

News release

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Significant improvements required at Bòrd na Gàidhlig

The public body for promoting Gaelic must address a range of concerns from a lack of openness to poor relationships and organisational culture.

A report today from the Auditor General highlights a wide range of issues raised by the external auditor over the last year. Issues identified included:

- ineffective leadership
- inadequate workforce planning
- a lack of clarity over roles and responsibilities
- poor relationships and organisational culture
- a lack of transparency in decision-making.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is based in Inverness and employs around 19 staff. In 2018/19 it had a net expenditure of £5.3 million.

Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland, said: "Gaelic is an important part of Scotland's culture.

"But all public bodies, irrespective of their size, must demonstrate clear and effective governance and make key decisions in an open and transparent way.

"The Bòrd's leadership team and board must deliver significant improvements in the issues raised to establish the trust and confidence of staff and stakeholders, including the Parliament and the public."

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Notes to editors

1. This is a section 22 report which allows the Auditor General to bring attention to Parliament and the public matters of wider interest arising from the annual audits of public bodies. It is available in Gaelic and English [here](#) along with the Annual Audit Report, Interim Report and Improvement Plan.

2. Audit Scotland has prepared this report for the Auditor General for Scotland. All Audit Scotland reports published since 2000 are available at www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

- The Auditor General appoints auditors to Scotland's central government and NHS bodies; examines how public bodies spend public money; helps them to manage their finances to the highest standards; and checks whether they achieve value for money. The Auditor General is independent and is not subject to the control of the Scottish Government or the Scottish Parliament
- Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act, 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.
- Audit Scotland appoints a mix of in-house teams and private firms to audit public bodies. Deloitte is the appointed external auditor for Bòrd na Gàidhlig.