

MG ALBA response to the Committee's Questions

MG ALBA's response has focussed on the areas in which we are able to provide a valuable contribution

The impact on other broadcasters of establishing an SBS

BBC ALBA is a partnership between MG ALBA and the BBC. Whilst funding and governance arrangements for the BBC are wholly reserved to the UK Parliament, statutory responsibility for funding MG ALBA is devolved to the Scottish Ministers.

To preserve, or even strengthen, the successful current arrangements:

- Statutory provision should ensure specific ring-fencing for Gaelic broadcasting of national assets such as DTT spectrum and EPG prominence;
- Statutory provision should ensure that Gaelic content is easily "findable" on the home pages of smart TVs and other devices sold in Scotland;
- Statutory provision should ensure that Scotland takes unto itself the highest levels of obligations to Gaelic under Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages <http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/en/Treaties/Html/148.htm>.
- Statutory provision should ensure the continued existence of a Gaelic language co-broadcaster, such as MG ALBA, obliged and funded to commission and schedule the content to serve the audiences in Scotland with high quality Gaelic programmes.

The current capacity of Scottish producers, and whether any planning and investment would be required to increase opportunities for this sector

The global demand for audio-visual content has never been higher. Scottish producers are well able to compete in the Scottish, UK and international markets but it is a well-established fact that interventions are required to facilitate growth for this sector.

How Scottish cultural bodies currently work together with their counterpart bodies in the rest of the UK, and whether this relationship may change

MG ALBA enjoy good and productive relationships with Scottish cultural bodies such as Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and with our counterpart bodies in the rest of the UK, such as the Welsh language broadcaster, S4C, and the Irish language broadcaster, TG4. We anticipate that these relationships will continue to grow and develop to the benefit of all parties.