased its use and broadened his understanding; teaching him how wide-ranging the language could be and how it could be useful – and fun – in different situations. Although the Fèisean were not Gaelic medium only, attending increased his use of Gaelic, allowed him to meet Gaelic speakers of different ages and made him more musically and culturally aware. He says: *“These things cannot be underestimated and are a part of education as a whole. Often these things are not essentially taught in schools. I think it’s also important this is in an out-of-school context as things are then more relaxed.”*
- 9.17 Ruairidh Graham, a Gaelic officer for Historic Environment Scotland, attended several Fèisean, including Fèis an Earraich and Fèis Bharraigh. Ruairidh has said that participating in Fèisean has undoubtedly improved his Gaelic language skills. *“Fèis associated activities were some of the only activities that we had outside of school which offered us the opportunity to use our Gaelic. It helps you to appreciate the marriage between language and music, something which stays with me still.”* Ruairidh continues to play music in his band Niteworks and at cèilidhs and weddings when time allows.
- 9.18 Taking forward Scottish culture needs a healthy number of artists to maintain the tradition and pass it on to the next generation. Between Blas and the Cèilidh Trails and their contribution to

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the development of traditional musicians and making traditional music a viable career option, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's involvement in creating an environment where the Scottish cultural tradition can thrive is extensive. This is evidenced by the Tutor/Performer survey we carried out. 55% of those who completed the survey had attended a Fèis, or more than one Fèis, as a child; 73% scored the influence of the Fèisean on their musical/artistic development as 4 or 5; 66% scored 4 or 5 when asked if the Fèisean had helped them gain skills which have been of use to them in their chosen career; and only 35% said the Fèisean hadn't influenced their career path.

9.19 Involvement in international initiatives also helps spread and maintain that cultural tradition; not only within the Scottish diaspora and in places with strong traditions in Celtic culture, such as through the Festival Interceltique de Lorient or Celtic Colours in Cape Breton; but also more widely; as for example Fèis an Earraich's participation in the Internationale Jugendfestwoche Wewelsburg.

9.20 By integrating commissions into their work, Fèisean nan Gàidheal help to take traditional works into a new context and to create new works to add to the core traditional music and drama canon. For example, in 2019 Jo MacDonald delivered a commission to put together a Gaelic medium show featuring songs of love and loss – Gaol no Gonadh? – which was performed at four venues during Blas. Three new songs were composed by Angus Macleod for the Hùb Hùb tour. Meanbh-Chuileag toured a play on the climate crisis, written by Angus Macleod, with 48 performances in 75 schools involving 1,300 pupils. Through this type of work, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Fèisean contribute to the development of traditional culture.

9.21 We spoke to Iseabail MacTaggart, the joint lead of BBC Alba, as well as a singer, who is originally from Islay. Asked whether she believes the Fèisean have contributed to Gaelic ability in participants (with a lasting impact) she responded that: *"The answer to this is complex: it depends on the Fèis, and the community it's serving. Tir a' Mhurain will I am sure have a lasting linguistic impact, but in other Fèisean, such as Paisley & Islay, the language objective may be simply one of normalisation & increased engagement rather than language capacity itself. That too can have a profound impact: I can think of two individuals from non-Gaelic speaking families in Islay who did not participate in GME, but who attended various Fèis projects and went on to do Gaelic & music degrees, both of whom are now fluent Gaelic speakers. In a place like Islay, that has enormous impact."*

9.22 These are snapshots of individual experience, but they do fit with what we heard from local Fèisean groups. Young people go to the Fèis to have fun, to make friends and perhaps to learn something new. But at the Fèis they also meet the language and culture and take it on board in a relaxed setting; and for many this is something they have for life. The Fèisean are important in encouraging the use of the language by young people who may already be Gaelic speakers, encouraging others to learn the language, and generally strengthening Gaelic culture across the Highlands and Islands. This in turn encourages young people to take the language and traditional arts further, with some going on to study music and take courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and other institutions offering Gaelic-related subjects; generating a significant impact in the Highlands and Islands and more widely in Scotland.

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9.23 Research carried out by ourselves relating to the feasibility of Gaelic medium secondary education in Inverness found that a substantial proportion of parents who choose a primary or secondary school that uses Gaelic for education are not themselves Gaelic speakers; and it is likely that a number of these parents will have been influenced in these decisions by their own attendances at Fèisean, Cèilidh Trails or Blas events.

#### **SOCIAL AND WELLBEING IMPACTS**

9.24 Much of the strength of the Fèisean and Fèis related activities is that they embed language and the traditional arts in activities which are fun and enjoyable. Ewen Henderson is a full-time professional musician from Lochaber, multi-instrumentalist and Gaelic speaker. Ewen attended Fèis Loch Abar, Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan and the Fèis Rois Senior Fèis, as well as taking part in the Lochaber Fèis Cèilidh Trail multiple times, and some of the Fèis masterclasses. He says the Fèis had a big impact on his Gaelic, and learning the language was enjoyable in the fun and informal Fèis environment. Learning about music and everything else was enjoyable and positive, and many friendships were made at the Fèisean. Many of these people are still some of his closest friends. Regarding his career, the Fèis had a huge impact on it; perhaps more so than anything else. He still teaches periodically at Fèisean, and during Covid-19, tutoring for Fèisean nan Gàidheal made up a substantial part of his earnings.

9.25 For many communities the Fèis is a highlight of the year for the whole community. Many Fèisean report that, as well as children living locally, some 10-20% of participants will attend who have some family connection but live elsewhere. This is especially true of Fèisean in the Highlands and Islands. Hannah McKirdy, a Gaelic actor,

presenter and researcher who has appeared on BBC Alba's most recent comedy series, Funk and OMC, would also attend Fèis Bharraigh as a child through her family connections. She says that the confidence which comes from learning new things – instruments, art, drama – and also from performing, is something which she thinks makes the Fèisean invaluable.

9.26 Most Fèisean host a number of concerts as part of their week's events, such as a concert where the tutors perform and another where the children showcase what they have learned. Many add to that with concerts and cèilidhs bringing bands to perform at events to raise funds for the Fèis. Audiences at these events are largely local people, though visitors are also welcome, and they contribute to the cohesion of the community; particularly in smaller rural areas.

9.27 Organising and delivering the Fèis is also socially cohesive. The Fèis provides an opportunity to volunteer and take part in a community activity either through serving on the Fèis committee, helping with fundraising or through providing help in supervision during breaks. For Fèisean which deliver ongoing classes, voluntary input is sometimes required through the year; being present during the sessions to deal with any issues that arise. Especially in rural areas, the Fèis can bring the community together, build skills and contribute to a feeling of wellbeing which can help to retain people locally rather than move to more urban areas.

9.28 Josie Burgess, a Gaelic teacher working in Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu attended Fèis Tir a' Mhurain and Fèis Tir an Eòrna throughout her primary and secondary school years; also attending evening classes for piping and accordion. She feels this gave her an opportunity to socialise with others through the medium of Gaelic in an informal

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and fun setting, and also gave her additional opportunities to use the language outwith the school environment.

- 9.29 Karen Elder says that at the age of eight the Fèis gave her the opportunity to learn the clàrsach, and to this day, playing the clàrsach is important for her wellbeing, as she describes how it *“calms me down and chills me out”*. Shona Masson said when she was young she really enjoyed playing music, and the Fèisean provided her with lots of opportunities to perform and to be involved in community events. She made friends and met outstanding tutors, and these connections and friends last to the present day.
- 9.30 Ruaraidh Graham says: *“being involved with the Fèis at every level of participation has taught me different things. Joining as a participant in school, the impact this had on me on my personal growth and confidence as a person cannot be understated. People often forget that outwith the classes, the social aspect of the Fèis continues to be very important to me as the friends I made back then continue to be my friends now 20 years later.”*

### IMPACTS ON CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

- 9.31 The importance of Scottish culture to motivating visitors to come to Scotland is high. The Scotland Visitor Surveys for 2015 and 2016 show that 55% of visitors to the Highlands identified history & culture as a key motivation for their visit. The comparable figure for Scotland was 33%. When asked whether they agreed that finding out more about Gaelic was of interest or enhanced their visit, 34% gave scores of 6 out of 10 or more. This was particularly marked for international and first time visitors. VisitScotland also found that 4 out of 5 people who viewed the Gaelic content on their website were from outside the UK, with most from the USA and Germany. This suggests that

where musicians can include a degree of Gaelic in their performances, the authentic experience for a visitor is even higher. Fèisean nan Gàidheal, directly through initiatives such as Blas and the Cèilidh Trails, plays a role in giving visitors a taste of genuine Gaelic culture and an opportunity to experience traditional music during their holiday. Indirectly, it has an important role in inspiring a generation to take up the traditional arts as a career and in stimulating the development of relevant educational courses.

- 9.32 Sarah-Jayne Shankland, the current chairperson of Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan, went to Fèis Lochabair and Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan, going on to attend follow-on classes in Step Dance and Group Work and taking part in Fèis Lochabair’s Cèilidh Trail. She has subsequently studied Music at Newcastle University and completed an MEd at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland while teaching and performing. She is now studying for a PGDE to become a Secondary Music teacher. She says: *“The opportunities the Fèis has given me provided me with the inspiration, the skills and drive to pursue music and music education as a career. I’m grateful to the Fèis for making so many friends through their activities, with many of them now my colleagues and peers.”*
- 9.33 Donald Shaw, one of the founding members of the group Capercaillie and Artistic Director of Celtic Connections from 2007 to 2018, when asked about the impacts of the Fèisean, said: *“My own feeling is that the Fèisean has been pivotal in bringing national awareness, respect and admiration to traditional music and Gaelic song over the last four decades, and there is no doubt that the Fèisean has had a major impact on the wider music community through education and social cohesion, and in many cases has inspired a sense of identity. Many musicians of my generation did not see a particularly easy*

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*pathway to a career in music whilst at the age of leaving school, mostly because the music we felt about passionate about – folk and traditional music – was just emerging from the shadows of lazy 'tartan' kitsch stereotyping of the 60's & 70's, and so it took a new generation, emboldened by the ethos and integrity of the Fèisean, to rise up through schools, workshops, residencies and festivals and emphasise the power and relevance of our country's unique culture. This 'rebirth' if you like has arguably been the main catalyst for multiple positive economic, social and cultural factors – including the transformation of the teaching of traditional music throughout the country, from sustaining single teacher livelihoods in rural communities, to the emergence of music degree courses like that of the traditional music course at the Royal Conservatoire (where artistic boundaries brought about by style definitions have benefitted from being blurred by the understanding of folk music's influence on all music forms ). But it is perhaps the bringing together of family, friends and community that has benefited most from what the Fèisean can bring – something as powerful and important as music, language and song itself."*

9.34 Iseabail MacTaggart, quoted above, asked whether the Fèisean had an impact on people going into media related careers, suggested that: *"There will be few people who are now in Gaelic media careers who have not experienced a Fèis and enjoyed all the benefits participation generates. The normalisation, the confirmation and celebration of the value of Gaelic and Gaelic culture is vital – and the fun had with like-minded peers is equally important: all that contributes to confident young Gaelic users/enthusiasts. Gaelic media needs confident young Gaelic users/enthusiasts!"*

9.35 The careers referred to above will not necessarily have increased the number of cultural jobs in Scotland to a great extent, but the inputs that people with these backgrounds and motivations provide day-to-day will have increased the quality of the work, as well as giving them a higher quality of job than they might otherwise have obtained. Also, where the work is in the Highlands and Islands, keeping or attracting back young people makes a significant contribution in improving age structure and community cohesion in local areas – which is a key policy objective.

## 10. TASGADH

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- 10.1** Tasgadh is a fund devolved from Creative Scotland, managed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and open to applications from organisations and individuals for small grants for traditional arts projects. Through Tasgadh, Fèisean nan Gàidheal offers grants from £250 to £1,000 to provide support for traditional artists and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase work; with up to 90% of project costs supported. The fund can also support professional development and learning projects. Tasgadh has been in operation since 2015/16, with 3 funding rounds in each year to 2019/20 and 2 funding rounds in 2020/21 when Covid-19 restricted activity and the number of applications made. £31,500 has been available for distribution each year, although not all the Tasgadh funding was allocated in 2020-21, and the balance was carried forward into the current year. Creative Scotland has also agreed a £5,000 increase in Tasgadh funding from 2021/22.
- 10.2** Creative Scotland, which pays Fèisean nan Gàidheal a management fee of £3,500 annually for administering the fund, has asked for a review of the fund and its operation. We were asked to undertake this work as part of this study and have considered applications from 2016/17 to 2020/21, along with summary information for 2015/16.
- 10.3** Tasgadh is designed to be easy to access. Applicants are asked to complete a short application form, giving information about the applicant, the project, the outcomes looked for and the costs involved. Applications are then discussed by a panel which meets following each closing date; considering factors such as the ability to deliver the project, the quality of and need for the project and the benefits that will accrue. Panel meetings have been held by telephone conference, with Zoom introduced in 2020. 90% of any award is released immediately, with the remaining 10% released on completion of the activity and submission of a final claim form.

10.4 The breakdown of applications by year is:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Applications	116	77	66	71	87	43
Awards	64	52	43	45	42	25
Success rate	55.2%	67.5%	65.2%	63.4%	48.3%	58.1%
Requested	n/a	£65,261	£55,988	£37,422	£72,752	£38,468
Awarded	£31,500	£31,500	£31,500	£31,500	£31,500	£22,936
Requested by successful applicants	n/a	£44,191	£37,699	£37,422	£34,419	£22,936
% of request awarded	n/a	71.3%	83.6%	84.2%	91.5%	100%
Total budget of successful projects	£174,212	£143,181	£122,474	£141,455	£156,924	£77,523
Average successful project budget	£2,722	£2,753	£2,848	£3,143	£3,736	£3,100
Award as % of project budget	18.1%	22%	25.7%	22.3%	20.1%	29.6%

10.5 As can be seen, Tasgadh has been oversubscribed each year. Since its inception there have been 460 applications to the Tasgadh fund, of which 271 have been approved; a 58.9% success rate illustrating the popularity of the fund and how competitive the application process is. Applicants were not always awarded the full amount requested – successful applicants sought an average of £849 but were awarded an average of £720. The rate of award against the amount requested has grown each year, reaching 100% in 2020/21. Other than in 2020/21, the average project cost has also risen each year, while the average proportion of project costs covered by the award has grown from 18.1% to 29.6%.

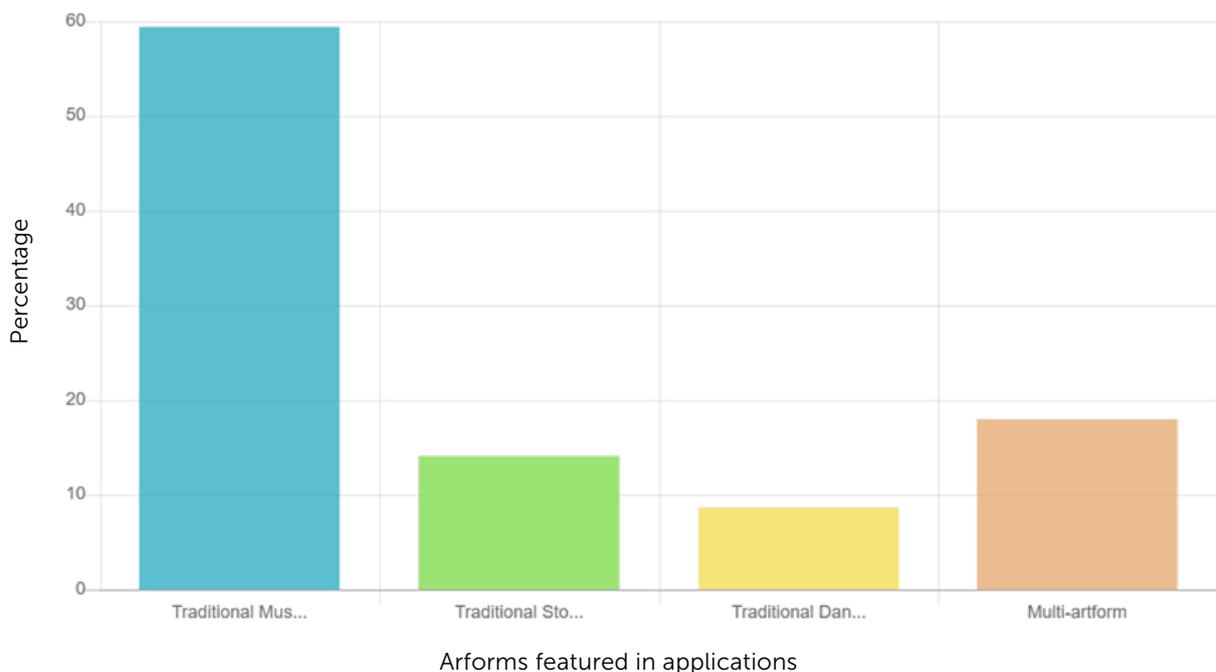
## TASGADH APPLICANTS' SURVEY

10.6 We carried out a survey of Tasgadh applicants to gain their feedback on the funding scheme and the application process. 367 applicants were sent links to an online survey and 138 responded, a rate of 38%. Some responses referred to more than one grant application.

10.7 We asked where applicants were based, and the responses showed a spread over Scotland, with 20 of the 32 local authority areas being represented. The largest number of applicants were based in the Highland area (41, 32.5% of those who responded to the question), followed by Edinburgh (16.7%) and Glasgow (15.1%). Some applicants mentioned that their project activity took place over more than one local authority area.

10.8 Most respondents (63%) had applied for Tasgadh funding only once, but 21% had applied twice. 16% had applied 3 or more times. 16% said that none of their applications were successful, 55% had had a single application approved and 20% had had two successful applications. One had applied 8 times, with 3 being successful.

10.9 Most applications were for projects involving traditional music – 59% of respondents. 14% of applications were for Storytelling and 9% Dance, while 18% of projects were multi-artform.

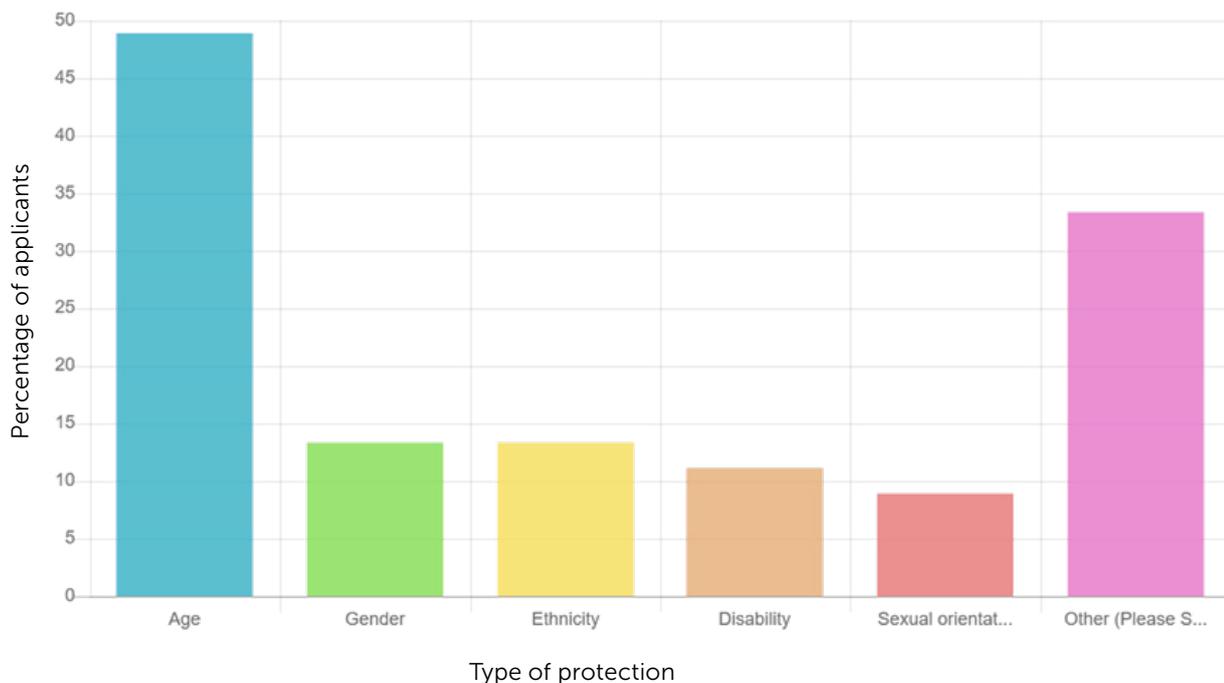


10.10 Most applications came from groups or organisations (47%), although 34% were made by individuals. The balance came from informal unconstituted groups. Of the individuals, 57% were female.

10.11 Asked whether they or the organisation applying work specifically with people who consider themselves protected in relation to age, gender, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation as defined in The Equality Act 2010, most respondents said no (65%). Of those who said yes the majority (49%) cited age, 13% gender and ethnicity and 11% disability. Other respondents made the point that they aim to be inclusive of the whole community, while rural isolation was also cited as a disadvantage addressed.

10.12 34% of applicants indicated they are located in an area of socioeconomic deprivation (defined as having high unemployment, poverty or lack of participative opportunities). Although self-selected, this does illustrate that the fund is reaching areas of Scotland with socioeconomic issues.

10.13 81% of respondents indicated they were successful in their application, higher than the overall 65% success rate. This is not surprising as those who have been successful would be thought to be more likely to complete the survey.



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## SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- 10.14 All the successful applicants said that they received their initial payment quickly. One said that “Tasgadh are very easy to work with and understand the needs of small grassroots organisations such as ourselves”. 76% said they had gone on to claim the full award. 9% had not claimed the full amount, with many saying the project had been delayed or was not yet completed.
- 10.15 7% of projects that received funding said that their project would have gone ahead without Tasgadh funding, but 53% said that it would not. The remainder said that, while the project would have gone ahead, it would have been in a reduced form. Some mentioned reducing the number of sessions or introducing charges. One respondent said that the project wouldn’t have gone ahead as “other routes of funding for relatively modest sums of money would have involved a disproportionately high amount of administration and paperwork”.
- 10.16 Asked about whether their Tasgadh funded project had led on to other work or activity, only 8% said no. A number said that their project was not yet complete while others said that it had, or that it would post pandemic. One respondent said that “a group started with Tasgadh funding in 2015 is still going in a deprived housing estate working with young people. Another group ran 17 sessions in 2020 during covid (online) for folk with mental health issues. Tasgadh funded the first 10”.
- 10.17 33% of successful applicants used no Gaelic in delivering their project, with 48% saying they did use Gaelic, and many of the remainder saying they a small amount of Gaelic – for example in tune names. One said: “we *didn’t* use Gaelic however we used Welsh”.

- 10.18 62% said they didn’t use Scots in delivering their project, with 30% saying they did. One said “Scots is very important to us in this area and, in our opinion, does not receive enough input. We use it for many of our projects”.

## UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

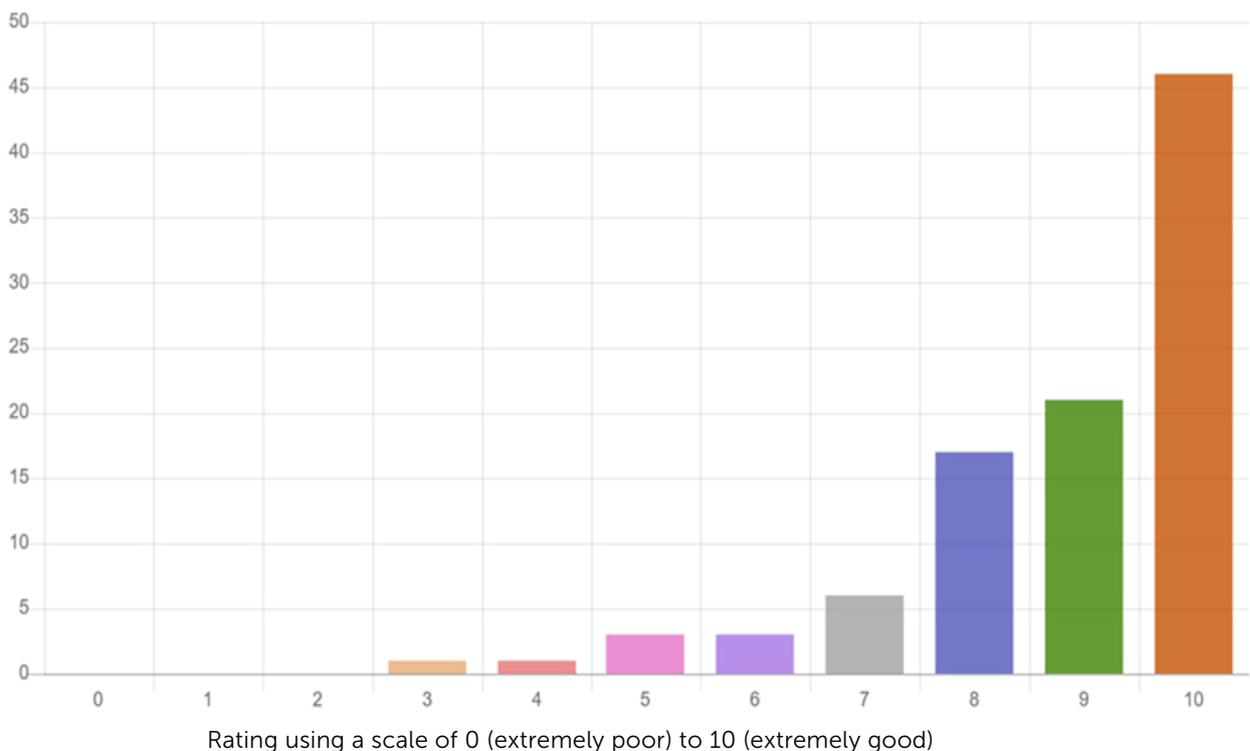
- 10.19 25% of unsuccessful applicants were able to deliver their project without Tasgadh funding, with a further 16% going ahead in a reduced form. 34% of projects were abandoned due to not being successful, but others were looking for alternative funding sources.
- 10.20 Of those who were unsuccessful, 43% were satisfied with the reasons given for their rejection. Comments included:
- “I felt that the TASGADH feedback showed a lack of knowledge about emerging digital ways of engaging with traditional arts.”*
- “The feedback was fair on why we didn’t get funding. However, it wasn’t constructive so we felt that if we continued to apply with the type of work we wanted to make, we would continue to be rejected. It felt like the trad scene was a bit of a gated community, and we were on the outside. Perhaps by preserving the tradition, they were afraid to take risks on projects that use modern innovations.”*
- “Firstly I don’t think Tasgadh has enough funds, but also not enough for Stories that are an important part of our Traditional Heritage.”*
- “There was no indication of what I might have done differently to achieve a more positive outcome.”*

## ALL APPLICANTS

**10.21** 87% of all respondents thought the Tasgadh application process was straightforward, and only 4% thought it time consuming. 96% thought the guidelines were clear, with one respondent saying, *“they were probably clear and that I perhaps didn’t read them properly”*. 92% were satisfied with the transparency of decision-making, with the publication online of minutes from Tasgadh panel meetings and the grants awarded.

**10.22** The upper limit for grants is £1,000 and for most projects this was not a constraint. Only 27% said that it affected the design of their project.

**10.23** Tasgadh grants aim to be fast turnaround and light touch. Respondents were asked to rate Fèisean nan Gàidheal in achieving this aim on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being extremely poor and 10 being extremely good. As shown in the chart below, 47% rated the scheme at 10 and a further 38% at 8 or 9. Together, these show 85% of applicants rating the scheme very highly in those terms.



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10.24 This is further demonstrated in the comments received from individuals and organisations, small and large. These included:

*"Really easy application process, lovely helpful organisation handling it. Have found everyone friendly, professional and supportive and overall it is one of the most pleasant and straightforward funding strands open to artists working in storytelling to apply to."*

*"I think this is a good fund, well run and supporting small projects in an easy to access process."*

*"It was a big help, very supportive, and not too complicated."*

*"This and MEG should be the gold standard for most small-medium scale arts funding. It proves that light touch works."*

*"Clear simple guidelines and easy to apply – a good fund for small projects in the traditional arts – although would like to see specific Traditional Arts funding through Creative Scotland for large scale projects."*

*"It's really helpful to have a clear, easy and supportive way of applying for an amount that can actually make a lot happen."*

*"Excellent funding stream, easy to apply and enables me to deliver small projects where they would not otherwise happen."*

*"For our whole small island community and visitors alike, giving them exposure to the Gaelic culture in an accessible format."*

*"During such difficult times it was a fantastic opportunity for us as creatives to get support to be able to adapt and deliver Scottish arts content to our communities. We are extremely grateful for the support which helped us to*

*create a successful project that we can build on in following years. The application process was simple with extremely helpful guidelines. I also found the team at Tasgadh really helpful and supportive in answering any questions."*

*"Tasgadh funding is really important for unincorporated or voluntary organisations like ours who aren't charities and therefore can't attract funding specifically for charities."*

*"The application process is simple, fair and the decision making is quick which would enable us to plan more effectively on a tight timescale."*

*"I'd just like to say that the guidelines provided, and the ease of application made it very easy. I wish other grant applications were as straightforward."*

## TASGADH PANEL SURVEY

10.25 As mentioned in 10.3 above, applications for Tasgadh funding are considered by a panel with relevant skills and experience. Around 6 people serve on the panel at one time, with support from Fèisean nan Gàidheal. A survey of current and past members of the panel was carried out, with a link to an online survey being sent to 12 people. There were 7 responses, a return rate of 58%.

10.26 Those responding took a positive view of the fund and how it is administered. They felt that the number of applications they were asked to consider at each meeting was mostly appropriate. Meetings have been held using telephone conferencing and, though this was acceptable and mostly allowed people to join in fully, it was not always seen as the best way for the future; with Zoom being mentioned as a better alternative. In practice, Zoom has been adopted for meetings since November 2020.

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10.27 The panel was considered to work well as a team all or most of the time and the level of information provided was seen to allow for informed decisions, although some applications were seen as lacking in relevant information. The support and information given by Fèisean nan Gàidheal was regarded as appropriate.

10.28 All respondents said that they always or mostly agreed with the panel's decisions; with one commenting that *"the situations I may not have agreed with were not frequent, and also the reasons for funding or not funding were always thought and talked through and understandable"*.

10.29 The geographic spread of applications was scored at an average of 7.29 out of 10, with most respondents rating it at 8. The same rating was given to the quality of projects being brought to the panel. The spread of applications among art forms scored only 5.29 out of 10; suggesting there may be some room for better promotion to potential applicants outside traditional music.

10.30 The maximum grant from Tasgadh is £1,000, and this was mostly seen as reasonable. While it was commented that an increase could be considered, perhaps to £1,500 or £2,000, it was also pointed out that if that were done the amount of funding available would have to increase to still fund a good quantity of projects. Asked if there should be a maximum project cost, respondents gave mixed answers; with some seeing no benefit while others liked the idea of Tasgadh funding being significant to the project – maybe a minimum of 10% of the overall cost.

10.31 The guidance for applicants was considered generally clear, although one respondent suggested that clearer guidance needs to be in place to stop applications for inappropriate recording projects and projects involving students.

10.32 All respondents were happy with the transparency of the decision making process and the publication of minutes from Tasgadh panel meetings and detail of the grants awarded. Generally, they were also supportive of the scheme meeting its aim to be fast turnaround and light touch, with that scoring 8.86 out of 10.

10.33 Other comments received related to distribution, both geographic and between art forms. More than one respondent suggested that better promotion of traditional dance might increase the number of applications, while it was regarded as important not to be complacent about the distribution of projects across Scotland.

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## CONCLUSIONS

- 10.34 Tasgadh is a popular and well managed funding source which has allowed a significant number of small scale traditional arts projects to go ahead, as well as supporting traditional artists in taking forward their professional development. Its relative simplicity is appreciated and we received few negative comments about the application or decision making process.
- 10.35 With an average project cost of around £3,500, the investment from Tasgadh is generating 3-4 times that spend on traditional arts. This is achieved even though many of the smaller projects, especially those led by individuals and smaller, perhaps informal, groups can be funded at 90% of their costs; with this flexibility adding to the impact of the fund.
- 10.36 It is regarded as a strength that the awards made have gradually approached the full amount of grant requested in applications. Although awarding less than requested can make the fund go further and allow more projects to be supported, this could lead to difficulties for the applicants involved. In kind support is allowed to count towards the 10% applicant's contribution, including reduced rates from tutors and performers, and awarding less than requested would put more pressure on participants to deliver their input at a more reduced rate.
- 10.37 Although the idea of a maximum project cost received a mixed response from panel members, it should perhaps be considered. The largest budget application that has been made was for a grant of £1,000 towards a project costing over £100,000. That was rejected, but generally larger and more ambitious projects such as this can access larger funding sources, and a grant from Tasgadh is not likely to define whether the project can take place or not. One panel member suggested that a Tasgadh grant could be set at a level of no more than 10% of the project cost, so that the maximum budget for a project would be £10,000.
- 10.38 More than one comment was made by applicants that projects that use modern innovations and emerging digital ways of engaging with traditional arts may be less likely to receive funding through Tasgadh. Of course, much would depend on the quality of the application and the project, but the point may be worth consideration.

# 11. COVID-19 RELATED ADAPTATIONS

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- 11.1 The Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns and restrictions that took place in 2020 and 2021 had a major effect on the business model of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the activities of individual Fèisean groups. Face to face contact, gatherings of people, and the provision of workshops or performances all became either impossible or severely constrained. Clearly the pandemic has also had a major impact on the work possibilities for tutors and performers, but Fèisean nan Gàidheal has been able to continue to provide work through lockdowns.
- 11.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal has worked with its various stakeholders to minimise the effects of the pandemic and to grasp the new opportunities that the situation has created. It has been aided in this through support from its funders and from Covid-19 recovery funds, but also from its recent investments in developing Fèis TV and its online tuition service, Oide, and its experience in streaming events online.
- 11.3 It has worked in partnership with individual Fèisean to present online Fèis events. In 2020/21, there were 9 online Fèisean, along with 9 tutors' cèilidhs and one participants' cèilidh, where those who had taken part were asked to send in a short video of themselves performing. 707 young people signed up to take part and 51 tutors delivered sessions. 65,431 people viewed the online cèilidhs through live streams on Facebook; far more than might have attended live events in person.
- 11.4 There were also 5 series of regular weekly online Fèis classes delivered through Fèisean nan Gàidheal, with 1,115 users logging in to them.
- 11.5 Other online activity included a series of lectures put online during the year; the Fuaran project which continued with its work to research, record and archive Gaelic song; Gaelic conversation groups for families; and regular Gaelic song sessions for children. Fèis Air Loidhne presented 8 weeks of Gaelic Medium music classes at Primary and High School level. Overall, some 5,060 people were recorded as participating in these online events, and 76 tutors delivered 552 sessions. Payments to tutors totalled £38,177.
- 11.6 Online activity still continues; and from April to October 2021 Fèisean nan Gàidheal paid £60,185 in fees to tutors.
- 11.7 Most individual Fèisean which offer ongoing classes have sought to continue during lockdown, using Zoom so that their students can continue with the same tutor. Indications are that this has been successful, with some students seeing advantages in carrying on online rather than travelling for face-to-face lessons. Some Fèisean, such as Fèis an Tairbeirt, have experienced an improved uptake of some classes; with adults as well as children joining in sessions in Gaelic singing, and participants coming from a wide area, including England and Wales. Others reported that, while numbers have been largely maintained, there have been few new recruits to classes over the last two years, and this will be an issue going forward.
- 11.8 Fèisean nan Gàidheal has also sought to deliver a number of other projects during the pandemic. During October and November 2020, *Bothan nan Òran* gave the opportunity to work on song-writing skills with Mary Ann Kennedy, Robbie MacLeòid, James Hind and Nick Turner. The project delivered an online combination of gigs, and language and music sessions as well as a sharing experience towards the end.

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11.9 In 2021, *Sruth* was planned, to celebrate Colmcille 1500 – a celebration of the life and legacy of St Columba, 1,500 years since his birth. Building on the success of its Irish exchange project Guth nan Gael, *Sruth* sought to bring together young people from Scotland, Ireland and Nova Scotia to create a virtual showcase performance to celebrate their shared Gaelic heritage through stories, music and song.

11.10 Treòir, funded by Creative Scotland and others, offered local Fèisean an opportunity to engage a musician in residence over a 6-month, flexible period to increase learning opportunities for young people while mentoring emerging tutors in the area. As part of the 6 month residency, a parallel 6 month Mentored Tutor residency programme offered guidance and training for a young musician within each Fèis involved..

11.11 In the current year, 2021/22, Fèisean nan Gàidheal is delivering Treòir | Voar | Virr, an ambitious multi-art form programme focussing on traditional arts and funded through the National Transition Training Fund and the Islands Programme funding. The project was to take place in Orkney, Shetland, Argyll and Bute, Highland, and North Ayrshire – covering all of the 93 inhabited Scottish islands. Tutors have worked with primary schools to lead cultural workshops on Scotland’s indigenous languages and dialects, music, drama, dance and visual art so that children learn about the area’s history and heritage through the arts. The project is also providing employment and re-training opportunities following the loss of work for many due to Covid-19. Through a shadowing scheme, tutors have also worked with and supported the development of assistant tutors to deliver the workshops as part of the primary school curriculum; with training accredited through the University of the Highlands and Islands.

## 12. PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

12.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal receives substantial support and funding from a range of partners without whose input the activities undertaken by the individual Fèisean or by Fèisean nan Gàidheal would not be possible. In 2019/20 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's total income included over £1 million in funding received from the following bodies.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Grant income 2019/20	Total
Creative Scotland	£546,430
Highland Council	£100,663
Argyll & Bute Council	£20,000
Bòrd na Gàidhlig	£152,884
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	£132,380
Scottish Government	£55,000
An Comunn Gàidhealach	£6,281
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,013,638</b>

12.2 Some of that funding was received to help make specific activities possible, such as delivery of the Tasgadh programme on behalf of Creative Scotland, and An Comunn Gàidhealach's support, along with local authorities, for the Mòd academies which help prepare young people to take part in the Mòd. A large part of the grant funding received is also disbursed to individual Fèisean towards the costs of their activities.

12.3 We spoke to each of the major funders to gain feedback on how well Fèisean nan Gàidheal performs in relation to the outcomes they are seeking to achieve from their funding.

### CREATIVE SCOTLAND

12.4 Creative Scotland's vision is that: "We want a Scotland where everyone actively values and celebrates arts and creativity as the heartbeat for our lives and the world in which we live; which

*continually extends its imagination and ways of doing things; and where the arts, screen and creative industries are confident, connected and thriving".*

12.5 It identifies 5 ambitions in achieving this vision:

- Excellence and experimentation across the arts, screen and creative industries is recognised and valued
- Everyone can access and enjoy artistic and creative experiences
- Places and quality of life are transformed through imagination, ambition and an understanding of the potential of creativity
- Ideas are brought to life by a diverse, skilled and connected leadership and workforce
- Scotland is a distinctive creative nation connected to the world.

12.6 Creative Scotland points to a number of ways Fèisean nan Gàidheal contributes to each of these ambitions. It regards it as producing high quality work in areas such as its commissioning, the Blas festival, its Cèilidh Trails, its educational and drama work, and the training and tuition it provides. It is impressed with the geographical spread of the Fèisean and how the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal is accessible throughout the country. Fèisean are seen to be embedded in communities, and, through work such as YMI, musicians are engaged to work with their local communities. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is regarded as delivering good training opportunities for its own staff, for the tutors it engages and for the Fèisean committees. Internationally too, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has a high reputation, and it and individual Fèisean represent Scotland well at different events beyond the UK.

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## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

12.7 The core of the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan is to increase the numbers learning, speaking and using the language. Fèisean nan Gàidheal is regarded as contributing greatly to that aim in a number of ways – for example through:

- The work of the Fèisean in local communities.
- The work in schools through Fèisgoil.
- Drama and performance.
- The opportunities created to use the language through initiatives such as 5 Latha and the summer schools.
- The conversation café during the pandemic.
- The contribution to the health of traditional music, with Fèis graduates seen as making up a significant percentage of traditional musicians.

12.8 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is regarded as innovative and always finding ways to respond to opportunities. The Scottish Government does not provide core funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal, although it does provide ad-hoc project funding. One example relates to the National Islands Plan, with Fèisean nan Gàidheal addressing several of the plan's objectives, including one of its Strategic Objectives: To support arts, culture and language. The outcomes sought under that objective are that:

- All crafts, music, textiles, literature, languages and dialects at the heart of island identity are effectively recognised and celebrated.
- Gaelic learning and education centres and partners continue to deliver broad contributions both to local island communities and as part of a national contribution supporting education, culture and linguistics.

- Cultural historic environments on islands receive support and investment to sustainably protect and build on their contribution to arts and culture.
- Arts, culture and language are supported to contribute to island economies.
- Individual and unique island identities, culture and traditions are supported and promote inclusion.
- Gaelic is a living and thriving language and medium of delivering education, supported by appropriate educational settings and learning centres, and in the community.
- Island communities are supported to deliver their own Gaelic or local dialect plans which will inform policies across Scottish Government.
- Island deals incorporate the economic benefits of Gaelic.

12.9 This has led to Fèisean nan Gàidheal being contracted to deliver Treòir | Voar | Virr, as noted at 11.11 above. This one-year project has involved 63 artists engaged to deliver 16 sessions in each of 80 schools in Scotland's islands. The project aligns the values of Gaelic, Scots and Shetlandic, and supports Covid recovery through reskilling and retraining. This allows it to draw funding from the National Transition Training Fund (£211,683) and through the Islands Programme funding (£110,000).

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## HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE

- 12.10 Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has supported the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal for many years, although it plans to move more from core funding supported organisations to funding for specific projects. Many of the positives seen in the work of the Fèisean are similar to those identified by Creative Scotland.
- 12.11 HIE particularly values how the economic, social and other impacts of the Fèisean are rooted in community development. With their community and cultural roots, the Fèisean are seen as an important contributor to HIE's place based priorities and can help generate an enthusiasm for the Highlands and encourage young people to stay. They build confidence in the young people themselves and also give them confidence in their communities; raising a sense of pride in their local area.
- 12.12 The teaching of music and the bringing on of talent is valued, as is the work in training tutors and musicians in the skills they need. Fèisean nan Gàidheal sends out a message that young people could make a career in the music sector.
- 12.13 HIE regards Fèisean nan Gàidheal as an established organisation with a strong network within and beyond the Highlands. As such it is seen as having great potential to exploit new opportunities. Some of these have emerged from the pandemic, when the model of live performance and tuition has been broken and there has been investment in home recording and filming equipment. Using such technology is regarded as creating opportunities in areas such as the crowd economy, using models such as Patreon to develop regular income. Technology is also seen as providing opportunities for growth of Fèisgoil's activities and income streams.

- 12.14 Growth of other aspects of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's work is also encouraged; through using its partnerships and networks to develop projects such as that recently launched in Scotland's island communities.

## BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG

- 12.15 Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the public body responsible for the development of Gaelic language and culture, and prepares the National Gaelic Language Plan which focuses on:
- Increasing the use of Gaelic
  - Increasing the learning of Gaelic
  - Promoting a positive image of Gaelic
- 12.16 Bòrd na Gàidhlig's own strategic priorities are to work towards achieving the outcomes that:
- More people are using and benefiting from Gaelic at work, at home and in the community.
  - Opportunities for people to develop their Gaelic skills at any age have increased and are more accessible.
  - More people in Scotland are positive about Gaelic language and culture.
  - Bòrd na Gàidhlig continues to develop how it works.
- 12.17 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is regarded as a key partner in delivering these outcomes, through its core work in normalising the use of Gaelic through the Fèisean, and through its educational and drama output through Fèisgoil.

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## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

- 12.18 Highland Council provides funding towards the individual Fèisean in its area, channelled through Fèisean nan Gàidheal. This allows Fèisean in the Highland Council area to receive enhanced support towards their work and contributes to the level of their activities and their ongoing sustainability. The Council is also a main funder of the Blas Festival, which Fèisean nan Gàidheal delivers on their behalf; contracts with Fèisean nan Gàidheal for delivery of its YMI programme; and works with Fèisean nan Gàidheal on specific initiatives such as Mòd Academies and mini-Fèisean.
- 12.19 The Council values the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal highly and trusts it in its delivery of its programmes. The Council has a strong commitment to Gaelic language development through its services and, particularly in its early years education, community, culture and economic development provision. Among the key outcomes identified in its Gaelic Language Plan are that, though collaboration, use of Gaelic in Fèisean activities will increase, and that in collaboration with Fèisean nan Gàidheal opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic in the arts and creative industries will be developed.
- 12.20 With regard to the Blas Festival, the Council is keen to explore with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and other stakeholders the potential for the festival to become more self-financing.

## ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

- 12.21 Argyll & Bute Council also provides funding towards the individual Fèisean in its area, channelled through Fèisean nan Gàidheal. The Council has had a Service Level Agreement with Fèisean nan Gàidheal for a number of years (which has been cut recently due to budget constraints). Fèisean nan Gàidheal is seen to be open to contact and helpful, and has been of benefit to education through drama productions. The move to on-line provision was good and was carried out smoothly. The service provided within the education environment shows alternative adult speaking of Gaelic, which is considered as of benefit and powerful in helping pupils see how they can use the language in a professional setting.
- 12.22 As with Highland Council, the use of Gaelic within the Fèisean is identified as an issue. It is acknowledged that Fèisean are run by volunteers who might not be Gaelic speakers, but this is recognised as an issue, and the Council would be keen to explore how Gaelic can be more prominent.

# 13. FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL AND FÈIS ROIS AND OVERALL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

- 13.1 The three arms of the Fèisean movement are Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the individual Fèisean it supports and Fèis Rois. We have carried out a separate study on the impacts of Fèis Rois, and in this section we add these economic impacts to those that we summarised in Section 8 above from the activities of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the other Fèisean to give a fuller picture of the overall impacts of the Fèisean movement.
- 13.2 Fèis Rois is a full member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, but sources its funding independently, has a direct relationship with all its funders, and is the only other Fèisean organisation which has its own full-time staff. Fèis Rois co-operates with Fèisean nan Gàidheal whenever appropriate, for example in the delivery of the YMI contract for Highland Council, and clearly there is significant cross-over in the work the two organisations undertake; with tutors and young people taking part in Fèis Rois activities as well as Fèisean in other parts of the country.
- 13.3 In 2019/20, Fèis Rois carried out a wide range of activity, including:
- Fèis Rois na h-Òigridh: A 5-day residential Fèis for young people from P4-S1.
  - Fèis Rois nan Deugairean: A 5-day residential Fèis focussing on traditional music, composition and arranging for young people of secondary school age.
  - Fèis Rois nan Inbheach: A 4 day Fèis (3 days of tuition and 4 days of fringe events) aimed at people age 18+.
  - Core Classes Programme: Young People and Adult Learners: 30 classes and sessions offered each week in at least three locations across Ross-Shire, with tuition at different skill levels.
  - Residential Course: A weekend residential course aimed at those attending weekly sessions.
  - Gaelic Conversation Circle: Weekly meetings for facilitated conversation and discussion.
  - Care Experienced Young People: Weekly classes and a residential weekend course.
  - YMI programmes: for Aberdeenshire, Angus, and Dumfries & Galloway Councils, as well as Highland Council in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
  - Cèilidh Trails: with one touring locally, one including sessions at the Cambridge and Sidmouth Folk Festivals, and one with sessions at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient.
  - 4-week Fiddle Immersion Course
  - Guitar Colloquium Weekend
  - Under Canvas: programming 56 performance slots for emerging traditional musicians over an eight-week period in a pop up bar and performance space on the lawn of Eden Court.
  - Commissioned projects: for organisations such as schools, HM Prison Inverness and Historic Environment Scotland.
  - Traditional Music Agency: sourcing traditional musicians on behalf of local events, touring companies, tourist businesses and others.
  - International work: including programming the Scotland Pavilion at Lorient and working with the National Celtic Festival in Australia and Light into Europe in Romania.

## OVERALL EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IMPACTS (INCLUDING FÈIS ROIS)

13.4 The table below adds together the employment and earnings generating expenditures in 2019/20 by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the individual Fèisean and Fèis Rois. To avoid double counting the grants to Fèisean delivered through Fèisean nan Gàidheal and management charges are excluded from the Fèisean nan Gàidheal total.

Expenditure 2019/20	FnG	Fèisean	Fèis Rois	Total
Salaries	£326,545	£49,480	£136,462	£512,487
Employers NI and Pension contributions	£41,299	£0	£12,586	£53,885
Expenses	£16,165	£0	£7,278	£23,443
Administration (e.g. stationery, postage)	£27,800	£8,789	£21,938	£58,527
Training	£5,107	£0	£1,587	£6,694
Tutors Fees	£282,332	£482,105	£231,548	£995,984
Tutors Travel	£4,848	£34,439	£48,397	£87,684
Tutors Accommodation/Subsistence	£34,552	£35,458	£19,791	£89,802
Supervisor Fees	£0	£0	£8,775	£8,775
Supervisor/Volunteer expenses	£0	£30	£980	£1,010
Supervisors/Volunteers Accommodation/Subsistence	£0	£1,846	£11,425	£13,271
Participants Accom/Subsistence	£24,755	£33,870	£35,173	£93,799
Transport/Participants Travel	£15,536	£10,145	£11,510	£37,190
Freelance support	£0	£0	£40,369	£40,369
Artist Fees	£41,973	£55,175	£104,567	£201,715
Artist Travel	£0	£0	£23,278	£23,278
Artist Accommodation	£0	£0	£41,951	£41,951
Equipment	£38,028	£3,917	£325	£42,270
Advertising and Marketing	£14,442	£8,267	£6,439	£29,148
Venue/Hall Hire and Costs	£8,638	£41,047	£18,834	£68,520
Property Costs	£25,494	£0	£12,150	£37,644
Insurance	£8,237	£0	£1,102	£9,339
PA Hire	£0	£0	£1,260	£1,260
Merchandising (e.g. T shirts)	£0	£5,868	£0	£5,868
Instruments (purchase/repair/other costs)	£12,237	£23,916	£4,957	£41,110
Resources	£0	£0	£7,964	£7,964
Accountancy/Financial Management/Governance	£28,749	£5,086	£10,553	£44,388
Website	£26,434	£0	£2,666	£29,100
Subscriptions	£27,421	£4,691	£928	£33,039
Miscellaneous/Other	£23,282	£45,464	£11,611	£80,357
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,033,873</b>	<b>£849,593</b>	<b>£836,401</b>	<b>£2,719,867</b>

13.5 Impacts from Fèis Rois activities in 2019 (or 2019/20) are added below to the impacts from Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the other Fèisean shown in Table 8.1.

	HIE Area FTEs	Scotland FTEs	HIE Area Earnings (£)	Scotland Earnings (£)
(1) FnG Staff	11	11	327,000	327,000
(2) Fèisean Staffing	6	7	163,000	181,000
(3) Fèisean Tutors	12.5	21	306,000	528,000
(4) Other Fèisean-related Employed People	1.5	3	40,000	71,000
(5) Cèilidh Trails Additional Pay	1.5	2.5	34,000	68,000
(6) Fèisgoil + Other Youth Classes Additional Pay	12.5	16	314,000	394,000
(7) Blas Additional Pay	2	2	41,000	41,000
(8) Employment Generated by Other Expenditures	13	24	355,000	657,000
Total (1) to (8)	60	86.5	1,580,000	2,267,000
(9) Induced Employment from (1) to (8)	12	26	303,000	644,000
(10) Tourism-related Employment Impacts	3	4	75,000	105,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>116.5</b>	<b>1,958,000</b>	<b>3,016,000</b>

13.6 The above impacts compare with the following estimated in advance impacts for the average year from 2012 to 2015 from the February 2012 impact report that we produced for HIE (inflated to 2019 prices):

**HIE Area 85 FTEs £1,996,000 earnings**  
**Scotland 103 FTEs £2,420,000 earnings**

13.7 Overall impacts in Scotland have increased by 13.5 FTEs, with the reduction of 10 FTEs in the HIE area relating principally to paid Fèisean staffing. Over the past ten years, most of the increase in Fèisean and related activities has been in the “rest of Scotland”, which reflects the growing interest outwith Scotland’s main Gaelic speaking areas. This trend will have spread the non-economic

Fèisean-related impacts covered in Section 9 above more widely across Scotland as well as the employment impacts.

13.8 FTEs are a standard measure in economic impact analysis, and allow comparisons across impact studies and consideration of value for support funding. It is important to appreciate, however, that the 75 FTEs in the HIE area and 116.5 FTEs in Scotland generated by Fèisean-related activities include many individuals whose employment might vary from a few days to a few weeks or months over the year. Thus, many more people than those totalled above benefit to varying extents through obtaining income that, together with other work, helps to give them an adequate year-round total income – which can make the

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difference between living in rural and remote areas viably and needing to live in more highly populated areas. This effect is strengthened by the continuity of Fèisean-related employment over a period of years.

- 13.9 Wider employment impacts are also generated for businesses that supply FnG and the Fèisean. For example, Keith Morrison, whose business, the Wee Studio in Stornoway, includes a recording studio, PA and equipment hire, and filming told us that: *“Arthur and the Fèisean have been hugely important to myself as a musician, my business and the wider music scene as a whole. I took my first steps learning music through Fèis classes. The Fèisean continue to spark the imagination and drive of young musicians that become my bread and butter at the studio. They also offer support through regular projects that my business (and others) benefit from, affordable equipment hire that allow us to increase our services, and help, support and advice for directing our own projects”.*
- 13.10 Joey Wright, of West Coast Media, told us that *“We are extremely proud to work with and support a refreshing organisation that actively empowers local youth to connect with their Gaelic routes through a creative and engaging medium. Their retainers and ongoing changes contributed to paying our team’s wages during these difficult times.”*
- 13.11 The importance of the longer-term demographic benefits of Fèisean activities in rural, remote and other fragile areas of Scotland is demonstrated by the projections by National Records of Scotland for the Outer Hebrides. Based on birth, death and migration assumptions, the population of the Outer Hebrides is projected to fall to 22,709 by 2043 – a 11% reduction from 2018 that compares with projected growth of 2.5% in Scotland.

Between 2018 and 2028, the Outer Hebrides is projected to have the greatest decline in its working age population of all Local Authority areas in Scotland – with an average increase of 3% across Scotland projected over the period.

- 13.12 The employment estimated as having been generated by FnG and the Fèisean together in 2019/20 is considered very good value for total public funding to the Fèisean movement of c£2.1 million (adjusting the joint expenditure shown at 13.4 above of c£2.7 million downwards to subtract the c£600,000 that we have identified as non-public sector income – including the fees paid by recipients for tuition, masterclasses, etc, audience receipts, fundraising and donations). The £3.02 million of gross earnings in Scotland estimated to have been generated through Fèisean activities in 2019/20 exceeds this c£2.1 million of public funding by 44%.

#### COMPARABLE OR RELATED IMPACT REPORTS

- 13.13 We checked with other organisations nationally and internationally and through online research whether comparable impact analysis to that covered by this report for FnG has been produced – including Ógras in Ireland, Tracs Cymru in Wales, the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland, the Scottish Music Industry Association, TMSA (traditional music and song), the Royal National Mòd, and the European Folk Network. There have been many reports produced, but the range of activities supported by FnG and how they link together appears to be unique.
- 13.14 Reports that have demonstrated high impacts generally relate to high profile events and festivals (often over a day, a weekend, or longer period) where large audiences can be accommodated (in some cases outdoors). Employment impacts tend to be high due to attribution of related overnight stays, expenditures with on-site traders, and

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other expenditures by people visiting the event area from elsewhere. Where events are annual, such as Celtic Connections, the Hebridean Celtic Festival, and the National Mòd, this has developed in building reputations and securing advance bookings from previous audiences; and the success of Fèisean shares this feature.

13.15 An impact report on the 2019 Royal National Mòd in Glasgow by str and the Glamis Consultancy, based on a visitor survey, estimated that around 10,000 attendees' spending plus organiser and other expenditure generated 57 FTE jobs in Glasgow, including 42 FTEs supported by direct visitor expenditure (principally through overnight stays). The comparable impact from the Dunoon National Mòd in 2018 was approximately half of this (29 FTEs compared with 57 FTEs). It is difficult, nevertheless, to understand the methodology employed by the consultants – a common problem in assessing impact reports by almost all consultants.

13.16 Impacts from the National Mòd and other traditional music events in Scotland will have been enhanced by the role of the Fèisean over time in encouraging young people to take up performing, giving them tuition and early performing opportunities, and preparing them as future audiences. This role, in a typical year, could add significantly to the employment impacts in Scotland assessed in this report from annual Fèisean and related activities.

13.17 The Glasgow event had a lower impact than the 2018 Dunoon event in terms of raising interest to improve or inspire Gaelic learning – although 35% of Glasgow interviewees stated that the Mòd had increased their awareness and understanding of Gaelic arts.

13.18 In Wales, Trac is the country's folk development organisation, with a focus in *"celebrating Wales' music and dance traditions, developing performers from beginners to the international stage, stimulating interest, and making sure our traditional arts remain a relevant, core part of our vibrant cultural life and identity"*.

13.19 An external evaluation report in 2018 by Frances Watt of two of Trac's youth activities (Gwerin Gwallgo, aimed at 11-18 year olds, and Trac Youth Ensemble, for 16-25 year olds) concluded that:

- Gwerin Gwallgo 2018 and trac Youth Ensemble have provided quality learning, performance and social opportunities to young musicians, singers and dancers that have developed their skills and techniques and been enjoyed by varied audiences.
- Both projects create an environment in which young people can access and participate in the folk scene. This is not easy for young people to find in Wales.
- Both projects build the confidence of young people in their musical and creative skills. They also create space and time for young people to make new friends and establish networks of peers with the same interests across Wales. They promote the cultural heritage of Wales through transmitting the specific skills and techniques relevant to continuing and developing its folk music, song and dance traditions.
- Both projects include performance opportunities for young people, providing them with the experience of playing in

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ensembles, rehearsals, and performing in public. They introduce young people to professional artists. They develop the aspirations and expectations of young people about their potential role in the folk scene and make it possible to consider developing a professional career as a folk musician.

- Gwerin Gwallgo is providing a progression route for younger participants from trac's Gwerin Lau project. In turn, it is developing a new generation of musicians, singers and dancers who can progress to other initiatives, such as trac Youth Ensemble.
- The influence and impact of trac's previous development work with young people is evident in the success of both projects. The majority of tutors supporting the programmes credit trac with having a significant impact on their own musical and creative development and subsequent career choices. Without trac's vision and delivery, the current workforce who can inspire a new generation in the folk scene would not exist. trac nurtured the opportunities that inspired them, enabled their professional development and now provides them with work.

13.20 These outcomes are similar to those achieved for young people through Fèisean-related activities.

## OTHER IMPACTS ACHIEVED BY FÈIS ROIS

13.21 Fèis Rois follows the same principles as Fèisean nan Gàidheal in relation to the Gaelic language. For example, 30 minutes of Gaelic workshops are offered every day at Fèis Rois na h-Òigridh, and a Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Circle) daily at Fèis Rois nan Inbheach. Tutors receive Gaelic language training, and staff who are not fluent Gaelic speakers are encouraged and supported in their Gaelic learning.

13.22 In para 9.6 we estimate that the activities of the Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal will reach some 15,000 young people each year. Adding participants in Fèis Rois activity would bring that total to some 20,000, including 150 young people attending the junior and senior Fèisean and 4,000 taking part in its educational and YMI programmes.

13.23 Fèis Rois also adds to the commissioning work undertaken by Fèisean nan Gàidheal – commissioning new music and film productions – and raises the profile of Scotland and its traditional culture through its touring, both within the UK and internationally.

13.24 Socially, Fèis Rois is embedded in the community and is held in high regard by the people of Ross-shire. Its three residential Fèisean are held in Ullapool, bringing economic benefit to the village as well as a sense of vibrancy – adding to Ullapool's reputation as an arts hub in the Highlands.

# 14. CONCLUSIONS

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- 14.1 In this study we have explored the range of impacts that the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal has generated. By bringing in the results of a separate study we have carried out on Fèis Rois, we have been able to give a more complete picture of the impacts of the three arms of the Fèisean movement in Scotland – Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the Fèisean it supports, and Fèis Rois. We have found that individually and together they have developed into a significant force in the preservation, nurturing and development of traditional music and culture and the Gaelic language across Scotland and internationally; while impacting positively on the people and communities who deliver and take part in the community based Fèisean at the heart of the movement.
- 14.2 We have estimated that, in total, the Fèisean movement supported 116.5 full-time equivalent job years (FTEs) across Scotland in 2019/20, including 75 FTEs in the Highlands and Islands; generating an annual income from employment of around £3 million. This includes employed staff and freelance support from tutors, performers, sound engineers and other professionals. It also includes jobs created in providing accommodation and catering and indirect and induced jobs from associated spend.

- 14.3 Although not quantifiable, the movement has also generated significant impacts for:

## CULTURE

The Fèisean play a large part in passing Scottish and Gaelic culture between generations, as well as providing a setting within which that culture can flourish and grow.

## LANGUAGE

With a strong commitment to the Gaelic language, the Fèisean encourage and motivate the use of the language, naturalising Gaelic in an enjoyable setting.

## SOCIALLY

The Fèisean have strong local roots, with their annual event being a highlight of the year in communities around Scotland. Their organisation and delivery bring people together and promote social cohesion.

## WELLBEING

The Fèisean provide a sense of achievement and friendship which, for many participants, lasts a lifetime.

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14.4 Each year some 20,000 people are directly touched by Fèisean activities. Some will attend a drama performance or a pantomime; some will take part in a series of Blasad Gàidhlig, a Taste of Gaelic, sessions at their school; some will participate in or attend a 5-day Fèis; some will go on to take regular classes to learn an instrument; and some will take part in a Cèilidh Trail or a showcase opportunity, performing to an audience. A number will go on to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the University of the Highlands and Islands (including Sabhal Mòr Ostaig) or another further or higher education institution. While studying, some will be engaged by a Fèis for a Cèilidh Trail or as assistant tutors at a Fèis, and go on from there to become professional musicians or artists – returning subsequently to the Fèis as performers or tutors while also performing in a cèilidh band, as a musician or singer, or as an actor. We have been told by many of the people we have spoken to that many of the traditional musicians in Scotland today were inspired to see they could have a career in the profession because of attending a Fèis when they were young.

14.5 Most young people won't go that far, but among the strengths of the Fèisean are the pathways they have created. There are areas where pathways could be improved, however. For example, Blasad Gàidhlig provides an enjoyable introduction to Gaelic language and culture to a cohort of primary age children in Falkirk, but there is no Gaelic Medium education in the area, and Fèis Fhoirt which covers the Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk areas has not been active in Falkirk for some years. Supporting them to relaunch their Falkirk Fèis would allow the initial introduction to Gaelic culture to move to the next stage, where they begin to develop a foundation for the future.

14.6 The same issue arises with the YMI (Youth Music Initiative) programme and the Treòir | Voar | Virr project being delivered in Scotland's island communities. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's delivery of YMI in the Highland Council area, delivered in a partnership with local Fèisean, gives a model that allows for most young people who want to take things further to do so, but not all of the children involved will live near classes they can attend.

14.7 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's adoption of an online and hybrid model for service delivery, accelerated by the pandemic, gives an opportunity to address such issues. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's #cleachdiaigantaigh (use it at home) resource, a partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, brings together access to many of their online services at different levels, from pre-school with games and songs through to music tuition to advanced level.

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14.8 At the same time the impact of the pandemic on Fèisean at a local level should not be underestimated. After two years of reduced or even no activity many Fèisean will need support to restart their full range of activity and to rebuild their volunteer base.

14.9 Funders and partners value the work of the Fèisean movement highly – pointing to, for example:

- The strong community-based network.
- The reach of the movement, across Scotland.
- The high quality of work delivered at all levels.
- The quality of training provided.
- The international work and the standing of the movement.
- The responsiveness, flexible and innovative approach.

14.10 The main issues raised to us by funders which might be addressed going forward are:

- A stronger focus on use of Gaelic.
- A desire to move Blas towards self-financing.
- A need to grasp opportunities for growth.

14.11 As is recognised by Argyll and Bute Council, the local Fèisean are independent voluntary groups and those involved are not necessarily Gaelic speakers. However, all have adopted Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Gaelic Policy and do incorporate the Gaelic language into their Fèisean, through the use of Gaelic in singing, delivery of “the Gaelic song” featured each year, Gaelic games and the employment of Gaelic speaking tutors where possible. Fèisean also incorporate Gaelic conversation sessions, although this is not universal. Fèisean nan Gàidheal, through its Development Officers, can encourage more use of Gaelic and could, for example, extend its training provision with more sessions for supervisors and those who deliver the Fèis for younger children to ensure that they have a full range of resources to call upon.

14.12 Our survey of tutors showed that 33% see themselves as fluent in Gaelic, with 54% learners or beginners. 84% said that their involvement in Fèis activities encouraged them to use Gaelic more often, and 85% said it had enhanced their Gaelic skills. One tutor said: *“I love seeing so many school children speaking small amounts of Gaelic in Fèis classes. Many would never have had the opportunity to learn it elsewhere.”* There is clearly no lack of enthusiasm for the Gaelic language in the majority of tutors, and further encouragement for Fèisean groups to engage more Gaelic speakers or learners, even if outside traditional Gaelic speaking areas, might help to address the issue.

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14.13 The Blas Festival was originally set up to take place during the shoulder months for tourism – enhancing the tourist experience during a quieter time of year. In recent years, Blas has been impacted by the pandemic, but also by funding uncertainties which have delayed planning and led to the festival taking place later in the year. This in turn has reduced audiences and box office income.

14.14 Some certainty over the funding position with Highland Council, perhaps through a 3 year agreement, would allow Fèisean nan Gàidheal to plan and promote the festival more efficiently. Such certainty would also allow for experimentation to build upon the experience gained through the pandemic – through incorporating more online content promoting subscription access worldwide.

14.15 In terms of growth, digital opportunities are prominent. Fèisean nan Gàidheal has already launched Oide, its bilingual online music tuition service. This uses pre-recorded lessons which it is intended to offer as a subscription service. Many of the Fèisean have carried on their classes through the pandemic using an online model, offering one to one or live group lessons over Zoom or Teams. Of necessity, many musicians and tutors have developed their online skills and invested in the necessary equipment. The main aim of the Fèisean has been to maintain the service for their own students, but some have received requests to join the classes from people around the UK and more widely. There is the opportunity for Fèisean nan Gàidheal to develop Oide by becoming a clearing house for live online tutoring, using its reputation and experience to link prospective students with appropriate tutors.

14.16 There are also growth opportunities which use the skills and networks of the Fèisean movement to deliver a wide range of projects. An example is the Treòir | Voar | Virr project and, from Fèis Rois, the Highland Culture Collective, and Dandelion. These are ambitious projects which extend the boundaries of the Fèisean movement while still being rooted in communities and creativity. Seeking other such opportunities gives the possibility of creating further openings for Fèisean stakeholders and inspiring a future generation of Fèis participants although it will be important to ensure that suitable management arrangements are put in place so that core staffing is not diverted from core functions.

14.17 Most importantly, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Rois, and the other Fèisean should continue to receive at least their current level of support funding in order to sustain or increase the role that their activities play in arresting the decline in the population of young people in many rural and remote areas across Scotland; and in some areas, overall population decline which threatens the viability of local public and private sector services.

# APPENDIX 1. THE FÈISEAN

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Below are summary details of each Fèis which was active in 2019/20, giving a flavour of the reach and variety of the Fèisean movement in Scotland. Each Fèis is an independent organisation, community based and delivered through a voluntary committee. Although financially supported through Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which normally provides 25% of the eligible costs for a main Fèis and 40% of the costs of ongoing classes and workshops, each Fèis decides on its own programme and must raise the balance of funds required to meet its budget through grants, concerts and fundraising.

At most main Fèisean young people choose a number of different classes. Classes on offer can include: accordion, bagpipes, chanter, fiddle, Gaelic song, group work, guitar, harp, percussion, piano, art, creative writing, drama, Highland dance and step dance. Participants can take part in Gaelic language activities including the whole Fèis song which everyone learns together – this is the finale of the participants' concert.

Where available numbers are quoted for participants and tutors.

## FÈIS AIR AN OIR

Fèis air an Oir (Fèis on the Edge) offers traditional music tuition to children and young people in the Strathy area of North Sutherland. As well as a main Fèis a programme of workshop days and classes is offered during school term-time.

In 2019 the main Fèis was held over 5 days from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August at Farr High School in Bettyhill. Classes were offered in Instrumental Music, Gaelic song, Dance, Drama and Art. In total 14 subjects were offered with Gaelic Song, Guitar, Chanter/Piping, Accordion and Whistle being delivered through the medium of Gaelic.

82 children and young people took part – 28 aged 8 and under, 42 aged 8 to 18 and 12 aged over 18. A residential option is offered for participants aged 12 and over, using accommodation in Tongue with local transport bringing them to Farr High School every day.

10 tutors were employed, along with 6 Supervisors.

During the Fèis 5 concerts were held - 2 x Session, 1 x Mid-week cèilidh, 1 x Participants concert plus 1 x Final Concert showcasing tutors. Some 490 people attended in total.

Follow on classes are offered in groupwork (with 5-12 attendees at 4 sessions) and instrumental tuition (with 20 attendees at 13 sessions). 5 tutors offered fiddle, guitar, accordion, tin whistle, piping, keyboard and Gaelic singing.

Since lockdown Fèis air an Oir participated in the Fèis na Dàmhair (the October Fèis) organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal and presented some classes online.

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## FÈIS ARAINN

Fèis Arainn, the Arran Fèis, is held in July in Arran High School, where children between the ages of 8-18. The last "normal" 4-day Fèis was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019, with tutors arriving on the island on the Monday. Sessions were offered in a range of activities, including the accordion, fiddle, guitar, pipes and chanter, ukulele, clàrsach and whistle as well as art, singing and drama. 66 children attended, with transport provided from round the island.

12 tutors were engaged and 8 volunteers acted as supervisors.

Fèis Arainn also run weekly fiddle lessons through the Arran Fiddle Club which works as part of Fèis Arainn, with 40 sessions in the year attended by 15 students. In addition there are 2 residential weekend workshops, for junior and senior students, attended by a total of 20 participants.

Fèis Arainn Online 2020 offered courses for young people aged 8 to 18. The tutorials were available online for 2 weeks. No fee was charged but donations were welcomed through a Paypal account.

## FÈIS NA H-APAINNE

Established in Autumn 2015, Fèis na h-Apainne has no main Fèis but runs monthly workshops for children and young people aged 8-18 in a wide variety of instrument, song and dance. There's also a Fèis Bheag for pre-school children and P1 and P2. The Fèis attracts participants from several communities including Appin, Kinlochleven, Ballachulish, Lismore, Benderloch and Connel.

Saturday workshops (10am 1pm) cover dance, clàrsach/ flute, fiddle, chanter/pipes, whistle, groupwork, music tech, guitar, accordion and snare drums and involve 11 tutors, plus 1 or 2 involved in Fèis Bheag. Around 50 children attend each month.

Workshops have been put on hold since March 2020 due to the coronavirus.

## FÈIS A' BHAILE

Fèis a' Bhaile has been operating in Inverness for over 25 years, giving children and young people aged 8 to 18 the opportunity to participate in traditional music and Gaelic learning. The Fèis provides opportunities for all skills levels from total beginner to experienced learners to develop their skills and talent in a friendly and informal setting, with the emphasis always on fun.

The 2019 Fèis took place in October 2019 with 70 participants. 15 tutors and 6 supervisors were engaged, and 10 instrumental music options were offered along with Gaelic song, drama, art, media, sound engineering and groupwork.

Mini-Fèis Days were also held in both the Easter and Summer holidays

Drama classes for fluent Gaelic speaking children were delivered weekly at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis and Step Dance classes were offered monthly open to all ages although attendees were all adults. 59 sessions were provided with 19 participants.

Fèis a' Bhaile works in association with Inverness Trad Experience to give both Children and Adults the opportunity to learn Scottish Traditional Music on the Fiddle, Accordion, Mandolin & Guitar through weekly classes.

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## FÈIS BHARRAIGH

Fèis Bharraigh takes place on Barra. It was the first Fèis to be held, in 1981, inspiring the modern Fèisean movement. Its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was due to be marked with special events and funding was received to support this. However, this has been put on hold due to Covid.

A 5-day Fèis was held on 8-12 July 2019 including a Fèis Bheag or 'Wee Fèis' offering a variety of music and arts activities for younger children and a Fèis Mheadhan, or intermediate Fèis. A separate programme of follow-on evening classes is also offered through the school year.

At the main Fèis classes were offered in Instrumental Music, Gaelic song, Dance, Drama and Art. In total 16 subjects were offered with each participant choosing 4 from accordion, keyboard, fiddle, guitar, tin whistle, chanter, bagpipes, Gaelic song, Highland dance, step dance, drums, shinty, drama, art and media. Groupwork classes were also held where participants could work on band skills and arrangements.

134 children and young people took part – 16 aged 4 and under, 24 aged 5 to 7 and 94 aged 8 and over. Most of the children are local, from Barra, and there is no residential option. Each year some children with Barra connections – maybe 15-20 – will come to the island to take part in the Fèis as part of their summer holidays, staying with grandparents or other family.

20 tutors were employed, along with 4 Supervisors. Tutors also received expenses for travel and accommodation. As accommodation can be hard to find and is expensive the majority of the tutors are

either local or with Barra connections so that they can provide their own accommodation. Volunteers also help where needed – about 7/10 are involved.

Each tutor was expected to assist with 2 evening concerts during the Fèis as part of fundraising for the event. 5 concerts were held across Barra, including a children's dance and children's concert and performances by the Vatersay Boys and the Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band. with 360 people attending. These attracted box office income of £4,735.

Ongoing classes are offered in Piping, Accordion and Fiddle, with 3 individual tutors. 39 young people took part in 30 sessions. These classes complement lessons in school where the pupils can sit SQA National awards. The students can be invited to take part in community activity, for example playing at coffee mornings or other events.

In 2020/21 term time classes in fiddle and chanter were offered online from April 2020 and an online Fèis was held in July. From August 2020 online lessons were offered in accordion, chanter and fiddle. The number of participants increased from term to term. Feedback from all the lessons was positive and parents were keen to have these continue. The number of participants in the April-June 2021 term were: accordion - 15 pupils, chanter - 11 pupils and fiddle - 12 pupils. A 6-week beginners chanter class was also held with an additional 4 new pupils.

Gaelic is used extensively in Fèis Bharraigh's work, with most classes taught in Gaelic or bilingually according to the ability of the children and young people.

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### **FÈIS A' BHEALAICH**

Fèis a' Bhealaich runs a weekly after-school club in Applecross where Gaelic is used in craftwork and play and during snack time. Between 4 and 10 children generally take part, with 2 tutors. The last session was on the 16th March 2020 and plans are being assessed for the future.

### **FÈIS CHEANN LOCH GOIBHLE**

Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle is a weekend (two-day Fèis) that last took place in March 2019. It is a residential weekend, held at the Lochgoilhead Scout Centre. The Fèis combines outdoor activities delivered by the Centre staff with tuition in accordion, fiddle, bagpipes/chanter, whistle, clàrsach and Gaelic song.

44 children attended, all of them in the 8-18 age range. 5 tutors and 3 supervisors were engaged, along with 3 volunteers, 2 of whom stayed overnight.

The Fèis is delivered by Fiddle Folk, an organisation who are keen to ensure that young people in this rural, non-Gaelic speaking area participate in, and contribute towards traditional music and culture, notably the Fèis, in order to ensure that traditional music continues to thrive in rural areas of Scotland, like Cowal. Fiddle Folk also had a Service Level Agreement with Argyll and Bute Council to deliver tuition through YMI, but that was withdrawn in 2020

Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle was postponed in 2020 and 2021 and Fiddle Folk is considering its future.

### **FÈIS CHATAIBH**

Fèis Chataibh, based in Golspie runs a number of annual events throughout the year. In 2019 a 5-day Fèis was held between 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July, with a further 2 day workshop weekend on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November. 80 children attended the summer Fèis and 40 the autumn weekend.

19 tutors were engaged for the summer event, covering fiddle, whistle, guitar, mandolin, accordion, keyboard, clàrsach, pipes/chanter and percussion, as well as drama, Gaelic song and art.

The weekend workshops were largely concentrated on groupwork.

The Fèis also supported a tour by the Northbound Cèilidh Band, made up of 5 participants in the Fèis and the ongoing workshops.

### **FÈIS CHILLE BHRÌGHDE AN EAR**

Fèis Chille Bhrìghde an Ear, in East Kilbride, holds a one day Fèis in February with over 50 participating primary aged children attending the music, drama and singing workshops offered by 3 tutors. Arts and crafts activities were also provided throughout the day by Fèis volunteers, and a Gaelic class was offered for adults.

Since lockdown activity has been cancelled but will recommence when possible.

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## FÈIS DHÙN BHREATAINN AN IAR

Fèis Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar began around 1992. It has no main Fèis but offers a series of classes in East Dunbartonshire at locations in Dumbarton and Alexandria and participants are invited to attend an annual cèilidh.

Classes are offered weekly in Gaelic language at Beginner level (20 sessions), intermediate (30 sessions) and advanced (30 sessions), mandolin (30 sessions) and clàrsach (15 sessions) and monthly in Gaelic singing (10 sessions). There was a total of 52 participants. Participants in the Gaelic language classes can be put forward for SQA National certification at levels 3 or 4 – in the last year prior to lockdown 15 were put forward with 5 achieving Level 3 qualification and 6 Level 4. There are no fees charged and the 4 tutors provide their input as in-kind support.

During Covid online classes have been held using Zoom for beginners in Gaelic language and clàrsach. Funding was sourced from the National Lottery and Bòrd na Gàidhlig to acquire the necessary equipment.

## FÈIS DHÙN ÈIDEANN

Fèis Dhùn Èideann offers a busy programme of traditional music activities for young people in Edinburgh. There is an annual 4-day Fèis in the February school holidays running from Sat to Tuesday. In 2019 this was attended by 103 participants.

The Fèis also provides weekly music classes over 4 blocks, totalling 25 weeks with 12 tutors and 133 participants. A teenage groupwork day was also offered in 2019.

The Fèis classes are currently taking place online due to Coronavirus.

## FÈIS AN EARRAICH

Fèis an Earraich was established in Skye and Lochalsh in 1989, the third Fèis in Scotland. Fèis an Earraich takes place during the Easter holidays, alternating between Plockton High School and Portree High School. The aim of the week is to offer young people an enjoyable opportunity to receive intensive tuition in a range of subjects or instruments related to traditional music, Gaelic language and culture. Most of the classes are taught in Gaelic and older participants have the choice of a Teenage Fèis.

The Fèis in 2019 took place in Portree, at the High School with four different Groups. Fèis an Earraich is mainly for participants in P5 to S6 although P4 children are included if already involved in playing an instrument, and by Tutor's recommendation. Fèis nan Deugairean was designed to prepare for the Cèilidh Trail and offered Group work and Master-classes. Fèis Bheag was for children in P3/4 with games, song, dance, art etc in Gàidhlig and Fèis Bheag Bhìodach provided a similar programme for children in P1/2.

Follow-on weekly classes are run in Kyle and Portree and offer instrumental tuition year-round in fiddle, guitar, accordion and groupwork.

Fèis an Earraich participants aged 16 to 22 can audition to take part in Ceilear, a cèilidh band, taking part in a Cèilidh Trail, giving the opportunity to perform at concerts and cèilidhs in the local area during the month of July. As well as delivering the cèilidh trail, the 2019 participants also performed at the Beò festival at Armadale Castle, Skye Live in Portree, the Blas festival at venues in both Skye and Lochalsh, a German cruise ship visiting Portree Bay and the 33rd Internationale Festwoche Weweslburg in Germany.

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## FÈIS EIGE

Fèis Eige started in 1995, two years before the community buyout of 1997. It is a family event, aiming at youngsters (8 to 18) primarily, but also offering adults and younger children under 8 a chance to participate. In 2019 it held a 3-day Fèis between 10 - 12th July 2019 and attended by 6 children aged 5-7 and 21 aged 8-18. There were 8 tutors and 3 supervisors.

Fèis Eige also organises whistle/keyboard classes over 30 weeks of the year and arranges other fundraising events and cèilidhs at other times of the year. 3 events as part of the Fèis attracted audiences of 120.

There was no main Fèis in 2020 or 2021 and ongoing classes haven't happened over the last year.

## FÈIS EILEAN AN FHRAOICH

Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich takes place on the Isle of Lewis, providing a 5 day Fèis complemented by year round classes.

The main Fèis ran from the 22nd to the 26th of July in 2019 in Stornoway Primary School. It catered for children and young people aged 3 – 18 with a cròileagan, p1-3 class, and the main Fèis. The Fèis offered classes in Gaelic song, drama, Highland Dancing, art and instrumental music.

118 children took part – 9 aged 4 and under, 35 aged 5-7 and 74 aged over 8. Total fees were £5,645.

20 tutors were employed along with 3 Assistant Tutors and 5 Supervisors. The tutors also received travel and accommodation expenses.

3 concerts were held as part of the Fèis, with 350 people attending.

Weekly classes are provided for teenagers in Gaelic singing, fiddle and groupwork. 3 tutors are employed. Participants perform at cèilidhs, concerts and festivals, including the Mòd where a group won a first prize in 2019. There were 34 classes in 2019 with 11 participants.

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## FÈIS EILEAN NA HEARADH

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh, the Isle of Harris Fèis, was established in 1992 and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017, also becoming registered as a charity in that year. The Fèis week in 2019 was 1st – 5th July, with groups for pre-school, 5-7s and 8 and over. 90 children attended in total.

16 tutors and 2 supervisors were employed. 11 of the tutors were from Harris and 5 from Lewis. A tutors concert was held on the Wednesday evening, with around 40 attendees and a children's concert on the Friday with 100. Entry to both was by donation and raffles were also held.

Ongoing tuition is offered in guitar, with 38 sessions being held and 8 participants, with a beginner and an advanced class both on the same evening.

## FÈIS FARR

Fèis Farr was established in 1991 to give children and families in and around Farr and Strathnairn the opportunity to participate in Gaelic language activities in their local community. The Fèis provides 5 sessions of games, drama and song for age 0-4, 5-7 and 8+ in November/December. The tutors are all fluent Gaelic speakers and Gaelic worked in as much as possible. Participants include children attending GME in Inverness as well as non-Gaelic and those with Gaelic at home.

Things have been on hold since the last series in 2019 but hoping to restart soon.

## FÈIS FHOIRT

Fèis Fhoirt, the Forth Festival, covers the Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk areas. It began in 2009 and in 2019 planned a weekend Fèis for young people in Stirling but this was not held due to problems with the venue. In previous years a spring Fèis was also held in Falkirk and an Adult Fèis in October, but these are in abeyance.

Weekly music classes are provided in Stirling in Fiddle, Clàrsach, Accordion, Guitar and Whistle. 42 young people take part. The Fèis classes took place online during the Coronavirus lockdowns.

Fèis Fhoirt also delivers a Cèilidh Trail tour each summer. The 2019 Cèilidh Trail played over 20 gigs, from the 15th of July to the 4th of August, at venues in Glasgow and across Stirlingshire and Falkirk and further afield. 6 young people took part, 4 of whom were regular participants in the weekend Fèis Fhoirt classes.

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### FÈIS NAN GARBH CHRÌOCHAN

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan is as the festival of the Rough Bounds, the geographical area which includes Ardnamurchan, Knoydart, the Small Isles and Glenfinnan. The Fèis began in 1991 and as well as a main Fèis, including a Fèis Bheag for 5-7 year olds, delivers a programme of weekly classes. The 2019 Fèis took place between 15-19 July in Acharacle Primary School with 68 attendees, including 17 residential. In addition, 28 children attended Fèis Bheag. The main Fèis attracts participants from outside local area, some from Glasgow, Inverness and further afield and Mallaig children also tend to go to Acharacle Fèis week.

At the main Fèis there were 19 tutors and options available were: Fiddle, Accordion, Guitar, Chanter/ Pipes, Clàrsach, Keyboard, Step Dance, Gaelic Drama, Gaelic Song, Drumming, Shinty, Ukulele, Whistle and Groupwork.

Ongoing tuition is available in Fiddle, Keyboard, Guitar, Accordion, Drumming and Chanter. It is delivered on a group or individual basis to 69 children at 3 local primary schools and at Ardnamurchan High.

Tuition in fiddle, keyboard, accordion, chanter and pipes, and drumming is currently taking place online.

### FÈIS GHALLAIBH

Fèis Ghallaibh is based in Thurso and Wick High Schools and offers a programme of Saturday workshops throughout the year. The Fèis provides tuition in a wide variety of subjects including fiddle, accordion, guitar, Gaelic song, drums, clàrsach, keyboard and chanter.

### FÈIS GHÀIDHLIG GHLASCHU

Fèis Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu is a 5-day Fèis which takes place every Easter in Glasgow, the last event being from 8-12 April 2019. The main Gaelic Medium Fèis was open to children aged 5-12, with a special "Fèis Bheag" group for ages 0-5 and was sold out with a waiting list. The Fèis had over one hundred participants over the week, ten tutors, and ten supervisors. A family cèilidh was held on 10 April and a final concert on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Drop-in classes for Gaelic learners and a series of workshops in Gaelic song, place names, waulking song traditions, and step dancing were also offered to adults. The main Fèis took place at Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Throughout 2019 up until December, the Fèis additionally ran a series of 4 workshops, Còmhlán, hosted at Cathcart Trinity Church and the Centre of Contemporary Arts in Glasgow. These involved 6 musicians/tutors and provided both individual and group tuition in a range of traditional musical instruments.

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## FÈIS GHLEANN ALBAINN

Fèis Ghleann Albainn is based in the villages of Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Invergarry.

In previous years the Fèis has delivered a 5-day junior Fèis, an adult Fèis and ongoing tuition. However due to difficulty in recruiting new volunteers the last junior Fèis was held in 2018. The adult Fèis has continued and was held in February 2020 over a Friday evening to Monday lunchtime.

The adult Fèis attracted just over 100 participants. Numbers are restricted because of the space available. Relatively few are from the local area and the event attracts people from across Scotland, the UK and abroad – participants have included people from Holland and Canada. Many bring partners not participating in the Fèis but doing other activities such as hillwalking. Participants paid £120 and arranged their own accommodation.

There were 11 tutors with classes in fiddle, accordion, mandolin, guitar, whistle and groupwork/song. None of the tutors are local, with most being based in Glasgow or the central belt. Tutors are paid around £400 plus expenses and accommodation. There is a Tutor's Cèilidh on the Saturday evening which is not a public event and part of the course fee.

No grants were received in 2019/20, with course fees of £12,510 and raffles (£341) being the sole income. Expenditure, excluding depreciation, was £9,358.

Fèis Ghleann Albainn is exploring how to reintroduce the junior Fèis, perhaps in partnership with another organisation and perhaps expanding it to take in the natural and cultural heritage.

## FÈIS AN IAR DHEAS

Fèis an Iar Dheas, the South West Fèis, is held in Dumfries and Galloway and is Scotland's most southerly Fèis. It began in 2016.

Although there is not a Fèis as such, a workshop day was held in October 2019, with classes offered in Drama, Fiddle, Gaelic song, Guitar, Chanter/Pipes, Tin whistle and groupwork with a total of 45 participants. There were also sessions on cèilidh dancing, craic, circus skills, Gaelic bingo and Gaelic games.

8 tutors were employed, each paid £150 plus expenses – a total of £1,304. Participants paid £373 towards the costs.

Weekly classes are held in Chanter/Pipes, in Dumfries, with some 4-6 attendees. The tutor was paid £35 per session for 27 sessions (a total of £945) with participants contributing £390 in fees.

Fèis the Music is an annual event held at the Theatre Royal Dumfries to showcase the work of the young people who have attended workshops and lessons.

Fèis an Iar Dheas also received funding from the Robertson Trust and the National Lottery which allowed it to offer after school and evening traditional music tuition for primary school children in Sanquhar and Kelloholm.

## FÈIS ÌLE IS DHIÙRA

Fèis Òigridh Ìle is Dhiùra is a three-day event which takes place every February in Bowmore, Islay. The Fèis is open to ages 3-18, with music classes for ages 8-18 and special sessions for children under 8 years-old.

Weekly classes for accordion, fiddle, clàrsach, guitar and whistle take place every week during school term time.

The Fèis classes have been taking place online during Coronavirus.

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### **FÈIS INBHIR NARAINN**

Fèis Inbhir Narainn (FIN) is a community based charity promoting traditional Scottish music and song to all from the age of eight to adult through the provision of high quality teaching.

FIN runs both an annual Fèis day and weekly classes for children and adults during school term-time. In 2019/20 the Fèis day was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020. There was a Fèis Bheag for ages 5-7, Music classes, Mapland and Drumfun for 8+, a Stramash for advanced players and an afternoon session for 0–4 year-olds with their parents/carers.

Ongoing Classes are held in Accordion, Chanter, Fiddle for kids, Fiddle for adults, Tin Whistle, Guitar and Keyboard.

### **FÈIS INNIS AN UILLT**

Fèis Innis an Uillt was established in Bishopbriggs to give young people in the local community the chance to take part in music and traditional arts. All classes and workshops are delivered through the medium of Gaelic with a range of subjects available, including music, dance and art.

An annual day long Fèis is delivered for children in Primaries 1-3 and 4-7, with Fèis Bheag being delivered for nursery aged children. The Fèis is school based, within the Gaelic Medium unit of a mainstream school, although the unit now accounts for some 25% or more of the school role. All children have been welcomed though mostly Gaelic Medium pupils have attended in the past. 45 children attended the 2019 Fèis, with 6 tutors being engaged.

### **FÈIS LANNRAIG A TUATH**

Fèis Lannraig a' Tuath is a four-day event which takes place in Airdrie with the 2019 fèis being held from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Fèis is open to ages 5-18, with a variety of workshops for ages 8-18 and special sessions for children under 8 years-old.

In the year 2019/20 there were 70 participants aged between 2yrs/16yrs. There were 11 children from Ireland that were part of a cultural exchange. All of the 14 tutors were based within the Scottish Central belt, with 5 staying within the North Lanarkshire area itself.

Through the year there is tuition in Accordion with 45 sessions in the year, chanter with 38 sessions and photography with 10 sessions.

The Fèis classes have been taking place online due to Coronavirus.

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## FÈIS LATHARNA

Fèis Latharna has been operating its annual week of traditional music tuition in Oban since 1994. Its programme has grown over the years with weekly follow-on classes year-round.

The 2019 Fèis was held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April with 176 participants aged 8-18. There were 31 tutors while 4 volunteers acted as assistants and 20 as supervisors.

Group classes are held on Saturdays during term time and last half an hour each. They are available for 8-18 year olds of any ability. Classes run from 10am - 1pm at a cost of £3 per half hour class. Classes are held in: Bagpipes, Clàrsach, Accordion, Guitar, Fiddle and Whistle.

Fèis Latharna also delivers the Argyll Cèilidh Trail providing up to 8 young traditional musicians and singers the opportunity to experience paid work as professional musicians whilst promoting local music and Gaelic culture. In addition the summer tour, the group have been fortunate enough to secure a number of other bookings outwith the summer programme including performances at Oban LIVE, Best of the West Festival, BLAS & Wee Gig in the Goil. The 2019 summer tour consisted of 18 gigs in three weeks. The tour covered all areas of Argyll & the Isles from Arran to Coll and Iona to Dunoon and the response was fantastic.

Classes continued to run on Zoom during Coronavirus.

## FÈIS LOCHABAIR

Fèis Lochabair is a voluntary run festival for children to gain access to the Gaelic arts. In 2017, the Fèis celebrated its 25th birthday. In 2019 a 5-day Fèis was held from 5-9 August at Lochaber Gaelic School alongside a morning Wee Fèis and Parent and Child group. 143 children registered to attend.

Weekly classes are also provided in Fiddle, guitar, chanter and pipes, clàrsach and accordion. Since lockdown all have been running online.

Fèis Lochabair has also delivered a Cèilidh Trail each year since 2004. In 2019 6 young musicians performed at 16 venues around Lochaber. The Fèis was planning a 2020 trail which had to be cancelled.

## FÈIS MHOIREIBH

Fèis Mhoireibh is the Moray branch of the Fèis organisation for children to learn and enjoy Highland music, song, dance and to experience some Gaelic culture and language. It provides a weekend teaching festival of traditional Gaelic music, song and dance for young people in Moray concluding with a tutor and participants concert in Moray College. Children are offered tuition in several different instruments such as the tin whistle, harp, fiddle and guitar and also have the opportunity to take part in Gaelic singing, Art & Story Telling and Drama. In addition to these classes, children are also given the option to play shinty on the Saturday.

Throughout the year, regular Clàrsach classes and occasional art and storytelling sessions are offered.

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## FÈIS MHUILE

Fèis Mhuile is a community group based on the Isle of Mull which holds an annual weekend Fèis each February for young people aged 3 to 7 and 8 to 18. In 2020 the Fèis had 41 participants and engaged 8 tutors. Volunteers acted as supervisors.

There was no activity in 2020/21.

## FÈIS OBAR DHEATHAIN

Fèis Obar Dheathain was re-established in Aberdeen in 2016. The Fèis runs its main event in April, offering activities at three levels, a main Fèis for those aged over 8, a Fèis-bheag for 5 – 8 year olds and Fèis Bheag Bhiodach for children under 5. The 2019 Fèis was held over 3 days at Easter, with 11 tutors and 63 participants. There was also an evening cèilidh attended by an audience of about 100.

Fèis Obar Dheathain were advertising 2020 as a 5-day Fèis but due to lockdown this was cancelled and is now being planned for 2022.

## FÈIS NA H-ÒIGE

Established in 1992, Fèis na h-Òige (Festival of the Youth) runs Gaelic medium arts activities in Inverness for young people. The Fèis is open to all children with Gaelic aged 5-18 and is associated with Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.

The main Fèis runs in early July (in 2019 8 - 12 July).

In 2019 Fèis na h-Òige also provided:

- 2 Club-G Saturdays, 11.30am - 1.30pm (for children preparing for the Mòd).
- 6 Saturday workshops (2-4pm)
- 1 Christmas Cèilidh
- Seinn (a Gaelic singing group for children in P1-3) every Monday, 3.15 - 4.15 during term-time.
- Còisir (Choir) every Monday, 3.15 - 4.30 during term-time.

Workshops throughout the school year offer a mixture of instruments (accordion, guitar, keyboard, drumming and clàrsach), drama and Fèis Bheag activities.

Fèis na h-Òige also welcomes children with additional learning needs and additional support or special arrangements can often be arranged.

Between 6 – 10 July 2020, Fèis Bharraigh, Fèis Chataibh, Fèis na h-Òige and Fèis Eige collaborated to deliver a week of classes online through Zoom.

In 2021 Fèis na h-Òige, held their first in-person event in nearly two years from 5th-9th July as part of the Highland Council led Summer of Hope.

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## FÈIS ÒIGRIDH NA MARA

Fèis Òigridh na Mara began in Mallaig in 2004. Term time classes and specialist workshops are the focus as Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan at Acharacle is the main "local" Fèis. A series of group work mainly for advanced players is also undertaken. A high proportion of local school children are involved - of around 220 possible participants there are 80 involved for age 8-18 year olds only. They have operated a main Fèis week in the past but it was not as successful as the ongoing classes which is where they wish to focus now. A range of instruments is taught including guitar, fiddle, chanter/ pipes and drumming.

A main event is also held which has varied over the last few years. In February 2020 there was a teenage residential weekend in Arisaig hotel with workshops during the day and sessions in the evenings. Some parents came along to the sessions, but they were free to attend.

5 tutors deliver the 30 weekly classes. Another 5 were involved in the residential weekend.

## FÈIS PHÀISLIG

Fèis Phàislig was established in November 2014 to create opportunities for young people in Renfrewshire to get involved and develop skills in the traditional arts through singing, dancing, drama and instrumental tuition on a wide range of instruments. It built on the success of the Mòd which was held in Paisley in 2013.

A 4-day Fèis week is held in Paisley in the third week of July (21-24<sup>th</sup> July 2019) with a Fèis Bheag for 5-7 year olds, a main Fèis for 8-18 year olds where participants attend the same 3 classes on each of the 4 days, chosen from the options available and an Advanced Fèis Week which gives intermediate/advanced players in S1-S6 the opportunity to develop their existing skills with two of Scotland's top traditional musicians.

15 tutors and 1 supervisor were employed in 2019. 20 volunteers were also involved. 25 children attended Fèis Bheag and 100 attended the main and advanced events.

A programme of weekly classes is offered for accordion, fiddle and guitar, which take place in Paisley every Saturday during school term time.

A Gaelic choir that takes place every Monday evening in Paisley during school term time.

Fèis Phàislig also offers the opportunity to audition to take part in a Cèilidh Trail where the chosen participants attend Fèis Alba for a week's training and then spend two weeks during the summer holidays taking part in a professional summer tour.

The Fèis classes are now taking place online due to Coronavirus. Classes were able to continue without a break and there are still some 35 participants.

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## FÈIS ROIS ÒIGRIDH

Fèis Rois was the second Fèis to be established in Scotland. Its activities are extensive and are dealt with in a separate study. However, summary information is provided here for completeness.

Fèis Rois Òigridh is a week-long residential Fèis that always takes place in the first week of the Easter holidays in Ullapool. This is an opportunity for young people from P5-S1 to get together and learn skills in traditional music, song, dance, drama and the Gaelic language. This event takes place during the Easter holidays and there are places for around 150 participants.

Separately, Fèis Rois also offers a senior Fèis and an adult Fèis as well as an extensive range of ongoing tuition and a wide variety of projects which develop the Gaelic language and culture. As an organisation it works closely with Fèisean nan Gàidheal but is not funded through Fèisean nan Gàidheal's schemes and deals direct with bodies such as Creative Scotland.

## FÈIS AN RUBHA

Established in 2006, but with a gap between 2009 and 2011, Fèis an Rubha is held each summer in Point in Lewis. The 2019 Fèis took place between 29<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August. It offered a cròileagan class, the 5-7s and the main Fèis. 9 tutors and 4 supervisors were employed for the event, with classes in various instruments (including, fiddle, guitar, melodeon, drums and clàrsach), Gaelic song, dance, drama and art.

60 children attended, with 20 aged 0-4, 15 in the 5-7 group and 25 in the main Fèis.

9 tutors and 4 supervisors were employed.

No ongoing tuition is currently provided although there were plans to introduce this before the pandemic.

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## FÈIS SPÈ

Fèis Spè was established in 1990 by a group of local musicians and volunteers and is now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year. 2019/20 was the first year since 2006 when there was not a paid development officer post following the withdrawal of funding from Creative Scotland. This necessitated a change of approach with the voluntary committee and supporters taking on increased responsibility and the need to ensure financial sustainability through a reduced programme and increased fees.

A main Fèis is organised as a week-long event open to children aged 5 to 16, taking place over the first week during the October holidays. In 2019 it was held over 14-18 October with 20 children attending the Fèis Bheag element for 5-7 year olds and 50 the main Fèis for 8-16 year olds. These are the maximum numbers that can be accommodated and each year there is a waiting list for places.

13 tutors and assistant tutors are engaged for the event covering music, song and dance as well as the Fèis Bheag and Gaelic games. All participants learn a Gaelic song and there is a Tutor's Cèilidh and a children's concert with 100 attendees.

Fèis Spè also offers a Fèis day, a one-off workshop day with guest tutors which concentrate on specific subjects for a whole day. Subjects offered in 2019 were clàrsach, fiddle, guitar, percussion and Senior Groupwork. The day also included a Fèis Bheag for 5-7 year olds.

Weekly music classes are also provided in fiddle and guitar at different levels with clàrsach classes from January 2020. 18 children were enrolled for these classes.

Overall, 190 classes and workshops were delivered in 2019 with 93 participants.

Fèis Spè also operates two bands, a Junior Cèilidh Band as well as a senior band, Monadh Ruadh. These provide group playing experience and performance opportunities for young people who are keen to develop their skills. The Cèilidh bands have regular training sessions and residential weekends have also been introduced. In 2019 the Junior Band had 28 practice sessions and a residential weekend. They also perform at gigs and events, charging £250-£500 per session, so funding much of their activity and providing a route through to performance. Members of the Bands aged 19-22 have also participated in a Cairngorms Cèilidh Trail for a number of years although this did not take place in 2019 and instead a mini-tour was delivered with Monadh Ruadh performing at various local venues in July and August with support from a Tasgadh grant.

Equipment hire is available for fiddle, bodhran, guitar, accordion, Highland pipes and clàrsach.

During the pandemic music classes have moved online, with fiddle, guitar and Gaelic song classes offered to adults as group lessons at £10 a session (with classes over 5 or 10 weeks) and fiddle, beginners fiddle and clàrsach classes offered for children at £7 per session. These have been successful though numbers have decreased. An online Fèis week was held in October 2020 with adult classes in whistle, guitar, step dance and Gaelic song for the first time. The virtual Fèis Spè was free although donations were welcomed. Although successful the event did not cover its costs. Rather than the usual Fèis Day in February, 2 days and 1 residential weekend event were held at Badaguish in May, June and July. One of the days was for juniors and Fèis Bheag and one for seniors (8-18). The residential weekend was for Band Practice in advance of a local summer tour in the first week of August 2-6.

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## FÈIS TAIGH DHONNCHaidH

Fèis Taigh Dhonnchaidh takes place in Ness in Lewis where Taigh Dhonnchaidh is a music and arts centre which opened in 2001. The Fèis offers tuition in a multitude of instruments including keyboard, melodeon, chanter, fiddle and guitar for a week during the Easter holidays as well as Gaelic singing, drama and art. The 2019 Fèis was held on 8-12 April with 19 participants in the main Fèis and 20 under 8s attending morning sessions.

The Fèis also organises a programme of classes running throughout the year in a range of disciplines including accordion, melodeon, guitar, Gaelic song and dance. 30 children took part in these sessions, with 6 tutors being involved.

Support is provided for local children to take part in the Mòd and the Fèis took a folk group to the National Mòd in Glasgow.

## FÈIS THATHA

Fèis Thatha organised its first event in Aberfeldy in September 2019. A weekend Fèis included a Fèis Bheag for the 5-8 age group with 45 attending, a Fèis Cròileagan for 60 children and babies aged under 5 and a Main Fèis for 30, 8-18 year olds. At the main Fèis young people chose two different classes including Whistle, Pipes & Chanter, Fiddle, Guitar, percussion, Gaelic song and group work (for more advanced musicians). Everyone took part in learning a local Gaelic song to learn together and perform. At the end of Sunday workshops all the children that had participated performed what they had learnt at a 'sharing session' where parents could hear what their children had learned.

There was also an Adult Fèis involving four activities, run on the morning and afternoon on both days. In Gaelic Singing informal 'come-and-try' workshops for beginners and an intermediate class were offered. Adults also participated in informal 'come-and-try' workshops in music and a cookery session where participants found out the Gaelic words for ingredients in traditional recipes. In the afternoons there were Informal Gaelic conversation circles or beginners' lessons. This was for those interested in learning Gaelic and more about the local Perthshire Gaelic. (approx. 50 participants).

On the Saturday evening there was a family Cèilidh event which was open to the community, where over 150 adults & children came to dance and hear our tutors perform.

7 tutors were involved in the Fèis, along with 2 assistant tutors and 2 Fèis Bheag tutors.

25 volunteers were also involved.

The Fèis weekend was preceded by taster workshops at 8 primary schools, involving 3 tutors as well as a workshop/taster session at the local Aberfeldy Mòd attended by 300 primary school children.

Since lockdown Fèis Thatha has posted performances by local musicians, stories and songs in Gaelic and a percussion lesson on its You Tube channel. It has also worked in partnership with Perth and Kinross Council, Comann nam Pàrant Obar Pheallaidh (Aberfeldy Parents) and Pitlochry Festival Theatre to create The Tay's Gaelic Memoir on the Theatre's You Tube channel.

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## FÈIS AN TAIRBEIRT

Fèis an Tairbeirt ('The Tarbert Fèis') was established in 2016 with the aim of providing young people in the local area with more opportunities to learn traditional music and Gaelic.

Fèis an Tairbeirt now run a series of year-round workshops that include afternoon sessions for adults. The sessions also include a Fèis Bheag for toddlers, intermediate classes for Primary 1 and 2 and the main Fèis workshops for ages 8-18. The workshops offered include Clàrsach, percussion, whistles, music technology, fiddle, accordion and keyboard. In the year July 2018 to June 2019 there were 6 workshop days. The Fèis Bheag session attracts an average around 11, intermediate 6 or 7 and the 8-18 Fèis around 23. The afternoon session for adults has an average attendance of around 12.

There is also an adult clàrsach group at 2 levels which meets separately each month with a tutor. There are a total of 18 participants and the group is self-funded.

Workshops continued until lockdown in March 2020, but the intention was to move to 3 full weekends rather than 6 single days. The first online activities over the weekend of 14th - 15th November 2020 saw a number of new participants from across Scotland and further afield join in the classes. A total of 121 tickets were ordered through Eventbrite. Some classes are pre-recorded and some live, with 59 attendances at live Zoom sessions over the weekend.

## FÈIS THRÒNDAIRNIS

Fèis Thròndairnis began in 2010. In 2019 Fèis Thròndairnis was held in Staffin Primary School from 22nd – 26th July. 50 children attended aged 8-18, with a minibus service to pick up children from further afield including those attending GME in Portree.

9 tutors were engaged, along with 6 supervisors. Sessions were available on whistle, guitar, clàrsach, accordion and drumming as well as Gaelic singing, drama, Highland dancing and arts and crafts. A groupwork class was also offered for more advanced players.

There was a tutors' cèilidh midweek and a children's concert.

## FÈIS THIRIODH

Fèis Thiriodh (Tiree) was established in 1990 as a means of promoting the island's rich culture, music and language – reinstating its importance and relevance in the present day.

The Fèis is held in July each year – 1-5 July in 2019. There is a Main Fèis for children aged 9 and over and adults, a Fèis Bheag for those aged 5-8 and a Fèis Bheag for under 5s. Classes in the Main Fèis in 2019 were: pipes and chanter, fiddle, guitar, drums, Gaelic singing, accordion, keyboard, clàrsach, flute and whistle, Gaelic conversation, film making and sports.

There were 16 tutors. 5 evening events were held – a children's dance, a book launch, a tutor's concert, a pub session and a finale dance.

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## FÈIS TÌR AN EÒRNA

Fèis Tir an Eòrna in North Uist was held from 3rd to 7th of July at the Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath, including a Fèis Bheag for children who are in the year before going to school, primary 1 and primary 2.

The numbers attending the main Fèis this year was 87. Many of the participants come from North Uist while others travelled from Benbecula and South Uist. There are also often participants from the mainland. Fèis Bheag was attended by 18 children who took part in a range of Gàidhlig arts activities and performed at the final concert on the last day of Fèis.

Tuition was offered in a multitude of instruments as well as Gaelic song, drama and Highland Dancing.

## FÈIS TÌR A' MHURAIN

Fèis Tir a' Mhurain in South Uist is a Gaelic Medium Fèis with participants having to be able to converse in Gaelic. The 2019 Fèis, which marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, was held from the 8-12 July 2019, including a Fèis Bheag for 5-7 year olds. Children could choose from: Highland Dancing, Accordion, Button box, Keyboard, Drums, Drama, Singing, Art, Pipes/Chanter, Fiddle, Clàrsach, Media Skills, Guitar and Shinty. All the classes are delivered through the medium of Gaelic.

95 children attended, including 25 at the Fèis Bheag. Most of the children are local but some visit South Uist for the Fèis either staying with family or coming on a family holiday. The Fèis is promoted at Gaelic Medium schools in Scotland and there are some attendees from areas such as Glasgow.

There was a choice of 14 classes from which participants choose 3 subjects. 19 tutors and 6 supervisors were employed, most of them from the local area although 4 or 5 are usually from outside Uist and new tutors are regularly introduced.

Weekly evening classes in chanter and singing take place in Kildonan Museum with one tutor delivering classes set at different ability levels. 40 people take part.

Fèis Tir a' Mhurain held an online Fèis in 2020 with substantial support from Fèisean nan Gàidheal. The weekly classes also continued online, with smaller numbers than before.