



Department of Culture,
Arts and Leisure
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MÁNNYSTRIE O
**Fowkgates, Airts
an Aisedom**

Draft Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture

Responses to the Public Consultation

April 2013

Responses to the Public Consultation

INTRODUCTION

Between 11 July and 27 November 2012, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure carried out a public consultation on its draft Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture.

The Department invited comments on the various sections of the consultation document.

The responses to the consultation have been collated in a series of documents, which reflect the sections and questions in the consultation document.

- Part 1: Comments on the Aims of the Strategy
- Part 2: Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
- Part 3: Comments on Education as an Area for Action in the Strategy
- Part 4: Comments on Media as an Area for Action in the Strategy
- Part 5: Comments on Use of Language as an Area for Action in the Strategy
- Part 6: Comments on Public Services as an Area for Action in the Strategy
- Part 7: Comments on Culture as an Area for Action in the Strategy
- Part 8: Suggestions for Other Areas for Action in the Strategy
- Part 9: Comments on Proposals in the Strategy for Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability
- Part 10: Other Comments on the Strategy
- Part 11: Comments on the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Where responses did not clearly identify the sections/questions to which the comments related, we have included the comments in the sections that we considered to be most relevant. If we weren't able to do this or if the responses were of a more general kind, we have included them in Part 10: Other Comments on the Strategy.

Organisations that responded have been identified but individuals have not. However, the numbers in the left hand column are consistent across all 11 documents so, for example, responses numbered 001 in each section are from the same source.

Part 1 Comments on the Aims of the Strategy

Aims of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Aims of the Strategy
001	Individual	<p>In principal they seem good. However, the proof, as always, will be in the pudding.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Ensure it is available to people across Northern Ireland, not just in Belfast, as seems to be the norm.</p>
002	Individual	<p>Very progressive indeed and deserves to succeed.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Should include a world wide aim e.g. we have good friends in other countries, for instance, USA, Australia, Scotland and England etc. Need to learn of events we can collectively attend overseas and so help promote an international Ulster Scots identity.</p>
003	Individual	<p>The strategy's aims are excellent but in my opinion fail to set out how they will engage with the remaining native speakers and seem to rely on the selected few of 'experts' to forward the language.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>They must make greater effort to engage with and involve the speakers who every day use Ulster Scots as their first language. At present they have been somewhat excluded from the promotion of their language and view some of the efforts made with derision and scorn.</p>
004	Individual	<p>The Ulster Scots Language and Culture must be preserved at all costs. This is an essential part of the growth of Ireland as a whole and the shaping of the people of this island as have many other groups that took residence here. I feel that the Cultural Minister is focused only on the Irish aspect and will use this survey as a way to either demonise the Ulster Scots or to airbrush us from History</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>it should be used to promote and encourage the use of the Ulster Scots language and to highlight the Ulster Scots tradition and culture</p>
005	Individual	<p>The strategy should aim to protect and enhance Orange culture more and aim to have the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture taught in schools in Northern Ireland and the counties of Southern Ireland that constitute Ulster.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p>

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Aims of the Strategy

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		To have a standardised version of the language set as a ministerial priority. To have street name and signs in Ulster Scots and have the right to have Ulster Scots used in public offices and council offices.
006	Individual	They seem to be well thought out, and clearly stated & explained The stated aims are comprehensive & flexible
007		A waste of time, money and effort. Ulster Scots is not a language. It is, at best a dialect and at worst an accent.
008	Individual	A load of rubbish The whole thing should be scrapped immediately
009	Individual	In contrast with the strategy for the Irish Language, this strategy also includes heritage and culture. Why is this? I would suggest that it is an admission that the 'language' itself is neither robust enough nor vibrant enough to merit a strategy of its own. For these reasons, the language should never be allowed a place in the education system: its status as a language is debatable at best, and a collection of dialect words and phrases, along with an artificial accent, will never provide the academic rigour required. Further, as there is no degree level qualification in Ulster Scots (and never should be), there can be no suitably qualified teachers to teach at A Level; as there is no A Level (and never should be) there can be no suitably qualified teachers to teach at GCSE Level, etc. The educational element of the strategy needs to be abandoned, or restricted to classes which are not part of the official educational system.
		Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy It should be a specifically stated aim of the strategy that Ulster Scots is not seen as a topic exclusively for the Protestant community in Northern Ireland.
010	Anonymous	By creating a framework were the Ulster Scots Language, heritage and culture is very true to its meaning if we look at the way it has grown since the formation of the Ulster Scots agency who we all have to congratulate for its through their hard work in promoting everything to do with our Ulster Scot Heritage and what was becoming a lost culture and developing it were more and more people are coming to realise it has been a big part of their every day life through the words they speak the things they do through laughter, fun, and culture, not only the Culture of this Country but of

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		<p>the people who emigrated many years ago to foreign lands were they are now tracing back on their Ulster Scots Heritage were many Cities and Towns were named and are still named after the lands they left in Ulster and the internet and Facebook, Twitter helps greatly in aiding the contacts in Ulster with people like Brian McConnell in contact with many in our homeland also Scotland, Toronto and Canada ,and through promoting our heritage through music ,festival poetry, language so that this wonderful culture can be enjoyed and shared by all who come in contact with it ,and promoting a better understanding so it can flourish into the future and be cherished by both young and old alike throughout the world were they can all see the wonderful Cultural and heritage we have as Ulster Scots in an island home to many.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>I think the Agency has covered everything in their aims, Objectives and strategy and are doing an excellent job in the way they do so, unfortunately they could do with more support and backing from Government bodies in carrying out the outstanding work they do by promoting the Ulster Scots Heritage through the media and radio of which is becoming more popular each time it is seen and heard , and a Ulster Scots Academy is a Brilliant idea and should be helped to develop Adult education and employment through culture as it is already throughout many schools in Ulster, were it can be carried into economic development and tourism, and heritage centres throughout Ulster promoting the vast history of this island that can be shared and enjoyed by all .</p>
011	Individual	<p>I think that it is a great idea to create a framework in which the Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage can expand and be seen, heard and enjoyed by everyone. Supporting the development and learning of the Ulster Scots language culture and heritage is a good strategic aim, only with this will the language grow. In a place like Northern Ireland, the promotion of good understanding and recognition of Ulster Scots is crucial to the expansion and acceptance of all.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The choice to learn Ulster Scots in School, at both GCSE level and 'A' Level grades.</p>
012	Anonymous	<p>I think it's a vast waste of public money. Ulster Scots, you could argue, is a dialect at best and possibly little more than an accent. I have had little or no upbringing in the Ulster Scots culture and yet I can translate about 70% of any publication in the "language" by reading the words in a</p>

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		Scottish accent. It is a nonsense to try and give it equal status as the Irish language. I personally don't think the Irish language deserves as much promotion as it gets either considering how few people actually speak it as a first tongue but at least it is a genuine language!
013	Individual	<p>Creating a framework to allow the dialect and associated culture to be enjoyed by all, natives and tourists, is a good idea. Where natural interest is lacking, no money should be wasted in protection or development of the heritage or culture.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Only true, historically accurate heritage and culture should be protected. When it is being modernised and made more saleable, it should not be promoted. The culture promoted seems to forget the roots of strict Presbyterianism and hard work.</p>
014	Individual	<p>Excellent aims, action and funds to achieve these aims needed.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Improve local history knowledge. Improve culture knowledge and counter negative press</p>
015	Anonymous	Better promotion of how the regional Ulster Scots Agency workers can help community groups with educational programmes.
016	Individual	I think this is a very good idea. And that Ulster Scots should get more recognition and have the opportunity to flourish
017	Individual	<p>I agree with these aims</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>To ensure that equal funding is given to promotion of Ulster Scots as that given to promotion of Irish language</p>
018	Individual	<p>When this review is completed we need to be in a position where more resources would be available to the Ulster Scots Agency to allow it to be more supportive of everything connected with the full repertoire of matters that fall within the banner of "Ulster Scots" be it language, culture or history.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>More funds to allow small groups to promote Ulster Scots language and culture.</p>

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Aims of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Aims of the Strategy
019	Anonymous	Ulster Scots language must not be lost
020	Individual	<p>I agree entirely with the aims of the strategy. It is vital that the Ulster-Scots heritage is preserved and nurtured</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The pipe band fraternity should be given every assistance possible. Pipe bands provide a great means for young people to develop musical talent, improve discipline and demonstrate the importance of teamwork</p>
021	Individual	<p>I feel that the aims of the strategy are vital if the Ulster Scots Language is to thrive and develop in the future. If there isn't a proper foundation and importance accorded to it, it will not be granted much needed attention and funds.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>I feel that the afore mentioned aims if acted on are sufficient to raise the profile of the language</p>
022	Individual	<p>OFMDFM's guide to effective policy making, suggest that 'Aims and Objectives' should be the clearly linked to a robust evidence base, a clear analysis of the issues, and a coherent rationale underpinning policy proposals. I dare say that these draft 'Aims and Objectives' produced by DCAL, sadly fall far short of the OFMDFM's recommendations. A mechanism should be established to facilitate and monitor interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination of services aimed at the resolute action they are required, by law, to be taken to promote the Ulster-Scots variety of the Scots language.</p> <p>Aims and Objectives</p> <p>The DCAL Draft Strategy identifies 3 Aims, and 4 Objectives: Although aims and objectives are treated as near-synonyms in some dictionaries, when they are linked in policy documents they usually have distinct and separate functions. Aims tend to involve broad, generalised statements of intent or of intended outcomes (confusingly, the term 'policy objectives' is often used in this more generalised sense). Each aim is usually broken down into a number of objectives. These tend to provide a more detailed account of how the aims are to be realised, and often identify criteria for measuring success. In most policy documents, objectives are clearly related to overarching aims. The Draft Strategy appears to have been compiled with some haste, This is unfortunate, as the policy development guidance provided by OFMDFM5 requires, before aims and objectives are even</p>

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		<p>considered, that attention be given to providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a robust evidence base; • a clear analysis of the issues; • a coherent rationale underpinning policy proposals. <p>The OFMDFM guidance also makes it clear that, based on the above, well-defined aims and objectives are critical to the further stages of policy development. Further stages, such as the development of policy options, an effective consultation process, and various impact assessment exercises, right through to the final stages of costing and implementation, will be less effectively carried out in the absence of coherent aims and objectives derived from a sound evidential and theoretical base.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>One would have thought that the Ulster version of the Scots language should be treated separately from Heritage and Culture. That Ulster Scots' Heritage and Culture should be promoted as part of all our heritage and culture and not as some exclusive and separate entity (as should be our Gaelic heritage and culture,) if for no other reason than that it would facilitate better community relations and the building of 'Building a Strong and Shared Community'. The NI Arts Council, Local Authorities, Educational Authorities etc should have the primary role in Heritage and Culture promotion. Whilst approx 25% of speakers of Ulster Scots are from the RC Community, Ulster Scots is promoted purely as belonging to the descendants of Protestant planters of the post 1600 era.</p>
023	Individual	<p>Whilst I think it is reasonable to "protect & support" the learning of Ulster Scots, I think that an additional aim of "creating the learning" is also required. Ulster Scots is different from Irish in this respect in that there are already qualified teachers in the language and as a consequence not only is it taught in schools but there are also night classes in it. In the case of Ulster Scots there isn't the base of qualified teachers and therefore neither the teaching in schools nor in night classes. Moreover, those of us who would claim to speak Ulster Scots can read it poorly and rarely are able to write it thus there is a need to create the classes to build up the reading/writing now and from that the teaching of the next generation before the language largely dies out. For example, my grandparents were very much native speakers of it, I can speak is passably but my children hardly at all.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p>

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		Following on from the previous screen, I think that there would need to be separate aims in the teaching: 1) to develop the reading/writing of those who can already speak it and 2) to teach it largely from scratch to others.
024	Individual	<p>I would totally agree with the aims of the strategy.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Insure equality of treatment for Ulster-Scots with Gaelic language.</p>
025	Anonymous	<p>Good</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>introducing Ulster-Scots into education</p>
028	Individual	<p>A language strategy should be undertaken on its own and not be linked to a diffuse strategy for heritage and culture. Included alongside heritage and culture, the language may be seen to belong to a particular set of self defined inheritors. Culture is often described as the “the behaviours and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group”. As language transcends social or ethnic groups, it cannot be promoted in a way that implies it is anyone’s property.</p> <p>The Strategy for Protecting and Enhancing the Development of the Irish Language avoids ambiguities of ownership by stating in section 2.5 that “the Irish language should be respected as part of our shared diverse cultural wealth, to be enjoyed by all who choose to use it.” No heritage and culture baggage is attached to it.</p> <p>Why not an equally non-partisan formulation “the Scots language should be respected as part of our shared diverse cultural wealth, to be enjoyed by all who choose to use it”?</p> <p>Table 1 on page 40 of the Public Consultation document⁵ clearly shows that the use of Scots in Ulster is a genuine cross-community phenomenon. Burdening a language strategy with unnecessary ethnic stereotypes is as damaging as it is incorrect.</p> <p>Heritage and culture should be part of the general DCAL remit and promotion of tourism remain the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Organisations and individuals interested in the promotion of heritage and culture should be free to co-operate with those bodies.</p> <p>Which language is the strategy for? The “variety of the Scots language traditionally found in parts of Northern Ireland and Donegal” as defined in UK legislation (SI 859, 1999), or the</p>

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		<p>'Ulster-Scotch' that some hold — or affect to hold — to be a language in its own right? If Scots is a language, there is only one Scots language comprising various dialects.</p> <p>The aims and objectives of section 3 are laudable. Just remove the heritage and culture baggage.</p> <p>A language strategy for the Scots language in Ulster will have to be developed in partnership with recognised academic expertise in the field, native speakers and other interested parties. As much of the current academic expertise in the Scots language is to be found in Scotland, drawing on such resources would be something of a necessity.</p> <p>In Section 2.7 it states "in order to preserve the languages for future generations." If an aim is to preserve Scots as a living language for future generations then the objective of a language strategy should be to ensure intergenerational transmission.</p> <p>Further areas for action are clearly initiatives that facilitate access to opportunities for those who wish to learn to speak the language, and literacy in the language for both learners and native speakers.</p> <p>What kind of literacy is to be taught, the extant literary tradition shared with Scotland enabling individuals to make informed choices, or one or more of the recently synthesised pastiche orthographies combining "traditional, surviving, revived, changed, and invented features"?</p> <p>As the consultation responses to the "Public Consultation on Proposals for an Ulster-Scots Academy" show, serious reconsideration of such an endeavour is required.</p>
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	<p>In our view it is essential that there is increased understanding and awareness in relation to the Ulster Scots Language, and Culture as part of a wider Ulster/British identity in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The strategy in our view should also seek to clarify the position of Border Scots families who potentially were English as well as Scots depending on which side of the Border they were located. This was the case with the Johnston / Johnstone family. This cultural clarification would require some understanding of the position of English settlement families and their relationship to the Ulster Scots.</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>The Society is in broad agreement with the expression of the Strategy's aims. However, our experience has shown that the question of status is central to the welfare of the language.</p>

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		<p>For example, there is little point in making provision for Ulster Scots language voicemail services which people are embarrassed about using the language in all social contexts.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The Society would advocate the inclusion of wording that specifically emphasizes safeguarding the enhancing the status of the Ulster Scots language, and encouraging its teaching and inter-generational transfer as a language.</p>
033	Ullans Speakers Association	<p>Overall, the Ullans Speakers Association welcome the aims of the strategy document.</p> <p>We believe it is important to recognise native Ulster Scots speakers, increase knowledge of the language, create opportunities to use the language, foster positive attitudes towards the language and encourage its use in public.</p> <p>We welcome the recognition that it's not just DCAL who have a responsibility in making sure this strategy is delivered, it requires input and commitment by other government departments. Funding for the Ulster Scots language should be paid for by the Department of Education and not the Ulster Scots Agency.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>We also believe that the strategy should have the aim of increasing capacity and infrastructure within the Ulster Scots Community</p>
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	RSPBANI broadly welcomes the overall aim of the Strategy document.
037	Individual	<p>The aims of the strategy, insofar as they extend, are worthy.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The strategy should examine the economic, social and cultural potential of developing links with Scotland, particularly on the east coast of Ulster in Antrim and Down. The historic links with these areas are exceptional and worthy of exploration and development to link communities, business and infrastructures, cultural tourism initiatives and so on.</p> <p>The strategy can address issues of social exclusion through a focused economic approach in terms of encouraging development of cultural tourism, establishment of an Ulster Scots interpretive centre, and out centres in different areas. In my own community of Ballycarry, County Antrim, we have</p>

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		<p>seen a change in local outlooks when tourists have started to visit through our efforts at developing tourist attractions, and it is important that efforts are made to harness the economic potential of cultural tourism in relation to Ulster Scots. We have developed initiatives in terms of a tourist trail highlighting James Orr, the foremost of the Ulster Weaver Poets, training of tour guides, establishment of a highly successful festival and other initiatives and as a community can see the benefits on a small scale of such initiatives. The potential on a larger scale is considerable.</p> <p>I believe very passionately that there should be an Ulster Scots interpretive centre in Northern Ireland and equally passionately that it should be located in the East Antrim area in the heartland of Ulster Scots settlement. It should be a strategy aim to see such a centre developed as a centre of cultural excellence and an important cultural tourism resource.</p>
038	Ballycarry & District Community Association	<p>In our view it is essential that there is increased understanding and awareness in relation to the Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture as there is still a negative perception in our view among many in relation to our culture and identity.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>We believe that the strategy can aim to address issues of social exclusion through a focused and robust economic approach in terms of encouraging development of cultural tourism, establishment of an Ulster Scots interpretive centre, and out centres in different areas. In our own community we have seen a change in outlooks when tourists are seen to be encouraged to visit, and it is important that efforts are made to harness the economic potential of cultural tourism in relation to Ulster Scots. The strategy should also aim to encourage grassroots linkage with Scotland at the logic of the Ulster Scots community; such linkage should be seen in the context of developing a sense of the unique relationships which exist within the British Isles and should threaten no community but benefit it.</p>
039	Individual	<p>Paragraph 3.1, these are worthy and useful overall aims. However, for this complete strategy and throughout the full document I request that the words "Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture" are changed to read "Ulster Scots language, history and attendant culture."</p>
043	Carrickfergus	<p>Carrickfergus Borough Council agree with the aims, they are</p>

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	Borough Council	clear and although overarching, retain an element of flexibility Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy An element that recognises the role of both NITB and TI in the promotion of Ulster-Scots
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	Newry and Mourne District Council agrees with the aims of the Strategy Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that a coherent and comprehensive definition of Ulster Scots, culture, heritage and language is developed Improving the Charter position should be an aim of the strategy
049; 130	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland	The Strategy's aims are wide-ranging and from the point of view of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland would cover the preservation of, and access to, the resources held by the Society that would contribute to a greater understanding and a better knowledge of Ulster Scots heritage and culture.
056	Individual	The aims of the strategy are excellent but I believe the Ulster Scots Agency will fail to fulfil its role in the Programme for Government 'as a key building block to deliver against the priority of 'Building a Strong and Shared Community'. This is because The Agency is currently viewed as serving only one section of the community. This view is unfortunately supported by the actions and the activities of the Agency. These range from an article in the Ulster Scot by the Chief Executive last October praising the "brave Ulster Scots defending Londonderry in 1689" and including Mary Ann McCracken in their gallery of famous Ulster Scots whilst excluding "her more famous brother"* Henry Joy McCracken. *Ulster Scots Agency website Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy The Ulster Scots Agency must promote itself as an impartial organisation
057	Arts Council of Northern Ireland	The strategy does not provide detail around the level of consultation conducted in the development of the strategy. This is an important dimension as it provides a background to how the specific aims were formulated. In addition, such detail would provide the individuals and groups consulted at

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		the initial development phase with a sense of inclusiveness - from the draft strategy to implementation stage.
062	Democratic Unionist Party	<p>We welcome the aims as outlined in the consultation document, specifically the commitment to promote a wider understanding of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. This is an important aim and if actively pursued should help to break the negative and hostile treatment which Ulster-Scots receives from some quarters. In a pluralist and forward-looking society if any area of interest had undergone the type of expansion that Ulster-Scots has it would be hailed as nothing short of a revival, but unfortunately the Ulster-Scots revival has been met with ignorant commentary and unfounded criticism from some quarters.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The DUP recognises the importance of the Ulster-Scots diaspora as a potential market for tourism. We therefore believe that increasing international awareness of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture should be added as a fourth core aim of the strategy.</p> <p>The wording would of the fourth aim of the strategy would be:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"to create international awareness and recognition of Ulster-Scots language heritage and culture"</i></p> <p>We would add a fifth aim:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"to develop capacity and community development within the Ulster-Scots community"</i></p>
064	Individual	The Strategy's aims are comprehensive; I agree with them and cannot add to them.
067	Strabane District Council	<p>Strabane District Council fully supports the key aims of the draft strategy.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Strabane District Council would reiterate the sentiments expressed by Omagh District Council in relation to the cultural and political connotations associated with developing the Irish Language. As noted by Omagh District Council, it is unfortunate that both the Irish and the Ulster Scots have been associated with one or other political background or culture which has created barriers to the use of either language. Council would support the call for more initiatives to change mindsets, attitudes and behaviours in this regard.</p>

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068-128	Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCN welcome the aims and aspirations of the Strategy document. • We particularly welcome the recognition that other government departments (not just DCAL) have multilayered responsibilities in the successful delivery of this document <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>A key Aim which is not included should be to increase capacity and infrastructure within the Ulster-Scots Community.</p>
131	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)	The aims and objectives of the Strategy seem appropriate.
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>The Ulster-Scots Agency is broadly supportive of the aims set out in the strategy.</p> <p>We would suggest that the overall shape of the strategy could be enhanced by the Executive setting out a clear vision for Ulster-Scots, which would then set the context for subsequent aims and objectives. In the absence of such a vision, the aims set out, while generally positive, may be expressed at such a high level that it is difficult to connect them with ultimate outcomes.</p> <p>The wider strategy would also be enhanced by the identification of a timescale for the lifetime of the strategy. It is self-evident that some of the proposed actions will take longer than others to achieve, nevertheless it would be useful to identify a high level time period for this strategy so that achievements can be more effectively measured, perhaps by reference to Programme for Government and/or CSR periods.</p> <p>In light of a high level of apathy within the Ulster-Scots community, following many previous consultations, it would also be beneficial to identify a range of actions as short, medium and long term priorities, with a number of readily achievable “quick wins” identified in order to build the confidence of the community and also to build a sense of momentum around Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>Ulster-Scots suffers as the result of a long-term status deficit, partly as a result of historic factors such as the linguistic dominance of English; and partly as a result of more recent, ill-informed attacks. The Agency supports the view,</p>

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		expressed by key stakeholders, that the strategy could do more to highlight and address this issue. It is submitted that this issue is of such significance as a barrier to positive engagement with Ulster-Scots that addressing it merits inclusion as an aim of the strategy. The existing aims in general and this proposed new aim in particular, would benefit from a more muscular wording which gives effect to the Charter commitment for "resolute action."
134	Green Party	<p>The Green Party is in favour of the promotion of all minority languages; including Ulster Scots and Irish. We are not a party which seeks to create division, but rather inclusion. We welcome the introduction of an Ulster Scots strategy. In particular we feel that both education and protection are key for the survival of Ulster Scots. However, like the Irish language strategy, we feel that the aims of this proposal do not go far enough in terms of making Ulster Scots inclusive.</p> <p>Suggestions for other aims of the Strategy</p> <p>The Green Party will only support a strategy for Ulster Scots on the condition that it is inclusive. We believe that the strategy should aim to ensure greater engagement with the nationalist community.</p> <p>The Green Party would like more people to approach Ulster Scots with an open mind. We believe a strategy has the potential to help people develop their passions for local history, heritage, art and even linguistics.</p> <p>Education and protection are key to the survival of Ulster Scots. However, a language cannot fully thrive and flourish unless there is a healthy, stable environment. With this in mind, we would like to see a tourism related outlet or another means of bringing economic benefits to the areas where Ulster Scots culture can be found. Such an economic flow would help develop the regions and promote Ulster Scots culture and language.</p> <p>We would like to see more Cross-border developments, given that the Ulster Scots culture is also alive in County Donegal. It may prove beneficial to explore Cross-border initiatives and programs which bring people together in the common space that is provided by shared culture. Links to Scotland could also be established to further enrich the Strategy and proposed plans.</p>
137	Anonymous	Strongly Agree

Part 2 Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy

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Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
001	Individual	Initially they look ok.
002	Individual	Good. Will not be easy to achieve unless Ulster Scots branches are formed more widespread throughout the Provence
003	Individual	I feel they are excellent but I especially await to see what can be done to have more native speakers on radio programmes rather than well meaning people talking about a language they cannot speak.
004	Individual	<p>sound and reasoned objectives but suspicious of the Ministers` role in this after her publicly supporting the IRA</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>more integrated online culture programmes and surveys, more support for Festivals and promote Tourism of the Ulster Scots areas of settlement, for preservation of important Historical sites, provide education programmes in schools and colleges,</p>
005	Individual	Ulster Scots should be used and promoted where possible.
006	Individual	They are clearly stated & comprehensive
008	Individual	From start to finish - totally unnecessary
009	Individual	<p>1) Educational provision should be outside of the official education system, i.e. it should be in night classes, not in primary and secondary schools, and no attempt should be made to create GCSE, A Level or degree qualifications in a 'language' that is little more than a regional accent.</p> <p>2) All objectives should be restricted to the 'language' - heritage and culture is far too wide a remit and far too difficult to define. I have seen Arts Council funded events on Ulster Scots cooking, whatever that might be!</p> <p>3) The current provision of ridiculous and unintentionally hilarious programmes on the media is more than adequate - increase in provision should not be envisaged.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>Clearly state that Ulster Scots is not exclusively for the Protestant community as some sort of balance for money spent on the Irish language (which is not exclusively for the Catholic community).</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
010	Anonymous	<p>As I have said the agency has covered everything and I am very happy to support them in everything they do for the good of the Ulster Scots Heritage and Culture that we love</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>Having read through this document i am happy that the Agency has covered all the objectives.</p>
011	Individual	I could not disagree with any of them.
013	Individual	<p>Total nonsense. When our children are failing to keep up with international standards for English, adding in a dialect that will make it even harder to spell correctly is going to add to the decline. The heritage and culture should be handled in context of the area. The dancing, as a late import, is a good idea for fitness though. Ulster Scots online - should be by private enterprise. No one with this dialect as their first "language", cannot understand English. The culture will promote itself if it is economically important. The culture is relatively modern, there is no need for public research.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>To limit the amount of tax payers money spent on the culture and promote communities to embrace their culture naturally, not because of grant money.</p>
014	Individual	<p>Excellent objectives with all necessary energy, funding and actions should be applied to achieve them.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>Equality of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture in its promotion and funding.</p> <p>Tackle negative press and attacks on its existence</p>
015	Anonymous	<p>More focus has to be made on learning about Ulster Scots language and culture in schools in the same way that Gaelic and Irish culture is promoted.</p> <p>More needs to be done to educate about the impact that Ulster Scots people have had in shaping history in many countries around the world.</p>
017	Individual	I support these objectives
018	Individual	Whilst it is good in as far as it goes it needs to look hard at the financial aspects of all things pertaining to the Ulster

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Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
		<p>Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>Attention to the efforts of small groups. Small groups being encouraged to reach out and get the help they need to further Culture.</p>
020	Individual	<p>Agree entirely. The potential tourism benefits to NI of the promotion of the culture and heritage are huge</p>
021	Individual	<p>I would be particularly keen that the Heritage and culture part of the first objective would be focused on. By that I mean that there would be more provision for a Protestant/Ulster Scots way of life which includes being able to celebrate the culture of bands and marching where more respect is offered.</p> <p>I would also like to see more promotion of Ulster Scots via and media and particularly in relation to websites offering access to the language.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>None required. Plenty of scope with the existing objectives.</p>
022	Individual	<p>The promotion of Ulster Scots should done on a planned and phased basis. The primary objective should be the standardization of the written Ulster Scots variety of Scots. Personally I would develop a 'common written standard Scots', that could be used also by Ulster Scots speakers. I don't think that the production of a standard for of writing one of the dialectical forms of Scots is a wise move or even desirable given the extremely weak situation of Ulster Scots and of Scots itself.</p>
023	Individual	<p>Fine as far as they go but I'd like to see an inclusion of Scots as well. There clearly is a very close link between Scots and Ulster Scots and the two are if anything growing closer together if only because there are more educational resources in Scots.</p> <p>I wonder if there should be a recognition that some financial support is required for the translations? For instance, I think that I had the only hotel website written in Ulster Scots; there probably are no others as it would cost a fair bit to pay for a translation.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>There should be an objective to actively encourage the use of Ulster Scots. At the moment I work in a government</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
		department and, whilst there is an equality policy, the lack of people who are actively recognised as fluent in Ulster Scots means that the policy essentially directs us to the language unit if someone were to make contact in Ulster Scots. As in other European organisations, there needs to be an identified pool of people who can communicate in the language and more active encouragement to develop one's ability in it.
024	Individual	I would agree with the objectives.
025	Anonymous	good
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	<p>The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland will feel that these are very worthy objectives and worthy of support.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>It should be an objective to ensure that sufficient funding is in place to develop a vibrant Ulster Scots sector in Northern Ireland; while the objectives listed in 3.2 are worthy they will only remain objectives unless the Government provides suitable funding to ensure that they are realised.</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>We would advocate that the first objective is amended to read: 'Increase educational provision for all aspects of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture, recognising that the teaching of the language has an integral place within the education curriculum administered in the same way as other academic language subjects'. We feel that there needs to be clarity that the educational provision for the language is to deliver language acquisition and not just language 'awareness'.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>We believe it is important to have a fifth objective that promotes, in relation to Ulster Scots, compliance with human rights obligations contained in the treaties ratified by the UK in regard to language, heritage and culture, specifically taking account of obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.</p>
037; 038	Individual; Ballycarry & District Community Association	<p>The Association feels that these are very worthy objectives and worthy of support.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>It should be an objective to ensure that sufficient funding is</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
		<p>in place to develop a vibrant Ulster Scots sector in Northern Ireland; while the objectives listed in 3.2 are worthy they will only remain objectives unless the Government provides suitable funding to ensure that they are realised. In our view there has been a major disparity in funding for Ulster Scots over many years, whereas the more developed Irish language community sector has been able to capitalise on funding opportunities.</p> <p>As the organisers of the longest established (and we believe largest) Ulster Scots community festival, the Broadisland Gathering, we believe there should be greater central support to help develop a number of showcase events to a high standard. This would entail a tiered system of funding, since there are currently many festivals or events or varying standards vying for funding. However, the long term and strategic benefit of some of the events is not at a high level, not should it necessarily be. There is, however, in our view the need to develop a Braemar type gathering, or a Stone Mountain or Grandfather Mountain type event which would attract tourists from Scotland, North America, and beyond and which could attract top international acts from the Ulster Scots and Scottish background to perform and thus highlight the event.</p>
039	Individual	Paragraph 3.2, request that a fifth objective be added – Promote equality and fairness in relation to the media’s handling and reporting of the Ulster Scots language, history and attendant culture.
043	Carrickfergus Borough Council	<p>Focuses very much on the academic</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>A recognition of the importance of getting the existing product right</p>
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<p>The Council recommends that the first objective should read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase high quality formal and informal educational provision of all aspects of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture <p>The Council recommends that the second objective should read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase provision of high quality Ulster Scots media promoting Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
		Improving the Charter position should be an objective of the strategy
049; 130	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland	<p>3.2</p> <p>Educational provision</p> <p>It is good to see that there will be increased educational provision at every level of education. The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland is aware of the need to reach beyond the academic community to a younger audience who may have little or no knowledge of the history of Presbyterianism in Ireland which is crucial to an understanding of Ulster Scots history and culture.</p> <p>Economic potential</p> <p>There is certainly a tourist and therefore an economic opportunity to market Ulster Scots history and heritage because of the millions of people in the USA and Canada in particular but also in Australia and New Zealand who have Ulster-Scots ancestry. A high proportion of the users of the Presbyterian Historical Society’s library and archive are family historians who are interested not only in tracing their Ulster Scots ancestry but in finding out about the history of the period when their ancestors lived in Ulster and of the churches attended by their ancestors. So we welcome this particular objective.</p> <p>Promote research</p> <p>Research is fundamental to the aims of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland so this objective resonates very positively with us. You might also add in to this objective – ‘supporting research’ – since research is only possible if the archives and collections are preserved and secured and are made accessible.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>See above in relation to research –</p> <p>‘Promote and support research in relation to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture’.</p>
054	University of Ulster	The University of Ulster would broadly welcome the strategy’s aims and objectives. The Department sets out a holistic and well-conceived strategy that recognises the significant contribution that Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture makes to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

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Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
056	Individual	<p>Research into Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture is essential. The Agency itself does not seem to have a clear understanding of the term. They claim that Ulster Scots began with the first permanent Scots settlement in Ulster in the 17th century, strangely ignoring thousands of years of history and settlement before this period.</p> <p>They also confusingly refer to the Bruce's influence in the early 1300's and the "late sixth- and early seventh-century Kingdom of Dál Riata", both long before what the Agency calls "the coming of the Ulster Scots".</p> <p>Someone has recently attempted to define the term on their website which reads almost as a summing up for the defence.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that contributing towards building peace and reconciliation is not currently an objective. The Chief Executive, Mr Ian Crozier, was asked the following question on 8th May 2012;</p> <p>What role does the Ulster-Scots Agency have in the "strategy for reconciliation"?</p> <p>His reply, nearly six months later, and after a complaint to and intervention of DCAL officials was:</p> <p>"The Ulster Scots Agency does not have a specific role in relation to reconciliation."</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>To become the primary agency of change within Northern Ireland and play a leading role in building peace and reconciliation.</p>
057	Arts Council of Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy does not provide detail around the level of consultation conducted in the development of the strategy. This is an important dimension as it provides a background to how the specific objectives were formulated. In addition, such detail would provide the individuals and groups consulted at the initial development phase with a sense of inclusiveness - from the draft strategy to implementation stage. • More specifically, the objectives do not include terminology such as: arts, literature and/or creativity in relation to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.
062	Democratic Unionist	The DUP supports the objectives outlined in the strategy, especially the increase in educational provision of all aspects

Responses to the Public Consultation

Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
	Party	<p>of Ulster-Scots language heritage and culture. Increased provision of educational resources and materials, especially in primary and secondary schools, will create an increased understanding and appreciation of the richness of Ulster-Scots. It is essential that the department delivers on this core objective through a sustained expansion of funding for dance, language, music and arts providers to access schools and share their talents with more young people. We will address our concerns about the failure of the department to specify how increased educational activity will be implemented later in this response.</p> <p>The strategy needs to state more clearly that one of its objectives will be to increase the level of broadcasting on television. This is not stated presently.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>The DUP recognises that some public services such as broadcasting remain a Westminster-level function. However, that does not mean that they should not be a core focus of the strategy for Ulster-Scots. Reference to television broadcasting should be included in the strategy as an objective, not as a mere area for action. This can be achieved in two ways, either through amendment of the existing objective which reads: <i>"Increase access to Ulster Scots language media including online resource material"</i> to: <i>"Increase access to Ulster Scots language media including television broadcasting and online resource material"</i></p> <p>An alternative way of ensuring the need for increased Ulster-Scots broadcasting were achieved would be to add a fifth objective:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"To promote the development and provision of increased Ulster Scots television broadcasting"</i></p> <p>It is crucial the department takes this forward as a key objective of the strategy and as such it needs to be a stated objective of any final strategy. Additionally an important area for action would be to ensure that there is an increase in the quantity of Ulster-Scots broadcasting and to ensure that programmes funded by the Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund properly reflect the Ulster-Scots content of the story they are telling.</p>
064	Individual	The Strategy's objectives are comprehensive; I agree with them and cannot add to them.
067	Strabane District Council	The draft strategy's objectives are also supported by Strabane District Council.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy		
		<p>Strabane District Council would suggest that the document should make reference to the proposals for the Ulster Scots Academy to develop a research strategy and grant scheme. These initiatives are supported by the Council and are very relevant to the consultation herein. The Council supports the need to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and cultural tourism product by developing tours, walks and creating genealogical links with the USA. Strabane District Council also welcomes the examination of the contribution Ulster Scots makes to the cultural tourism product and the creation of an archive of Ulster Scots literature. Strabane District Council would also support the creation of Pilot Heritage Heartlands and the development of secure and sustainable funding for Ulster Scots language in line with DCAL’s policy on the promotion of the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture in this area.</p>
131	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)	The aims and objectives of the Strategy seem appropriate.
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>As with the aims, we recognise that the objectives are pitched at a high level. Obviously the strategy would benefit significantly from the objectives being framed as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound). However, we assume that it is intended that this more detailed process will take place following consideration of consultation responses.</p> <p>Again, the Ulster-Scots Agency is broadly supportive of the objectives set out in the strategy document, however we would suggest a number of refinements which we believe would strengthen the strategy from a delivery perspective.</p> <p>We would suggest that the second objective, “Increase access to Ulster Scots language media including online material”, should be broadened to “Increase media provision for Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture, including online material”. This would leave the objective sufficiently broad as to encompass the range of activities actually contained in the areas for action, which go beyond a narrow language focus.</p> <p>Further, we would suggest that the third objective, “Promote the economic benefits of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture” could be re-worded in order to make it more action-orientated, for example, “Maximise the economic and social benefits of Ulster Scots”, so that the objective focuses on</p>

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Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
		<p>achieving the benefits, rather than simply promoting them to people or bodies who might then choose to act on them or not; and also broadens the objective to take account of the undoubted social benefits which can derive from the development of Ulster-Scots, including individual and community confidence; community relations and social inclusion.</p> <p>Finally, we would suggest that the fourth objective, "Promote research in relation to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture," should be amended to read, "Promote research in relation to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture through the Ulster-Scots Academy." The effect of this amendment would be to give critical recognition to the need for an Ulster Scots Academy, which the Agency supports; and has been expressed by the community for many years.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>Respect</p> <p>We have already touched on the need for a specific aim which addresses the need for "status building" around Ulster-Scots. This aim needs to be followed up with a specific objective which gives it effect. In line with the current drafting of the strategy, this could be, "Promote respect for Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture". The area for action around Public Services, which does not currently appear to sit comfortably within any of the objectives, would then have an established link to the key priorities of the strategy and could be reframed accordingly.</p> <p>Language Development</p> <p>The strategy as currently drafted does not contain a specific language development aim. It does however contain an extensive Area for Action on Use of Language, which consequently does not easily link back to the higher levels of the document. The Ulster-Scots Agency believes that a specific language development objective is essential to strategy and would suggest the following wording, in line with current drafting: "Promote and develop Ulster-Scots as a living language in line with the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages." This suggested wording is not specific as to different levels of Charter recognition, ie Part II or Part III, as there is no overarching timescale for the strategy. Clearly if the strategy is for the next three years, implementation of Part II might be included; whereas if the strategy is for the next 10 years, we might want to reference Part III in a specific objective.</p>

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Objectives of the Strategy

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on the Objectives of the Strategy
		<p>Capacity Building</p> <p>A vibrant and capable Ulster-Scots community sector is a key ingredient to achieving the aims set out in the strategy, however much work remains to be done before that is achieved. The strategy would be strengthened by the inclusion of a specific objective which recognises the need for significant capacity building activity within the Ulster-Scots sector. We would suggest the following wording, "Increase the capacity of the Ulster-Scots community sector to promote and develop Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture." Obviously there is currently no Area for Action in relation to Capacity Building, however the Ulster-Scots Agency is currently working to develop a community development strategy for the Ulster-Scots sector and this could serve to underpin the development of a capacity building workstream.</p>
134	Green Party	<p>The Department of Culture should endeavour to ensure that the objectives can be met within a certain time limit and with measureable results.</p> <p>Suggestions for other objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>The media option is particularly promising. It would be interesting to see local talent and landscapes being brought onto our television screens through Ulster Scots drama, documentaries and series. This could also prove to be a major boost for our blossoming film industry, supporting local skills and jobs, as well as adding to the economy.</p> <p>Promoting research into Ulster Scots history and heritage may be difficult as very few qualifications deal directly with the Ulster Scots as a group. It may well be worthwhile bringing in new courses on Ulster Scots history as well as exploring the make-up of Britain and Ireland.</p> <p>Tartan Day, a day to celebrate Scottish heritage, could well be introduced to Northern Ireland in a non-sectarian way with celebrations of Scottish influence and Scotland's close ties to the whole island of Ireland.</p>
137	Anonymous	Strongly Agree

Part 3

Comments on Education as an Area for Action in the Strategy

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
002	Individual	<p>Education is key. However, from a funding point of view, I would not wish it to detract from other more essential services e.g. security, health etc. at this particular time of economic recession. Similarly, I would not wish to see funding to the Irish culture become imbalanced.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Bag pipe music instruction should be given some priority. This is already successful in N I but so much more could easily be achieved. We must therefore identify those areas that have the potential to yield greatest benefit such as the pipe bands and do even more to bring this culture to a wider, even international, audience.</p>
003	Individual	<p>I am wary of the teaching of the language to school children until people with the proper knowledge of the language are in place to teach. I fear if this is not done it will do more harm than good and simply teach a completely new language that never existed.</p>
004	Individual	<p>Absolutely essential that our youth are made aware and provided with information on where their cultural identity part came from, and to promote and encourage the Language and all aspects of Heritage</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>There is much more promotion and pushing forward of the Irish (Gaelic) Language in schools and virtually none for the Ulster Scots. If schools are to feature historical programmes then the Ulster Scots , the Plantation , Culture and traditions of the Ulster Scot should have parity</p>
005	Individual	<p>Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture should be taught as part of the curriculum in all schools in Ulster.</p>
006	Individual	<p>Needs to be handled sympathetically to prevent alienation</p>
008	Individual	<p>There is no place for it in the educational sector</p>
009	Individual	<p>My views are clear - the attempt to make Ulster Scots into a recognised academic subject should be stopped immediately. Where there is a demand, night classes for adults, teenagers, should be supported.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p>

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Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
		Specifically state that Ulster Scots will never become a recognised academic subject in primary schools, post-primary schools or third level education.
010	Anonymous	<p>this is a very important subject as i would feel many young and older people know very little of their Heritage and need to be learned this will help to give them a better understanding of the hardships their families had to bear to give them the life and freedom they have in the present day, also to show them the old ways in comparison to the present something we all should never forget, also the art of music, History, Language, cooking but most of all the reason why we are called Ulster Scots, this can all be done through promoting our heritage and culture in every school, town and Village and with centres open to give both young and old a hands part to play in their learning about their heritage were they can carry it onto others making us stronger in personality as Ulster Scots</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>An Ulster Scots Academy would be the cream on the cake.</p>
011	Individual	Education should include formal qualifications (GCSE, 'A' Level etc.)
013	Individual	<p>Pre-primary - minimal involvement. Children should be corrected to speak English properly. History and culture should be addressed to suit location and events in the same way as Chinese New Year or Christmas is introduced.</p> <p>Primary - minimal involvement. Definitely no money spent on translation of materials.</p> <p>Secondary - Do not introduce a GCSE! We need well rounded, not inward looking students going into the world. The culture should be kept in context of world events, not developed to mean more than it does.</p> <p>Further and Higher Education - waste of money. We need thinkers. If a history graduate develops research into this culture all well and good. Diploma and degrees devoted to Ulster Scots are a waste of resources.</p>
014	Individual	<p>Key element to success. Must be given parity with other language/ culture</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>History and expressions of culture play an important part of</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
		education requirements
016	Individual	Ulster Scots should be taught in schools just the same as Gaelic
018	Individual	Ulster Scots should be available within the school curriculum for those who wish to avail of it. It should be available to all sides of the community.
020	Individual	<p>Ulster Scots should be on the schools curriculum</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Piping and drumming tuition should be available through schools</p>
021	Individual	Education of the young in this language is important but just how it would fit into an existing overly full school curriculum is hard to envisage. Youth clubs a possibility?
022	Individual	The above mentioned COMEX report also noted that "Representatives of speakers pointed out that the language teaching does not go beyond the awareness raising level and is not suitable for language acquisition or sustainability" (See paragraph 91). One would have thought that the 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Council of Europe, 2001)' should be used for the development of suitable curriculum / examinations for learners of the language and that this should preferably be done in conjunction with the Scottish Government agencies who are responsible for the development of the Scots language.
023	Individual	<p>Grand objectives, but what's missing is development for those remaining speakers of Ulster Scots who will ultimately be the foundation for the various pieces of written work. Also, there needs to be more support for the learners (both existing speakers and those starting from scratch). Essentially we're at the stage that Cornwall was 100 years or so ago where there is a dwindling pool of native speakers. They lost the battle and had to recreate a pool of native speakers. That will happen here too if the learners aren't supported well.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>There seems to be no recognition that there's a reasonably large (if dwindling pool) of native speakers who don't</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
		<p>read/write the language that well. Moreover, there are quite distinct dialects which also doesn't seem to be recognised in the strategy. For example, I'm from the Killinchy area and sometimes find the Antrim dialect difficult to follow. Essentially, there needs to be a codification of the language which hasn't happened yet basically because it wasn't written much.</p>
024	Individual	<p>This should be the primary area for action.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Introduction of G.C.S.E. at ordinary and advanced level in Ulster Scots in all schools.</p>
026	Individual	<p>1b, 2b, 3b</p> <p>It would be sensible to develop separate "language" and "heritage and culture" materials to allow the former to be used in maintained schools in Scots-speaking areas. In that context, the political views of the Rhyming Weavers (often radical and nationalist) should be fairly represented.</p> <p>Since the aim of any language materials should be to connect children with traditional Ulster-Scots literature, the form of language used should closely reflect the form used in that literature. That form is, by and large, barely or not at all distinguishable from much of Scots literature produced in Scotland, and economies of scale likely to accrue through joint development with Scotland should be seriously considered.</p> <p>4d, 4e, 4f</p> <p>I very much hope that the language element of any diploma and degree will be academically respectable, i.e. reflect the work undertaken by Scots-language experts in English departments at universities in Scotland, Northern Ireland and further afield. Likewise, if a linguist is ever to hold the mooted chair, it should be a genuine linguist from an English department rather than an amateur hoping to have Ulster Scots declared a language so that he might exploit that status to exclude better qualified rivals.</p> <p>7</p> <p>Given that the uptake of such qualifications would probably be very small, it would be more sensible to work with Scotland to produce qualifications in Scots, with some Ulster texts included on the curriculum.</p> <p>9a</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
		<p>I am very sceptical about both these aims. Scotland has very little to learn from Ulster about Scots, but Ulster very much from Scotland. As Scotland has its own, lesser problems with sectarianism, projects not purely language-based might well be viewed as divisive. The Ulster-Scots Agency's emphasis on North America has been obviously excessive. Tourism promotion is no substitute for language promotion.</p> <p>10a</p> <p>The Ministerial Advisory Group, as an academic body, has promoted Scots in a much more neutral fashion than the Ulster-Scots Agency. However, it too should be careful not to exclude and alienate native users of the dialect through including "heritage and culture" alongside "language".</p>
029	Queen's University Belfast	<p>Education</p> <p>The University offers a range of modules, student projects and open learning courses in the area of Ulster Scots, through a number of its academic Schools and the Language Centre at Queen's. Current examples include: within the School of Modern Languages, students of Irish have access to teaching module options in Scottish language and culture; within the School of English, a final-year undergraduate student is undertaking a year-long dissertation in Ulster Scots. The Language Centre at Queen's promotes Ulster Scots language classes as part of its 'Languages for Non Specialists' programme. However, there has not been sufficient demand to run such a class in any year to date. The University continues to make education opportunities in Ulster Scots available, but notes that the discernible level of demand is extremely low at present.</p> <p>Research</p> <p>With regard to research in Ulster Scots, within the School of Modern Languages, publications arising from Irish and Celtic Studies symposia give rise to materials relating to research and promotion of Ulster Scots. The University may be able to provide supervision for postgraduate research (PGR) students in the area of Ulster Scots, subject to suitable research proposals being brought forward by potential PGR students.</p>
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	<p>Education is a key area for development and it is important that Ulster Scots is promoted at all educational levels. Ulster Scots had had a stigma associated with it in the minds of some within the political and cultural establishment in Northern Ireland in our view and it is important that it is</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Education

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		given its rightful and respectful place in society.
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>The USLS believes that education is the most important key area for action, second only to the home. However, the section dealing with Education gives far too prominent a place to MAGUS, which is civil service lead and does not draw upon the existing skills in the sector in any coherent way.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Further and Higher Education: The Society agrees with the proposed actions for primary, secondary and further and higher education, teacher training, governor training, extra-curricular activity and international promotion. In regard to educational assessment we suggest that there needs to be a GCSE for Ulster Scots, so that it is seen to be a subject on a par with other optional subjects and especially with the modern languages that can be studied by pupils in years 11 and 12.</p> <p>Ulster Scots should be taught to facilitate language acquisition in the same way as any other modern language is taught. Teaching for language acquisition along with culture and heritage in the same GCSE or A level course may extend the curriculum content beyond what is realistic and practical. We would suggest that these courses be taught with optional modules to allow pupils to choose a purely language course aimed at language acquisition or a mixed course that would include language, culture and heritage.</p> <p>The Society would like to see some provision for immersion learning of the language at both secondary and third level education.</p> <p>6a and 6b: The Society believes that school governor training is essential. Education in the controlled sector is sterile in regard to the teaching of culture and heritage and this has had a detrimental effect on the self-perception of children and their eventual contribution to society.</p> <p>In regard to international promotion 9, the Society believes that support, at a modest financial cost, should be given to the Ulster Scots voluntary language sector to join with other minority language voluntary groups within the European Community in existing or new European language networks, for example in membership of the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages or other voluntary networks. This would facilitate the lobbying of the European Commission to develop policies for the benefit of all the minority language communities in Europe in those areas where the Commission</p>

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		<p>has responsibility.</p> <p>9c. We are concerned that this proposal may be used to justify encouraging external institutions whose primary motivation may be in accessing funding (particularly in the current economic climate), to the detriment of local institutions. There is also a worrying failure to explain how quality control is going to be assured.</p>
033; 045; 068-128;	Ullans Speakers Association; Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<p>The Ullans Speakers Association believes education is central to the successful implementation of this strategy, and has been working in schools on Ulster Scots language projects for the past number of years.</p> <p>Education and specifically cultural rights of children are important for the strategy to embrace. We believe that the implementation of such rights is not only the right of the child but right for the child.</p> <p>There are several articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which establish cultural rights, with particular reference to the education system:</p> <p>Article 29</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The development of the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. (b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. (c) The development of respect for the child’s parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own. (d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin. <p>Article 30</p>

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		<p>In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.</p> <p>Article 31</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. States Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. 2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity. <p>These articles establish that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The education system should encourage and facilitate the development of respect for the cultural identity, language and values of the child. • The child should be able to enjoy his or her own culture. • The provision of cultural opportunities should be appropriate and equal. <p>We are concerned that this aspect of children’s rights has not received adequate attention and we would encourage DCAL, in partnership with the Department of Education, to consider how they might ensure that this is addressed through this strategy.</p> <p>The Ullans Speakers Association believe there is a lack of understanding about cultural rights, especially those of children, and the Education and Training Inspectorate does not assess how schools are implementing these cultural rights.</p> <p>Within the education system in Northern Ireland we have a number of sectors and some of them have a strong cultural ethos, especially the Roman Catholic Maintained sector and the Irish Medium sector. In these sectors there is an emphasis on the Irish language, Gaelic games and Irish traditional music. In this and other ways the schools reflect the culture of the children who attend them.</p> <p>However most children from the Ulster-Scots community</p>

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		<p>attend schools in the Controlled sector, where there has been a certain reticence about culture. As a result we do not have the provision of 'appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural activity' and controlled schools remain culturally sterile areas.</p> <p>We therefore very much support the aspiration to include training for Boards of Governors as part of this strategy in the hope that a greater awareness of the cultural rights of children will assist them make Ulster-Scots culture and studies more accessible in their schools.</p> <p>The Ullans Speakers Association are supportive of the aspirations contained in the Education section of the strategy; however we do have some concerns.</p> <p>From our experience we have found it hard in a Pre Primary environment to learn Ulster Scots as teachers are focused on English and the use of phonetics. Ulster Scots can confuse some children if they are not in a speaking zone.</p> <p>We are also concerned that to implement the strategy, we will need well trained teaching staff, with high quality resources and support. Who is for paying for this is the big question?</p> <p>Care needs to be taken when offering Ulster-Scots as a study subject that schools do not assume Irish studies must be offered as a counterbalance – in some areas this assumption will have the adverse result of neither subject being taught. Existing Human Rights legislation on the cultural rights of children should mean that appropriate cultural identity, reflective of the community ethos of the school, can be included without stigma.</p> <p>Decisions on curriculum and assessment need to recognise questions surrounding the shape of a taught syllabus for Ulster-Scots. Would this only be the study of language (which has different versions) or would it include literature, music, history etc Opportunities exist to include elements of Ulster-Scots cultural studies into a number of existing subjects.</p> <p>We believe that Government undertake to ensure that Ulster-Scots musical traditions and the instruments of the Ulster marching band culture are better catered for in the education sector. Whilst traditional music flourishes in Maintained sector, the musical traditions and ethos of the Ulster-Scots community are largely ignored in the Controlled sector. We believe the recorder (which is from the English Education System) should be removed and replaced with a b flat flute or other appropriate instrument.</p>

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036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	<p>RSPBANI views education as a key area in successfully implementing any strategy. We have as one of our key objects the delivery of education and teaching in piping, drumming and drum majoring.</p> <p>We strongly believe that the piping and drumming tradition that is so strong in Northern Ireland and in which our bands reach world champions status requires that the teaching of piping, drumming and drum majoring is given a far more focussed and resourced focus. We suggest that piping and drumming tradition to be part of the National Curriculum/Extra- Curricular Activity; this would also assist not only local pipe bands but would also see the development of school pipe bands.</p> <p>RSPBANI believes that the work that we are carrying out though our RSPBANI School in delivering our education objectives should be included in the strategy.</p>
037	Individual	<p>Education is key to development and Ulster Scots should be promoted at all educational levels. In our local community we have organised engagement with the village primary school to educate senior classes in Ulster Scots language and history and these sort of initiatives should be centrally organised and not left to local groups.</p> <p>Initiatives which would introduce Ulster Scots study to primary and secondary level schools, perhaps surrounding civic leadership, history, and poetry, for example, should be welcomed.</p>
038	Ballycarry & District Community Association	<p>Education is a key area for development and it is important that Ulster Scots is promoted at all educational levels. Ulster Scots has had a stigma associated with it in the minds of some within the political and cultural establishment in Northern Ireland in our view and it is important that it is given its rightful and respectful place in society. We would welcome initiatives which would introduce Ulster Scots study to primary and secondary level schools, perhaps surrounding civic leadership, history, geography, and poetry, for example.</p>
043	Carrickfergus Borough Council	<p>Carrickfergus Borough Council agrees that education should be included as an area for action</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Carrickfergus Borough Council feels that these are very ambitious actions & that a lot of work on the ground will have to be completed in the first instance i.e. a key stage</p>

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		appropriate educational package linked to the school curriculum. For example the Andrew Jackson Cottage at Boneybefore offer a schools educational visit linked to Homes Then and Now, this programme has been designed with an educational consultant.
044	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE) youth	<p>Children would like to learn about their ancestors and cultural identity within education system from pre school to third level education.</p> <p>Ulster Scots learning materials not present in schools eg. No Ulster Scots nusery rhyme books in preschool, no literature in schools in Ulster Scots or relating to their Ulster Scots heritage.</p> <p>No songs, art, poetry, plays in Ulster Scots and they would like this included in schools.</p> <p>Teachers not trained in supporting them with Ulster Scots culture, heritage and language.</p> <p>Some of the children had taken part in Ulster Scots poetry recital competition and Ulster Scots drama and would like to see more of that. FUSE organised this and real enthusiasm from children, staff and parents.</p> <p>Only a small number of schools had Scottish Country dance provided and would like more of this including music.</p> <p>Ulster Scots cookery was mentioned – they would like to learn more about this also.</p> <p>Generally they felt – Ulster Scots culture and heritage and through this language should be reintroduced to schools and the curriculum.</p>
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council believes that the inclusion of education as an area for action should be about increasing the awareness of the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture • The Council believes that awareness education for Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture should begin at primary level and be mainstreamed into the curriculum • The Council believes that the emphasis is placed on formal educational qualifications without a clear indication of demand. This has the potential to raise expectations of students and parents if the relevant employment opportunities do not exist. • There is an overemphasis on the formal education system to promote Ulster Scots language, culture

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		<p>and heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no sense of the long term development of Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage
049; 130	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland	<p>This is a very ambitious agenda which, if implemented, has the potential to make a huge impact. The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland particularly welcomes the establishment of a Diploma/Degree in Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture as this will open up new opportunities for research and cataloguing and will provide a raison d'être for digitising resources. The provision for 'in-service' training for teachers will fast-track the development of resources appropriate for different age groups.</p> <p>In terms of promoting the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture internationally 4.9a-c there are so many bodies involved – Ulster Scots Agency, the Ulster Scots Language Society, the Ulster Scots Community Network, and now the MAGUS Academy - that there is the danger that any promotional work will be dissipated and there is the potential for confusion in the minds of the public. It would be important that the various strands and other relevant bodies (like the Presbyterian Historical Society) are brought together and consulted before launching any promotional campaign in order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that all resources are well publicised.</p> <p>9 c One of the difficulties that organisations often face is lack of knowledge about what research is being done and where. A means of collecting research in Ulster Scots language and heritage in progress and communicating this to relevant organisations would be very helpful as it would enable those organisations to promote their resources that may be totally unknown to the researchers.</p> <p>10a It is important that completed research is disseminated as widely as possible, preferably on-line.</p> <p>We welcome the importance you have placed upon research, and underline our concern that adequate and other appropriate support is given to preserve archive materials, and to help with putting them into accessible form.</p> <p>The compilation and circulation of information about current research is very important to avoid duplication, and to enable agencies to work together and thus avoid the waste of resources.</p> <p>Our own society in particular would welcome some assistance with the cost of producing the fruits of our research, and not least help with marketing our range of</p>

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		<p>published materials more widely.</p> <p>We welcome the exciting possibility of a diploma/degree course in Ulster Scots Language, Literature and Culture, with the many spin-offs this may well provide for concentrated and research. I would however share my own feeling that the language element in the courses on offer should either not be compulsory, or should be at a fairly elementary level, inasmuch as the vast majority of written source material in English. We would not want students whose primary interests lie in history, culture, and theology to be discouraged from taking up this existing subject area.</p>
050	Sinn Féin	<p>Of some concern are the following, mentioned under 'Areas For Action':</p> <p>Under 'Education'. In accordance with the latest COMEX evaluation and the desires and priorities of Ulster Scots speakers themselves (reported therein, <i>paras. 91,103</i>), we feel emphasis should be placed on developing appropriate resources for Ulster Scots classes at secondary level and for adult learners, with perhaps less emphasis at this point on primary and pre-primary education in Ulster Scots. However, we believe that a range of suitable materials should be developed to assist in raising awareness of Ulster Scots at primary level.</p>
051	Individual	<p>I want to enjoy my Culture but there is nothing in my school to help do that. Other schools can learn their language and play their sport within school and I don't have that opportunity and I don't understand why.</p> <p>I have been in club outside of school dancing and also at a recent poetry recital which was great, we need more of this.</p> <p>There is no-where that I can learn about by ancestors, it is not pointed out that we came from Scotland if I hadn't been told by family I would have thought that my ancestors were Irish. We need to be taught our history.</p> <p>We should also be allowed to learn our musical instruments in school, pipes, flute, drums and lambeg drums.</p>
052	Individual	<p>There is no Ulster-Scots learning with Schools or it's very small. Our kids need to be encouraged and taught their Cultural within school like it is done within the maintained sector. The teaching should be enjoyable and reflect the truth. Within Controlled Schools there is lack of cultural identity and this needs to change.</p> <p>Ulster Scots musical instruments also need to be taught in</p>

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		school, at the moment most of the instruments are taught out side of school, yet we have one of the biggest number of person linked to bands probably in the world.
054	University of Ulster	<p>The University of Ulster would agree on the importance of extending educational provision for Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture across the spectrum of educational institutions in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The University of Ulster would like to make the following suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the extent of developmental work carried out to date by a number of stakeholders within the field of education be recognised as part of this ongoing strategy. For instance, the University and its partners have carried out a significant range of initiatives, studies and creation of resources that would assist in the implementation of this strategy. In addition, the work of other academic institutions, groups and individuals should also be acknowledged as part of this process. 2. That the strategy recognises the necessity for professional and thorough mechanisms to ensure the proper advancing of the strategy. As the consultation document acknowledges, there are significant gaps in the understanding of what constitutes Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. It is hoped that these requirements are addressed in order to achieve an authentic, well-researched and meticulous understanding of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Given the range of educational providers who will form part of this strategy, there is a need to understand the variation of requirements for each of those sectors and to develop information and project initiatives that are geared towards those bodies in order to create an effective holistic strategy.</p> <p>The University would also suggest that any future funding initiatives explore best practice within Research Councils and other public funding bodies within the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and the European Union. The aims of the strategy, particularly as regards further and higher education would benefit from advice from how research funding is delivered within the sector.</p> <p>The Department might also consider how seed funding for or part-funding of major research projects could be instigated, so as to maximise the impact of public monies in Ulster-Scots</p>

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		educational and research provision.
055	MAGUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add an overarching target at start of section: <i>"To improve and increase educational provision for all aspects of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture"</i> • Insert at 4g: <i>"Establish financial support arrangements for postgraduate research in Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture"</i> • Insert at 5e: <i>"Develop a regional network of local teacher coordinators"</i> • Insert at 7b: <i>"Develop appropriate modules using Ulster Scots material in subject areas including language, literature, history, and geography"</i> <p><u>Research and Development</u></p> <p>This is relevant to all other Areas of Action and should be separated from the Education section.</p> <p>The overall target should be: <i>"To support this Strategy through the development and implementation of research; and to ensure that the results of this research are incorporated into other Executive policies and programmes as appropriate, including economic development, tourism, community cohesion, education and culture, poverty and social exclusion."</i></p> <p>Within the R+D Area there should be three action points as follows:</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>10a Through the work of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster Scots Academy, to promote quality research and dissemination of research findings in relation to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and cultural traditions.</i> • <i>10b To advance and implement The Academy Development and Research Strategy as published by the Department in October 2012.</i> • <i>10c To establish a regional Centre of Excellence in Ulster Scots research and development activity with strong scholarly and community engagement, in line with the Academy Approach.</i>
056	Individual	Excellent
062	Democratic Unionist	We welcome the proposals contained therein. The

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	Party	<p>development of increased Ulster-Scots provision in pre-primary, primary and secondary education is something the DUP has long called for. We are especially supportive of the development of accredited qualifications in Ulster-Scots. We want to hear from the department how this worthy goal will be achieved and believe the plans for implementation of these actions should be outlined before the implementation of any final strategy.</p> <p>In common with all the areas for action contained in the draft strategy, we would like to see a timeframe set for delivery of all the key areas for actions in order that the department can be held accountable for expediting such actions within a reasonable time period.</p> <p>With regard to 9a, 9b, 9c, we believe these measures are important and welcome.</p> <p>Museums, libraries and other cultural institutions have an important educational role and it is essential therefore that Ulster-Scots culture and heritage are properly reflected within those institutions on a permanent basis. For example, the Ulster Museum which is the premier museum in our capital city has effectively air-brushed Ulster-Scots culture out of the history of Ulster and Ireland. The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum is a destination that would naturally lend itself to a full and on-going exploration of the Ulster-Scots tradition in Northern Ireland, yet that has not taken place.</p>
063	Ulster Unionist Party	<p>The strategy outlines the concerning lack of resources for schools to teach about Ulster Scots. At both pre-primary and secondary level, actions include developing and making available suitable materials for education and this alludes to the fact that there are very few, if any, materials available currently. This is a situation which must be addressed.</p> <p>The Ulster Unionist Party would like more detail on a number of the proposals within this section given that to 'promote', 'support' and 'encourage' are vague and general terms which do not hold the Minister or the Department to account.</p> <p>On a more general point, the strategy refers throughout the areas for action to a number of feasibility studies, business cases, research and analysis. Whilst this background work is important it is more suitable for an action plan to contain more firm actions.</p>
064	Individual	<p>I agree that education is the vital area for action within this Strategy.</p>
Other specific education related actions which this		

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		<p>Strategy should include</p> <p>Further action in the Ulster Scots heritage area is required in the form of education of young people of both religions. Many of the Roman Catholic religion are of Scottish decent, particularly in East Antrim. Action is required in the schools and has already been sponsored by the Ulster Scots Agency. For example, Bridget Ann McNeill, a Scottish Historical Artist, combined story telling with her paintings in telling the history of the MacDonald / McDonnell family through the legacy of Sorley Boy MacDonnell to pupils at both Ballymoney Secondary School and Saint Killian’s College, Garron Tower in June and October, 2011, respectively. A particularly positive response was received from Saint Killian’s College, where the pupils were eager to learn about their Scottish ancestry.</p> <p>The above action contributes to the Strategy’s aims by increasing awareness of a shared heritage, protection (by passing down to the next generation) of this shared heritage and promotion of a wider understanding (both within and without the geographical area) and recognition of this shared heritage.</p> <p>The above action contributes to the Strategy’s objectives by increasing the educational provision of the Ulster-Scots heritage, promoting the economic benefits of Ulster-Scots heritage and culture via tourism (from the diaspora) and, in relation to the latter, promoting research in the Scottish roots of Ulster-Scots families and heritage.</p>
067	Strabane District Council	<p>Strabane District Council welcomes the proposal to ensure that there is appropriate provision in place to encourage and facilitate pre-primary, primary and secondary education in Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. Council would encourage the further development and implementation of suitable Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture teaching materials. Council also supports and encourages the community in the uptake of Ulster Scots, language, heritage and culture projects and accreditation schemes.</p> <p>In terms of further and higher education, Strabane District Council also supports the development of appropriate provision in further and higher education by the development of qualifications, development of suitable materials, increasing accessibility and uptake. Strabane District Council also is supportive of the development and implementation of an Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture teacher training course, a course for school governors and the establishment of a unit or educational assessment. Strabane District Council also concurs with the need to develop appropriate extra curricular support and resources, the</p>

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		promotion of the language, heritage and culture internationally and the further research and development into the traditions of Ulster Scots around the world.
129	Individual	<p>The heritage and culture of Ulster Scots is a fantastic thing. It is part of the history of the ancient province of Ulster and we cannot get away from this fact so everybody in Northern Ireland should embrace this.</p> <p>So let’s look at how we can promote it further. Yes, certainly we need to promote Ulster Scots more in education and I believe this can be done in history classes. One of the problems with our ‘shared history’ is that we do not have a shared history when it comes to what history we our taught in school.</p> <p>The Roman Catholic schools teach Irish history and the ‘state’ schools teach mostly English/British and European history. We need to teach all types of history in our schools because everything is intertwined with Irish history to bring us to where we are today. There are many important events that took place in England and on the European mainland that have led to the situation we live in today in Northern Ireland. The reformation took place in Germany but this impacts on us today. Henry VIII and Elizabeth I were monarchs of England, yet the decisions they made and the battles they fought impact on NI today. As does the period surround the English Civil War.</p> <p>These things need to be taught in RC schools and then they can be taught about the history of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland and find out why the Presbyterian Church was formed in Scotland and then subsequently why they can to Ulster, brining their culture, heritage and language with them. If Roman Catholic children are taught this then they will have a better understanding of the Ulster Scots heritage.</p> <p>And consequently ‘state’ schools need to teach a lot more Irish history. Protestant children need to understand why Ireland has been divided for the last 90 years. They need to be taught whey the likes of the battle with the Spanish Armada in 1588 impact on us today. The need to be taught about the Siege of Derry because many Protestants probably do not event realise that this is lined to the Battle of the Boyne and had the siege have been ‘successful’ for King James and his troops rather than the residents of the city the Battle of the Boyne may never have taken place.</p> <p>Protestant children need to be taught about the 1798 rebellion. They must be taught why it took place and that many of the main members of the rebellion were Orangemen</p>

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		<p>and Presbyterians and not Roman Catholics as they probably think. Protestant children need to be taught why Irish nationalists wanted home rule as far back as 1885 and why the unionists opposed this and they need to be taught about the Easter Rising, the Irish Civil War and the period that then led up to the partition of the island.</p> <p>So yes, let's teach more about Ulster Scots in our schools but let's teach about all aspects of Irish, British and European history in our schools and yes, I would agree that courses should be made available in Ulster Scots in schools, colleges and universities.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p>
131	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)	<p>In the section entitled 'Educational Assessment', three actions are identified which relate closely to CCEA's remit. These are to:</p> <p>7a establish a unit in Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) to translate and provide curriculum guidance, examinations and assessment materials on Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture;</p> <p>7b develop a Key Stage 4 (or other accredited qualification) in Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture; and</p> <p>7c develop an A-level in Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>In relation to 7a, CCEA could establish a unit and/or develop qualifications if directed (and funded) to do so.</p> <p>However, the lead-in time for such a unit is likely to be at least 12 months from direction to a team being in place and producing outcomes. Necessary actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmation of required funding and approvals for expenditure; • establishing the terms of reference for the unit; • carrying out initial scoping to identify sector needs and agree a programme; • recruitment of suitably experienced and qualified personnel. <p>Careful consideration would need to be given to the remit and scope of the unit, and to defining clear objectives and</p>

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		<p>realistic timescales for delivery. An initial scoping exercise would be essential to engage with stakeholders.</p> <p>It should be noted that there are prescribed stages in the development of GCSE/GCE qualifications, in particular the development of criteria on which subject specifications are based. Therefore, consideration should be given to the nature and scope of any proposed GCSE in Ulster Scots as to whether it should be covered by language criteria or if it would be more appropriate to focus on the cultural/historical angle.</p> <p>In general, GCSE development is undertaken only where sufficient demand is identified. In addition, the operation of GCSE/GCE qualifications requires a cohort of teachers and other subject specialists who can act as examiners. CCEA could develop an Ulster Scots qualification but work would be required to define the criteria and content of any proposed course. Consideration could be given to providing opportunities for children in Key Stages 1-3 study Ulster Scots. In this way, a qualification at Key Stage 4 could provide progression.</p> <p>The primary focus of any proposed unit, therefore, is likely to be on developing capacity within schools to deliver and assess aspects of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. This may be through the provision of suitable learning and teaching materials at each key stage but must also take into account the professional development of teachers to deliver these materials effectively.</p>
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>The Ulster-Scots Agency believes that mainstreaming Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture within the education system is fundamental to safeguarding our cultural heritage for the future. As a result, we welcome the strong emphasis that the strategy places on education.</p> <p>We believe that Ulster-Scots can be a positive influence within the education system and can underpin many areas of the curriculum. With this in mind, we have worked over a sustained period to develop interventions which build the confidence of teachers and demonstrate positive benefits to children, schools and the wider community. For example, two of the Agency's programmes, for peripatetic music and dance tuition; and summer schools respectively, have received positive inspections from the Education and Training Inspectorate. In addition, the Agency recently ran the first annual Ulster-Scots Teacher Conference, where over 100 primary school teachers attended to hear Principals and a retired ETI Inspector talk about the positive benefits of Ulster-Scots in the classroom; receive presentations on</p>

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		<p>current and planned Ulster-Scots programmes; and hear the DCAL Minister launch the Ulster-Scots Agency’s new Flagship Ulster-Scots School Programme.</p> <p>It is important however to remember that education in relation to Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture is not only right for the child, it is also the right of the child. In relation to education, the lack of reference to cultural rights is a significant omission from the strategy. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides, inter alia:</p> <p>Article 2 (without discrimination)</p> <p>The Convention applies to everyone: whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.</p> <p>Article 4 (protection of rights)</p> <p>Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights.</p> <p>Article 13 (freedom of expression)</p> <p>Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.</p> <p>Article 29 (goals of education)</p> <p>Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.</p> <p>Article 30 (children of minorities)</p> <p>Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.</p> <p>Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)</p> <p>Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.</p> <p>The UN Convention is an internationally binding Treaty which applies here and provides a firm legal basis for the integration of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture into the education system. Placing the education section more explicitly within this context would make the strategy significantly more robust. Clearly the current arrangements for implementation and monitoring around how the Convention is given effect would then also need to be</p>

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Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
		<p>specified and if necessary strengthened.</p> <p>It is also important to remember that the strategy is one for Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. Too often in the past, engagement with the education system has become hung up on technical language issues like standardisation. While this may be a prerequisite for the teaching of Ulster-Scots as a modern language, there are many, many more ways that Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture can be reflected in the delivery of the curriculum in the short and medium term, before the case is made for a modern language course. While there is a strong aspiration for the latter, it is recognised that this is a longer term priority, which must not prevent progress towards the former.</p> <p>At present, the Education related Area for Action includes a number of actions which would be more appropriately linked to other objectives. For example actions 9c and 10a should be reframed within the fourth objective, which relates to research; and placed clearly within the context of delivery-focused plans for the development of the Ulster-Scots Academy.</p> <p>Actions 9a and 9b, which relate to the promotion of Ulster-Scots language heritage and culture at home and abroad, sit better within the amended third objective, relating to social and economic benefits of Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Are there other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include? If so, please specify how these link to the Strategy’s aims or objectives.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>The training of key officials within the education system (as distinct from teachers) is covered under the Public Services Area for Action.</p>
134	Green Party	<p>Education is a key part of the transfer of culture and knowledge from one generation to the next. Therefore it is important that Education features as a main point in the Strategy. At the same time we must be aware of certain limitations, in that certain subjects may not cover the history of the Ulster Scots identity. New courses and modules could be developed and offered to students from all backgrounds and qualification pathways.</p> <p>Other specific education related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>We would like to see academic qualifications on Ulster Scots. These qualifications could bring in new modules which</p>

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Areas for Action – Education

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Education as a key Aea for Action within the Strategy
		explore the history of the Ulster Scots people, their art work and material culture (paintings, architecture, pottery, clothing and textiles), their dance, their musical culture (songs, musical instruments), their written culture (i.e. poetry and literature) as well as identity (religion, ethnic background and overseas diaspora).
135	Community Relations Council	<p>In our view, the teaching and study for all age groups the actions as currently proposed are largely aspirational and more in keeping with Part III recognition than Part II. Those actions most relevant to Part II, as set out above, need to define the resources required and timeframes together with responsibilities so that some progress can be made in meeting them. Such actions as can be undertaken could more usefully focus on geographical areas where the language is spoken, where perceptions of being Ulster Scots are highest. By promoting Ulster Scots in such a resolute fashion it will be more effectively safeguarded and extended to young generations.</p> <p>Community Education would be a useful approach to increase interest in Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture for existing speakers, to reduced barriers about Ulster Scots and to promote interest among non speakers. Unfortunately this approach is insufficiently developed within the current strategy. CRC therefore recommend that DCAL revisit the strategy and formulate a strong outreach element - it would be particular useful to examine current practice in areas such as Ballymoney, New Buildings and others, and utilise emerging publications such as 'Ulster Folk'</p>
137	Anonymous	Good strategy, provided it is activity adhered to.

Part 4

Comments on Media as an Area for Action in the Strategy

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Areas for Action – Media

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Media as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
002	Individual	Media has, to some extent, been hostile and this is very sad. As one who is very much involved in, and the promotion of, shared community I really want to see less of the "them and us" mentality in the future. Media could help in this regard in a much more positive way as opposed to their continued attitude to giving the complainers and the negative people so much oxygen in print and on the airwaves.
003	Individual	The media programmes must contain more Ulster Scots speakers at present the speakers seem in my opinion to be simply used to introduce others you do not use the language.
004	Individual	Again the media are widely used for the promotion of the Irish language and non for Ulster Scots, or at least not on the scale the Irish language has achieved. PARITY please!! Other media related actions which this Strategy should include Television, documentaries, historical reports, plays, movies, docusoaps could all be engaged to promote the Ulster Scots and our History, that can then easily convert to the written word for newspapers, documents, and to radio and internet
005	Individual	Once the language has been standardised television and radio shows should be broadcast on the major terrestrial stations.
006	Individual	comprehensive
008	Individual	The media is already being used to hype something that doesn't exist
009	Individual	There are more than enough ridiculous programmes devoted to this subject already. DO not envisage increasing this provision and waste of taxpayers' money. Other media related actions which this Strategy should include Why not have some programmes on other regional accents? For example, Derry accents are quite distinctive and could provide some good entertainment in occasional programmes.
010	Anonymous	The Media is a brilliant way to promote the Ulster Scots Heritage and congratulations to the Agency and other parties for the work they have done to present and may they go onto many more productions, also the Ulster Scots should get more air time to show what's on throughout the country so that

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Areas for Action – Media

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Media as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		everyone including visitors will know what's on and where.
011	Individual	Media, should include social media, this is important to many younger people. Should be included as far is as practically possible.
013	Individual	I would be turning my television or radio off if there was more Ulster Scots spoken. Cultural programmes are already in existence. Further projects should be by private finance.
014	Individual	media must give equal opportunity and funding to appropriate programmes and counter perceived bias against this culture Other media related actions which this Strategy should include appoint specialist to oversee pro and negative aspects of programming and output who would be accessible to public to ensure any concerns or ideas can be properly considered
017	Individual	The media is under used at present
018	Individual	The media could be a bit more pro active as regards the Ulster Scots ethos
020	Individual	Media should be used to promote all aspects of Ulster Scots culture and heritage
021	Individual	I believe that there is much more scope for the media to promote it and for the Ulster Scots organisations to make us more aware of online options available
023	Individual	In the absence of an audience, there won't be much push to produce programmes. Therefore I think there needs to be active financial support for programmes with a view to building up the audience. Could the Scots programmes produced in Scotland be rebroadcast here for example? Possibly too there would be merit in providing some support for independent websites/blogs. Other media related actions which this Strategy should include I'd like to see a dedicated TV channel, possibly originally based on programmes from Scotland.
024	Individual	Other media related actions which this Strategy should include

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Areas for Action – Media

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Media as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		Equality of treatment with Gaelic in television programming.
026	Individual	<p>11 and 12</p> <p>It should be stated quite clearly what proportion of spending will be on "language" and what proportion on "heritage and culture". Hitherto a large proportion of broadcasting funds that could have been spent on the former has gone on the latter. That has had the effect of needlessly alienating many users of the dialect.</p> <p>Furthermore, since Ulster-Scots "heritage and culture" are of interest overwhelmingly to Unionists, there is a risk that extra Government spending will be employed in a manner likely to make Northern Ireland broadcasters, particularly public-service ones, appear less neutral from an ethno-political perspective, with little language content being broadcast and instead a positive bias towards English-language "Ulster-Scots" programmes. At some point, in order to reproduce the balance that previously obtained, this might well necessitate the spending of extra funds on similar programmes not in Irish but of interest mainly to the Catholic/Nationalist/Republican community. This could become a vicious circle swallowing large amounts of funding.</p> <p>12</p> <p>It would be far better to have a joint Scottish/Irish cultural radio station (probably digital) for Scots, Irish and Scottish Gaelic, taking programming from Radio Scotland, Radio Ulster, Radio nan Gàidheal, Raidió na Gaeltachta and Raidió Fáilte, along with some original programming. Involving Scotland would help neutralise any sectarian linguistic associations in Northern Ireland, ensure higher programming quality, encourage links and mutual intelligibility between Irish and Scottish Gaelic, help maintain the linguistic unity of the Scots language, and be a more effective use of public funds.</p> <p>The same could also be done at modest cost in the realm of television, drawing on programmes from BBC Scotland, BBC Northern Ireland, BBC Alba, TG4, RTÉ and Northern Visions. An outstanding existing example of such co-operation is the Franco-German culture channel ARTE.</p> <p>13</p> <p>I am extremely sceptical about this. It might just end up being a public subsidy to keep the News Letter from going bankrupt so that it can continue to cater for a particular segment of Unionist thought. It might be more cost-effective to explore free e-magazines. Any public funds issued to Ullans magazine should be granted on condition of a) regular publication and b)</p>

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Areas for Action – Media

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Media as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>avoidance of excessive linguistic experimentation or eclecticism.</p> <p>14b</p> <p>I am strongly in favour of putting traditional Ulster-Scots literature on the Web. There are only c. 70 volumes of Weaver poetry, and it is shameful that so much is still so difficult to access and that native speakers are having to re-invent the wheel with regard to the spelling of their speech variety. It should have been the first thing the Ulster-Scots Agency did in 1999.</p> <p>14c</p> <p>As stated above, I am against any integration of "language" with "heritage and culture".</p>
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	<p>In our view the media is extremely important in how Ulster Scots Cultural is portrayed. There are a number of examples of poor stewardship within the media in relation to Ulster Scots Culture and Heritage in the past, including an apology from the B.B.C for an erroneous article about a fictitious Ulster Scots job advert. This suggests that within the media there is a section which is antagonistic to the Ulster Scots Community. It is important that the media are worked with and are educated as part of the process of highlighting Ulster Scots. The development of a media training scheme is to be welcomed in this context.</p> <p>Specific Media Actions</p> <p>In our view and understanding the broadcast fund has operated in a very limited way in terms of companies that have been able to tender for work and provide programme ideas. The quality of the programme ideas which have been funded by the broadcast fund is a matter for some debate. In our experience there are independent television production companies which exist in Northern Ireland but do not meet the requirements of the broadcast fund. There should be a possibility of providing part of the fund as a means of a springboard for smaller companies and developing talent within the industry. This does not appear to be how the fund is operating. We have members of the Institution who have first hand experience of these issues.</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>Television and Radio</p> <p>11b. The Society is concerned at the low standards of current Ulster Scots broadcasting, and has lobbied the BBC for a review of its Ulster Scots provision. We think that more Ulster Scots programming is necessary but it must also go hand in hand with an improvement in the quality of output. Quality control over existing programming is weak or non-existent. BBC Northern</p>

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Areas for Action – Media

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		<p>Ireland has one dedicated Ulster Scots producer who is both competent and respected within the Ulster Scots community but seems to be consistently ignored by BBC management.</p> <p>11d. In practice, the Ulster Scots Language Broadcast Fund bankrolls programme makers whose avowed intention is to 'grow' the industry in Northern Ireland, not to enhance the standard of Ulster Scots broadcasting provision or provide informative and interesting Ulster Scots output. These aims should not be mutually exclusive, but a successful blend would require more skill and interest than appears to be available to the Fund's committee.</p> <p>The Ulster Scots Language Society would not be in favour of according any increased influence to the Fund's advisory group. Firstly, it seems incapable of exercising any control over the quality of what is produced; and secondly the production companies are benefiting financially from its existence while being totally disengaged from the Ulster Scots community (so that there is no capacity-building taking place). So far as the programmes they create are concerned, Ulster Scots is an afterthought, if it features at all, and in those programmes that have been screened, while they may be enjoyable as light entertainment, there is little in the way of original thought or benefit to the language.</p> <p>A major factor in the poor quality of what is provided is the recent intervention of a sizable constituency of people who describe themselves as Ulster Scots but who operate on the principle that the language is simply English slang vocabulary delivered with a County Antrim or County Down accent. The necessary informed internal debate about 'What is Ulster Scots?', which should parallel what has already happened in regard to most other European regional minority languages, has never been properly encouraged, apparently for reasons to do with the dynamics within the Ulster Scots community referred to in 'Analysis' point 12.</p> <p>11e & 12c. Both these sections advocate '(developing) cooperation with established broadcasters'. The Society cannot see where the necessary knowledge input enters the process, and believes that the 'established broadcasters' have in the past not proved themselves trustworthy in regard to the handling of what is supposed to be a protected regional minority language.</p> <p>Newspapers and periodicals</p> <p>In progressing these aims, the most basic need is for editors with a specialist ability in the Ulster Scots language. Even the Ulster Scot paper (published by the Ulster Scots Agency) does not have and never has had an editor with the requisite background. Here too there has been a deficit in regard to</p>

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		<p>capacity-building ('Analysis', point 2).</p> <p>13d: In the experience of the USLS, reference to sustainability usually precedes the notification of withdrawal of funding. There is no explanation about where alternative resourcing is to be accessed, particularly where we are probably not referring to a commercially-viable publication or publications, and we are in an 'age of austerity' where there are huge demands on the purse, public and private alike. The Ulster Scots Language Society produces its own in-house journal, Ullans, and would welcome assistance with increasing its circulation.</p> <p>Online media</p> <p>It should be noted that there is much good-quality material already available on the USLS and BBC websites, and a great deal of the historic literature can already be accessed online.</p> <p>What are your views on the media as a key area for action within the Strategy?</p> <p>It is clear that modern people are bound to be influenced by what makes its way into the homes by modern broadcasting methods. All, however, can be turned off by a flick of a switch, and that is what our members in the USLS have been doing when confronted with 'Ulster Scots' programming, as all it does is frustrate and embarrass them. There have been occasional well-made programmes, but these are the exception. Obviously there needs to be a thorough re-think of the existing provision, or the erosion of distinctive, Ulster Scots vocabulary and grammar, if not the accent, will accelerate.</p> <p>Other media related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>The Ulster Scots Language Society would advocate capacity-building measures, such as those undertaken by Foras na Gaeilge, which has offered schemes for the training of editors and tutors – this should cover both print and broadcasting media. We also believe that where specialist knowledge already exists within broadcasting provider organisations it should be utilised and not bypassed, as seems to happen at the moment. The Society feels that there need to be much strong links to the community on a day to day basis, in assessing the value of programme proposals, and an end to the treatment of Ulster Scots speakers as nothing more than performing seals, an attitude that is seen as patronising and is greatly resented.</p>
033	Ullans Speakers Association	<p>Overall, the Ullans Speakers Association is supportive of the media section within the strategy; however we have a few comments and concerns within it.</p> <p>We believe that increased Ulster Scots programming is</p>

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		<p>necessary however it needs to encompass the views of the Ulster Scots community and be of a high standard. At the moment, the output is very proscriptive and limited, with little attention to Language or the marching bands scene. The Government need to recognise and redress the clear imbalance which exists in the media in terms of cultural programming for the Ulster-Scots community.</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund was a welcome initiative but remains largely inaccessible by the grass roots Ulster-Scots community and some of the programmes produced have questionable links with Ulster Scots and are of a low quality. There exists a clear lack of commitment to capacity building in media production for the Ulster-Scots community – as a result the reliance on often uninterested broadcast companies to tell our story remains. Children’s programmes to educate and teach the language are lacking in this field and could be tied in with the educational section within the strategy.</p> <p>In terms of Radio provision, our group have already applied for a full time community licence for an Ulster Scots radio station in Ballymoney after running 12 very successive restrictive licences in the past 4 years and we believe this is a valuable marketing tool for the language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>We welcome the commitment to newspapers and periodicals, with the key being community based, and would welcome contributing to such publications. We, currently have monthly articles which appear in Ulster Scots in local newspapers in North Antrim and would welcome a province wide approach.</p> <p>We also believe we should have a greater presence in online media, with the Ullans Speakers Association fully supportive of digitalising existing Ulster-Scots material and incorporate this data into high quality online sites. Social media sites and Apps play an increasingly important role when online and these should be fully included within this sector.</p>
034	Libraries NI	Libraries NI welcomes the actions in the draft strategy which would develop the range and scope of printed and online material available relating to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	<p>RSPBANI believes that the correct use of media is a vital element in delivering the strategy.</p> <p>We believe from our own experience that the use of internet and social media will expand.</p> <p>In recent years the BBC has cut our programming potential down therefore we have had to engage Lurgan Junior High School Television who have live streamed our competitions around the world. We believe an Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund</p>

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		<p>would assist in getting our cultural message out. Through the media medium RSPBANI would also like to explore virtual or online piping and drumming tuition into school classrooms.</p> <p>RSPBANI would welcome and agree with media training. This would be essential for future marketing potential.</p> <p>We would recommend a dedicated Ulster-Scots Radio Station; this would serve to meet all the various strands of Ulster-Scots music, culture and heritage.</p> <p>Newspaper and Periodicals</p> <p>RSPBANI believes that newspapers and periodicals are an important medium for promoting Ulster-Scots. RSPBANI has been getting increased coverage from the Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph, the Irish News, local papers and Periodicals.</p> <p>The engagement of travel writers is also useful for promotion. RSPBANI engaged a travel writer from the VOICE magazine in America who visited some of our competitions in 2012 to cover the NI piping and drumming scene demonstrating the interest there is in America of the culture here.</p>
037; 038	Individual; Ballycarry & District Community Association	<p>In our view the media is extremely important in how Ulster Scots Cultural is portrayed. There are a number of examples of poor stewardship within the media in relation to Ulster Scots Culture and Heritage in the past, including the fact that the BBC broadcast a piece which showed Ulster Scots in an extremely poor light in relation to a supposed job advert and then had to apologise when it was found to be a false story. This suggests a very negative outlook on Ulster Scots within a section of the media. It is important that the media are better educated as part of the process of highlighting Ulster Scots. The development of a media training scheme is to be welcomed in this context.</p> <p>Specific Media Actions</p> <p>In our view and understanding the broadcast fund has operated in a very limited way in terms of companies that have been able to tender for work and provide programme ideas. The quality of the programme ideas which have been funded by the broadcast fund is a matter from some debate. In our experience there are independent television production companies which exist in Northern Ireland but do not meet the requirements of the broadcast fund. There should be a possibility of providing part of the fund as a means of a springboard for smaller companies and developing talent within the industry. This does not appear to be how the fund is operating. We believe there are outstanding stories in our community which would merit television coverage, but the</p>

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		companies which are attracting funding are not reflecting the grassroots Ulster Scots community in their productions. There is a perception that companies are lining up with little interest in Ulster Scots compared to the funding opportunity and we believe the programmes produced ultimately reflect this.
043	Carrickfergus Borough Council	<p>Carrickfergus Borough Council agrees that the media should be included as a key area for action</p> <p>Other media related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Carrickfergus Borough Council feels that integration with main stream media should be more the norm that a 'one off' feature as it is at present.</p>
044	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE) youth	The youth were not aware of any youth orientated Ulster Scots television programmes in any of their age groups. One child had mentioned seeing an episode recently of 'Lesser Spotted Ulster' where one of the Plantation Castles in Fermanagh had been mentioned but nothing provided for them. They would like to see this on television, radio and online, perhaps even occasionally a section or pull out in local papers dedicated to Ulster Scots. They would like local programmes on Ulster Scots.
045; 068-128	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<p>USCN welcome the comprehensive approach employed by the strategy highlighting the importance of various forms of media. We would make the following remarks -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government need to recognise and redress the clear imbalance which exists in the media in terms of cultural programming for the Ulster-Scots community • The creation of the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund was a welcome initiative but remains largely inaccessible by the grass roots Ulster-Scots community. There exists a clear lack of commitment to capacity building in media production for the Ulster-Scots community – as a result the reliance on often uninterested broadcast companies to tell our story remains. • There is a need to escape the stereotypical expectation of how Ulster-Scots broadcasting should look and feel. Quality Control should be paramount in the decision making process - we need fresh thinking as opposed to more of the same. • Radio Station – we welcome this target and providing demand and sustainability projections are realistic feel that this would be a valuable marketing tool for our culture • In the modern age it is easy to write off printed media as a thing of the past. Care must be taken to cater for

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		<p>the important age demographic (65+) which makes up much of the self indentifying Ulster-Scots community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCN would also be supportive of an initiative to create and support a Community based Ulster-Scots newspaper/magazine/periodical • Digital Media – Need to carry out an audit of existing Ulster-Scots online material and incorporate this data into any proposed integrated media strategy. • Social Media and Apps will have an increasingly important role in the online presentation of Ulster-Scots language and culture
046	Ofcom	<p>Ulster Scots radio station</p> <p>We note that DCAL has cited the following, at paragraphs 12a and 12b, as “actions” in relation to the “development of a dedicated Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture radio station”:</p> <p>“Carry out a feasibility study on demand for a dedicated Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture radio station”; and</p> <p>“Develop a business case to address the need for a dedicated Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture radio station.”</p> <p>We are not currently minded to consider inviting applications for any new commercial radio licences anywhere in the UK, as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are insufficient suitable FM frequencies available to support viable commercial radio services; and • the UK government’s current policy, as set out in the Digital Economy Act 2010, envisages a move away from analogue radio broadcasting towards DAB digital radio. <p>. . . we are currently running our third round of community radio licensing. Applications for Northern Ireland closed on 7 June 2012 and we are currently considering the ten responses we received. One applicant has proposed an Ulster Scots language service, and some others propose to broadcast some material in Ulster Scots.</p>
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outlined actions should refer to quality provision as opposed to increasing the volume of media • The Council believes that there are too many action points under the each of the named Media.

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		<p>The Council recommends that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassadors for Ulster Scots heritage and culture in the media should be included as an action point to foster awareness and advocate for the heritage and culture • The Council believes that a dedicated Ulster Scots radio station would not be sustainable and radio provision would have more exposure to the public if it were mainstreamed in current programming. This is the approach which is being applied to television • 12a and 12b can not be implemented concurrently • Emphasis on print media is outdated – need to look at social media provision
049	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland	<p>Use of the media (TV, radio, and newspapers/magazines) to promote a knowledge and understanding of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture is crucial in reaching local communities. The Presbyterian Historical Society has a long tradition of publishing books and pamphlets but as a charity with a limited budget and virtually no marketing any support in this area would be very welcome.</p> <p>If there is going to be promotion via online media then there needs to be a central hub that will be a focal point for 'all things' Ulster Scots.</p>
052	Individual	<p>There isnt and board enough appeal across this sector. Different age groups must be take into consideration to ensure target audiences are met.</p>
054	University of Ulster	<p>The University of Ulster recognises the importance of developing creative approaches to Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture within the media. In particular, it acknowledges the work done to date by the Ulster Scots Agency and the Ulster Scots Broadcast fund in developing a presence for Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture within the media in Northern Ireland. In the main, television, and to a lesser extent, radio, representations of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture have tended to focus on documentaries. While this has constituted a valuable contribution to the public record, there are opportunities to develop further types of programming in drama, music, dance, creative writing, performance, animation and current affairs that would be of enormous benefit to the development of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>The University would also welcome more solicitation of the</p>

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		<p>views and input of Scots speakers and other stakeholders into media representation of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>The University of Ulster also welcomes the Department’s attention to the developing of an online presence for Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. Given the likelihood of continued expansion within this medium it is imperative that Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture be recognised in this field. However, given the sometimes ephemeral nature of this medium there is a need to expand online media wisely and strategically, in a focused manner that recognises the particular character of the medium. Placing information online may not necessarily mean that it makes it a global phenomenon, and attention must be paid to initiatives that have value, sustainability and accessibility.</p>
055	MAGUS	<p>Add an overarching target at start of section: “<i>To produce an integrated media and communications strategy maximising synergies between the diverse organizations and experts working in the area.</i>”</p> <p>Change target for Television to: “<i>Increase the volume and improve the quality of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture programming</i>”</p>
056	Individual	Excellent
059	Northern Media Group Ltd	<p>Northern Media Group Ltd runs six local FM radio stations in Northern Ireland as the Q Radio Network. They are Q102.9 in Derry/Londonderry; Q97.2 in Coleraine and the North Coast; Q107 in Ballymena and Antrim; Q100.5 in Newry, South Down and South Armagh; Q106 in Mid Ulster, including Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt; and, Q101 in Omagh, West Tyrone and County Fermanagh.</p> <p>We are the largest independent radio group operating in Northern Ireland and have a weekly reach of 115,000 listeners according to the latest RAJAR survey. We broadcast 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with an emphasis on producing and broadcasting local content that is relevant to the specific station area.</p> <p>Northern Media Group Ltd is owned by a consortium that includes the Alpha Newspaper Group, the Irish News, and a number of individual investors. We employ about 50 staff and operate offices/studios in Ballymena (head office), Derry/Londonderry (head office), Newry and Omagh.</p> <p>In addition to the local FM services mentioned above, we also broadcast Northern Ireland-wide on DAB, and worldwide via our</p>

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		<p>website, www.qradionetwork.com.</p> <p>Q Radio Network's expertise and area of interest in relation to the Public Consultation on the Draft Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture is in relation to the Media, and specifically, Radio, sections of the document.</p> <p>Q Radio Network is keen to add to its schedule dedicated Ulster Scots programmes and would like to explore the opportunities for doing so further, as part of the wider and developing Ulster Scots strategy in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>We can offer a brand that is already well established in the marketplace, as well as an established and engaged listener base (which we would hope to grow with the introduction of Ulster Scots-orientated programming). We also have the infrastructure in place and the knowledge and expertise not only in running music-based radio stations, but also in producing quality, relevant, local content for local communities.</p> <p>We also have studio space in the locations mentioned above which could be made available.</p> <p>The type of programmes and where they would fit on our schedule would need further discussion. Some ideas (although this is not an exclusive list) could be Ulster Scots Heritage and News shows, Ulster Scots Music Shows, or a show based on our typical format with mainstream popular music, but presented in Ulster Scots.</p> <p>We trust this will be of some interest and look forward to any future discussions.</p>
060	Alpha Newspaper Group	<p>A framework based on a portfolio publications of both exclusively Ulster-Scots language publications, niche publications and support to local and regional newspapers to promote wider understanding and recognition; protect and support the development and learning of the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>The strategy of increasing access to Ulster Scots language media including online material should also include specifically local and regional newspapers and local radio rather than just highlighting online.</p> <p>Many local and regional newspapers have supported the promotion and development of the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. This has not been recognized by the Ulster Scots Agency and needs to be supported. This could be achieved by giving grants to newspapers to help fund the cultural promotion they provide. The grants could be given to any independently audited newspaper that can prove a history of Ulster-Scots promotion over six months prior to grant</p>

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Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Media as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>application. This should be extended to local radio stations also in a similar way as the Gaelic language is supported by Foras Na Gaeilge. There should be parity of funding and grants for projects for Gaelic and for Ulster Scots.</p> <p>Competitions in local newspapers encouraging schools to participate in story writing within the Ulster-Scots medium. Educational articles with different Ulster-Scots words and their meanings could be included in local newspapers. Grants could be based on size eg Full-page, half-page or quarter-page. It should be recognized that local weekly newspapers have more readers per copy (RPC) than daily newspapers.</p> <p>The promotion of Ulster-Scots events from any organization could be registered with the Ulster Scots Agency and an advert of all the collective events on a weekly basis could be placed in the relevant local newspapers.</p> <p>Local weekly newspapers are an effective way to promote and protect Ulster-Scots. The local weekly newspapers have been the primary promotional vehicle given to Ulster-Scots activities from even before the establishment of the Ulster Scots Agency. Any online promotion would merely compliment the primary source of Ulster-Scots promotion within weekly newspapers. The DARD confirm only 25% of applications from farmers were received online. Online would not reach the same penetration to that of local weekly newspapers.</p> <p>A quarterly Ulster-Scots newspaper has some credibility but could be more effective if distributed by inserting into weekly newspapers. The problem with it being quarterly is that events would not be promoted at an appropriate time. Weekly newspapers are able to promote both Ulster-Scots and Irish cultural events more readily. It would be cheaper and more effective to provide funding to weekly newspapers than the government trying to produce one themselves. The circulations of weekly newspapers are considerably higher than that of daily newspapers especially outside of the Greater Belfast area.</p>
062	Democratic Unionist Party	We support the measures outlined in the draft strategy.
063	Ulster Unionist Party	<p>The volume of Ulster Scots culture, heritage and language must be increased in television, radio, newspapers and the online media and to that extent we support the actions contained within this section of the strategy.</p> <p>It is important that reporting is done in a fair and accurate manner and there is some way to go in achieving that. We are also concerned at the lack of equality in the promotion of the Ulster Scot culture through TV and radio and in terms of the</p>

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		<p>financial support for production and transmission.</p> <p>As stated above, the lack of contact which the current Minister has had with Westminster on some reserved matters is a major concern to us.</p>
064	Individual	<p>The media is the vital educational tool for those outside of (because of their age) the educational system.</p> <p>Other media related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>More programs are required tracing the historical roots of Ulster-Scots families.</p> <p>Some examples of the use of the media in this regard are given below:-</p> <p>The Scottish Historical Artist, Bridget Ann McNeill, contributed to BBC Radio Ulster’s Ulster-Scots program, ‘A Kist o Wurds’, in which she gave a twenty-minute talk on Sorley Boy MacDonnell and the Scottish Clans’ movement to Ulster.</p> <p>In July 2012 Bridget McNeill contributed to the Dalriada Festival at Glenarm Castle, where she gave talks on the history of the Scottish Clans. During this period, Bridget was asked to contribute to the recording of the future RTE television program, ‘In Search of the Ulster-Scots’.</p>
065	Johnston Press, Northern Ireland	<p>In a rapidly changing media landscape the local press and its associated web brands retain a unique ability to communicate with local communities throughout Northern Ireland. In addition to the ability to communicate Ulster Scots through the written word, Johnston Press is now also able to provide access to spoken Ulster Scots through multi media platforms incorporated within the local websites.</p> <p>The local press within Northern Ireland also employs experienced local journalists and columnists with an unparalleled knowledge of the Ulster Scots culture and its origins. For example the author Billy Kennedy, who has been extensively published both within the United Kingdom and the USA through his books on the history and development of Ulster Scots communities worldwide, is an employee of JPNI. His unique knowledge of Ulster Scots is not available through media other than the local press.</p> <p>To meet the aims of the draft strategy local indigenous press and associated websites are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a permanent, organic and interactive platform for sharing, communication and discussion of all aspects of the Ulster Scots language, heritage

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		<p>and culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with the Department of Culture, Arts & Learning in providing platforms for development of and education in the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. Regular platforms can be provided in close co-operation with DCAL to communicate and work closely with interested and otherwise isolated communities throughout Northern Ireland. • Extensively increase access to Ulster Scots language media including online material. Again the ability to communicate with all manner of communities across Northern Ireland is unique to regional publishers and products. <p>In conclusion we believe that it no attempt to promote or educate local communities in awareness and understanding of Ulster Scots or Irish language issues can be successfully achieved without full and consistent use of local press and associated websites. Local media already play an active part in promotion and encouragement of cultural expression and diversity through coverage and even organisation of cultural events reflecting the interests and needs of both local and provincewide communities. For example the News Letter Festival of Marching Bands is now a cultural highlight of the Ulster Scots community. The Derry Journal and Londonderry Sentinel have united to provide official cross community media partnership to the Culture Company throughout Derry~Londonderry's tenure as UK City of Culture in 2013. There can be no more clear demonstration of the unique ability of indigenous local print and online media to deliver cultural and educational messages to the culturally divided communities of Northern Ireland.</p>
067	Strabane District Council	Strabane District Council concurs with the need to increase the volume of Ulster Scots, language, heritage and culture programming. Council is also supportive of the development of a dedicated Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture radio station. The development of a sustainable strategy for the publication and distribution of an Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture newspaper and/or periodical is also welcomed. Council supports the need to develop an innovative approach to the promotion of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture through online media.
129	Individual	In your question regarding the media I would agree that more needs to be done with regards to this. There is a weekly programmed called 'A Kista Wurds;' which I listen to every

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Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Media as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>week. This is an excellent programme but could it be expanded to an hour or to have two or three programmes per week? There is also an Ulster Scots programme that is broadcast on BBC2 at various times during the year called Santer. But it is only on for six programmes at a time. What about making this more regular programme? And let's have more Ulster Scots programmes such as 'A Dander With Drennan'. You also ask about newspapers and periodicals. Well, this is something else that could also be done but I think that people promoting Ulster Scots need to be careful that they do not try to push for too much.</p> <p>There is also a regular programme broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster on Sunday evenings at 6.00 called Coolan which plays Irish music and lasts for on hour. You know, I love listening to some of this Irish music – especially the music with the 'fiddle' or violin – fiddledeedee music as some people might call it. Then there is a programme called Pipes and Drums on BBC Radio Ulster which is also broadcast on Sundays but it only lasts for six weeks at a time. This is a programme which would lean more toward the Ulster Scots/Unionist persuasion. Well, why not broadcast this on a more regular basis to help promote Ulster Scots music?</p> <p>Whether they like it or not Ulster Scots is not a language in the way that Irish or Welsh are. I love its heritage and culture but it is not a language. That is my opinion – it is a dialect which seems to be a mixture of everything but when you see many of the sentences written down they are not that far away from English in many cases. If they want their own language then make a completely brand new language and call it 'Ulster-Gaelic' or even 'Northern Irish'. Then there could be a dictionary for it but I do not think that it is different enough or popular enough to have its own radio station.</p>
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>The Ulster-Scots Agency recognises the critical role that the use of various media platforms can provide for the promotion of Ulster-Scots language, culture and heritage.</p> <p>We have made significant progress in relation to a number of the key areas identified in the strategy. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ulster-Scots Agency produces the only newspaper focused on Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture – the Ulster-Scot – which is produced bi monthly with a circulation of 40,000 copies. • We have supported several local Ulster-Scots groups to become engaged with radio broadcasting by securing RSL restricted broadcast licences for the to broadcast under the banner of FUSE FM (For Ulster Scots)

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		<p>Enthusiasts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main FUSE FM participant, Ullans Speakers Association from Ballymoney, has recently applied for a full-time community radio licence; and the Ulster-Scots Agency is also currently undertaking a feasibility study on a full-time community radio station for Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture, to inform any future business case for funding. The Ulster-Scots Agency also maintains a comprehensive web presence www.ulsterscotsagency.com, which has now been complemented through engagement with social media. We have also previously supported the development of a number of micro-sites focused on Ulster-Scots heritage (www.hamiltonmontgomery1606.com; www.ulstervirginia.com; www.plantationofulster.org; www.brucerathlin1307.com; and www.1718migration.org.uk.) which are set to be refreshed; and are working to develop further micro-sites on The Ulster Covenant and Presbyterian 400. <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency fully accepts the need for Ulster-Scots engagement with the media to be placed within a wider strategic context and is committed to working with partners and key stakeholders to develop this area.</p> <p>We are also clearly mindful that our efforts to date have and will continue to be limited in terms of reach by resource implications; and we would welcome any proposals which will bring additional resources to this vital area of work.</p> <p>In respect of television broadcasting, the Ulster-Scots Agency welcomes the commitment of government to stimulate the creation of Ulster-Scots programming through the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund, which is managed by Northern Ireland Screen. The Agency is aware of concerns within the Ulster-Scots community at the level of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture content in programmes which have aired to date; and has expressed similar concerns at the USBF Committee, where we are represented. We believe that clear and effective mechanisms need to be put in place which ensure effective management of the Ulster-Scots content of USBF supported programmes so that value for money is achieved against the stated objective of the fund.</p> <p>It must also be pointed out however, that there is a wider issue than those programmes supported by USBF, which is the dearth of Ulster-Scots programming currently being made and/or broadcast by BBC Northern Ireland. While accepting that</p>

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		<p>broadcasting is a reserved matter, the Agency believes that encouraging the BBC to address Ulster-Scots through its mainstream resources as part of its regionally specific delivery is fundamental to mainstreaming Ulster-Scots; and would suggest that the strategy would be strengthened through the inclusion of specific actions to increase the level of Ulster-Scots output being broadcast by the BBC and financed through their own substantial resources.</p>
134	Green Party	<p>The media provides us with a way of bringing the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture into every home across Northern Ireland. It would be interesting to see local talent and landscapes being brought onto our television screens through Ulster Scots drama, documentaries and series. This could also prove to be a major boost for our blossoming film industry, supporting local skills and jobs, as well as adding to the economy.</p> <p>Other media related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>The Ulster Scots language and culture should perhaps be given a more significant presence on the Internet. New websites, online dictionaries and videos could be developed in collaboration with the Ulster Scots Academy. This would enable people from across Northern Ireland and the world to gain access to the Ulster Scots language and culture.</p>
135	Community Relations Council	<p>In CRC's view respect should be shown towards Ulster Scots – its language, heritage and culture. It is significance to note that at least 30% of respondents in the NI Omnibus Survey underlined this point. The role of the media has a huge role to play in promoting Ulster Scots as a rich part of our society's cultural diversity.</p> <p>The community radio channel and the use of the Broadcast fund continue to play an important role in developing programmes that will enhance interest and understanding about Ulster Scots. This activity should be encouraged to develop further. The development of 'Ulster Folk' could, if further developed, increase the visibility of Ulster Scots in writing, as well as increase understanding and connect Ulster Scots with other Regional and Minority languages and groups. It would be beneficial to examine what opportunities could be developed and promoted within the forthcoming UK City of Culture celebrations.</p>
137	Anonymous	Agree

Part 5

Comments on Use of Language as an Area for Action in the Strategy

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Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
002	Individual	Not so keen on the language aspect. I really believe all our efforts should be directed towards the Heritage and Culture aspects.
004	Individual	Essential that the language be given coverage and taught where possible. To understand the language is the first step in the long journey of understanding the people
005	Individual	The language should be more widely used and promoted.
006	Individual	I agree with these as stated
008	Individual	There isn't an Ulster Scots language
009	Individual	It is not a language and cannot be used as one. For example, how do you say 'nuclear fusion' in Ulster Scots? Or what about 'special educational needs'? 'Wee dafty ones' was one attempt by the promoters of Ulster Scots to translate the latter term. Enough said.
010	Anonymous	This is a must within our heritage as it is one of the most important parts of our culture within this island and Scotland and for many years was shamed and today is very much recognised within all communities
011	Individual	Very important, one of the key elements of the whole culture. Use of Language, should be used more in Primary Education.
013	Individual	Promotion should be to keep the dialect as a dialect. Bilingualism in this case is not a benefit. Encourage children to learn French, Spanish, Chinese or any language with a true grammar. Learning Irish benefits children in learning English, Ulster Scots hinders them. Do we want to promote a culture which leaves children unable to communicate with the rest of the world? Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include Do not fund home projects.
014	Individual	language is obviously a key element but not to the detriment of heritage and culture Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include

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Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		language should be used in context of heritage and culture
020	Individual	Very important that Ulster Scots language receives equal funding to Irish
021	Individual	I would appreciate being able to know where I can access a deeper understanding of the background to the language and actually learning it more than just working out the little bit in the Newsletter on a Saturday morning.
022	Individual	To date, it is evident that the Scots language or its Ulster Scots variety has not really received any promotion from the Ulster Scots Agency apart from the odd 'token gesture'. Until a common standard Scots is developed and taught properly in schools there can be little hope that the situation will change for the better.
023	Individual	<p>Use or lose it is definitely the case here. I suspect that the main problem is that Ulster Scots is seen as something of a "joke language", not a real one. Few people are aware that it's basically very old English and thus that there is a substantial history behind it. We will continue to have the traditions for a long time to come but something needs to be done NOW to avoid losing the pool of native speakers. Quite a lot in fact. Development of the reading/writing of existing speakers is essential but that will be helped if teaching is introduced in the schools. I'd like to be able to develop the language with my kids but frankly there just isn't the material around to do it at the moment.</p> <p>Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>I think more visible promotion of the language would help a lot. For example, I only came across this survey by chance even though I have been looking for Ulster Scots material over the past six months or so.</p>
026	Individual	<p>15b - The North/South Language Body has not undertaken promotion of Scots at a level that merits the verb "continue". Without thoroughgoing reform to its remit, structures and nomination arrangements, it is unlikely that it ever will.</p> <p>15d - Any work in codifying Ulster Scots for public use should be undertaken jointly with Scotland.</p> <p>18a - Standardisation should be undertaken jointly with Scotland, reflecting the linguistic reality that there is only one Scots language.</p> <p>18b - There should be no separate spelling committee for</p>

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Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>Ulster Scots, which is after all considerably closer to the main Central Scots variety than are the dialects of Aberdeen or Orkney. Ulster Scots is in fact so close to Central Scots that any of the orthographies suggested in Scotland over recent years, or, indeed, the headwords in the various SLD dictionaries, could be used "off the peg", which brings me to suggest a survey to gauge speakers' preferred option rather than a committee. If DCAL insists on wasting public funds on such a committee, can it guarantee that members of previous Ulster-Scots committees a) against whom fraud or misuse of public funds has been alleged or b) against whom it has been alleged that they failed to prevent others' fraud or misuse of public funds will be excluded from membership?</p> <p>18c - There is perhaps room for a one-way Ulster-Scots > English dialect dictionary, although the overlap with the CUD would be extremely large. There should, however, be no separate two-way Ulster-Scots dictionary. Such standardisation work should be undertaken jointly with Scotland, with spellings based on attested traditional practice and neologisms tested as to their plausibility and likely degree of acceptance.</p> <p>18d - As stated above, by artificially splitting a tongue one is not promoting literacy but confounding it. The Rhyming Weavers' spellings are part of Central Scots practice, and any notion of a separate Ulster-Scots spelling tradition is obviously bogus.</p> <p>19 - The mere achievement of Part III status is a red herring. Far better to start by recording and maintaining the existing dialect on the ground. If, thereafter, language standardisation and promotion can be undertaken jointly with Scotland, so much the better, but one should not try to fly before one can walk.</p>
028	Individual	<p>Language standardisation</p> <p>Is the objective to draw on and continue the extant literary tradition shared with Scotland or to institutionalise one or more of the recently concocted pastiche orthographies described above?</p> <p>As there is only one Scots language, any standardisation is best done as part of similar endeavours in Scotland. Having divergent orthographies across Scots-speaking areas seriously diminishes the economies of scale for printed material produced in Scots and further marginalises the utility of written Scots. Fieldwork testing by Queen's University students has shown that Scots-speakers in Ulster prefer written Scots that emanates from the extant tradition</p>

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		<p>rather than the artificial Ullans translations.</p> <p>Improvement of Charter Position</p> <p><i>Ye maun creep afore ye gang .</i></p> <p>Since the obligations under Part II of the Charter have never been met, will attaining Part III achieve anything that cannot be achieved without it?</p>
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	<p>Use of Language is a key area that acts within the strategy. It is important that attitudes to the Ulster Scots Language are addressed in Northern Ireland as there appears to be a sense in some quarters that the language is fabricated. The media have not been helpful in this regard. It would be extremely important to encourage development of language and to encourage standardisation with the Ulster Scots Community. However in our view the Ulster Scots Language has reached a difficult stage in many areas and it is important to preserve what remains while accepting that in many areas Ulster Scots is no longer a major linguistic factor in communities.</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>As a general statement of intent, the objectives are worthy of support. However, as stated, they place too much reliance on the Board o Ulstér Scotch, presuppose too little input from the Ulster Scots community, and the way they are phrased gives the impression that nothing has been done in the past (see 'Analysis' point 6). [See Any Other Comments]</p> <p>15b: The Society struggles to call to mind any examples of the North-South Language Body's Ulster Scots language promotion work. Please see 'Analysis' point 13. Despite the allocation of £1.25 million to the Ulster Scots Language in the Ulster Scots Agency's initial Corporate Plan, this money was never used for the purpose said to be intended. The Agency does not appear to have a language strategy, and it does not have the expertise at its disposal to prioritise action in support of language development appropriately. The Board is not representative of the native speaking community, and apparently does not comprise a single Ulster Scots speaker.</p> <p>16a: The proposal to encourage language use in the home is the best initiative that can be taken to promote Ulster Scots. Language use in the home must be supported and built to encourage unselfconscious use of the language in all social contexts. Much good work in promoting the language in the home has been done by the Welsh Language Board, Bord Na Gaighlig in Scotland and Foras Ni Gaeilge in the</p>

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Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>Irish Gaeltacht areas. We can learn from these initiatives, and from the success in reviving Manx Gaelic, which had almost died out. Most of the minority language communities in Europe invest resources in this kind of initiative, including the Basques, Catalans, Frisians, Bretons and many others. The Society supports this very strongly.</p> <p>18a: Under its partnership agreement with the Ulster Scots Academy implementation Group, in 2006-2007 the Society played a major part in the work of its Spelling Standards Committee, which successfully commenced the work of creating recommendations for a standardised spelling system. Its recommendations, arising from the first stage of the process, are currently being published by the USLA, with funding from MAGUS, and the Spelling and Pronunciation Guide gives a clear explanation of the committee's methodology. As it was always intended that the next stage would involve a constructive public discussion on the recommendations, it is clearly necessary that full opportunity be given for this before considering what adjustments, if any, to these original recommendations are seen to be necessary as a result.</p> <p>The Society looks forward to continuing to play its full part in the process, which we see as essential to facilitate teaching of Ulster Scots in schools and in developing the language for use in all social contexts in the 21st century. It should be remembered that, as with all languages, there are different dialects of Ulster Scots, and the matter of standardisation has to be handled sensitively so as to accommodate, as far as possible, these local variants. We acknowledge that for other minority languages where standardisation has taken place this has been difficult and has involved much debate and some disagreement. We should be able to learn from the processes involving Welsh, Gaidhlig and Irish.</p> <p>18b: The reference to best practice in Scotland does not appear to be a template for spelling standardisation work here: please see David Purves's Scots grammar, where he refers to two separate attempts at standardisation of Scots, neither of which achieved the necessary support from language practitioners.</p> <p>18c: A glossary linked to the recommendations of the Spelling Standards Committee is currently being published. The production of a full historical dictionary is one of the USLS's core language development projects, which was progressed under the Partnership Agreement with the USAIG until November 2007. The Chair of the USLS is apparently Northern Ireland's only trained lexicographer.</p>

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Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>18d: Creative writing in Ulster Scots forms one of the subjects for which a prize is awarded in Balmore Primary School, a small school that has been a great example in regard to the teaching of Ulster Scots under its imaginative Principal, Jackie Morrison. For a number of years, North Down Further Education College ran a certificate class at Ballyboley for Ulster Scots language, and writing in Ulster Scots was an important component of the course. Unfortunately, this class no longer operates. The experience of the USLS is that attempts at adult education classes in Ulster Scots usually fail because of poor choice of tutor by host institutions, although this was not the case at Ballyboley.</p> <p>19b: The Society welcomes the proposal to achieve Part 3 Status for Ulster Scots under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. In 2007, at the request of DCAL, the USAIG Partnership Board produced a road map detailing steps to enable Ulster Scots to move to Part 3 status under the Charter in a way that incurred least cost and least difficulty, and provided real benefit for the language. This should be revisited.</p> <p>Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Other language development projects of the Ulster Scots Language Society include the Bible Translation Project (headed by Wycliffe Bible translators), Recorded Survey (in which native speakers’ conversational Ulster Scots is recorded and transcribed), the Textbase Project (electronic capture of Ulster Scots texts, published and unpublished, ephemeral and other wise – which, it has always been hoped, would form the basis for a fully-fledged corpus of Ulster Scots literature).</p> <p>It is essential that translation standards are established. Thus far, nothing has been put in place to provide quality assurance, and anyone can set him or herself up as a translator of Ulster-Scots, in the absence of any recognised qualification in the language. Some system of oversight is essential, among other things to ensure that in modern translation the Spelling Standards Committee recommendations are adhered to. In response to the need for regulatory measures, the USAIG Partnership Board established the Translation Standards Committee, whose work was halted when USAIG was stood down. Please see ‘Analysis’ point 1.</p>
033; 045; 068-	Ullans Speakers Association;	We believe that Ulster-Scots should be audible, visible and

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128	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<p>accessible.</p> <p>USCN welcomes the willingness of this strategy to change attitudes towards Ulster-Scots language. Many in politics and the media have been quick to ridicule and poke fun at our language and traditions. This sustained campaign of negativity has created an embarrassment factor – even within our own community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes need to be challenged and changed therefore any initiatives which are designed to remove the “cringe factor” - created by our critics, are to be welcomed. • It is important that initiatives designed to promote the use of the Ulster-Scots language in the home are welcomed. Intergenerational linguistic contact is key to the future success of language promotion. This factor is linked to, and dependent on, a more positive portrayal of Ulster-Scots in the education sector and the media. Parents will not feel comfortable about actively promoting their own Ulster-Scots language and cultural traditions to their children if that culture is seen to be marginalised and scorned within wider society. • USCN welcome the commitment to explore an agreed route towards written language standardisation. There are sensitivities around this work and the difficulties encountered by Scots, Welsh and Irish in agreeing terms of reference for standardisation are testimony to this fact. Co operation between Ulster-Scots language organisations is crucial to ensuring this key body of work is delivered.
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	RSPBANI does not have any particular view on the use of language as a key area for action
037	Individual	Use of Language is a key area that acts within the strategy. It is important that attitudes to the Ulster Scots Language are addressed in Northern Ireland as there appears to be a sense in some quarters that the language is fabricated. It would be extremely important to encourage development of language and to encourage standardisation with the Ulster Scots Community. However in our area the Ulster Scots Language has reached a place where it is no longer spoken to any great extent beyond limited words and phrases.

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		From comments gleaned through delivering lectures on Ulster Scots it is clear to me that most people do not see the need for more than recreational interest in Ulster Scots language. This is not to take away from the commitment and dedication of language activists within the community, but merely to sound a note of realism as to where the situation now rests.
038	Ballycarry & District Community Association	Use of Language is a key area that acts within the strategy. It is important that attitudes to the Ulster Scots Language are addressed in Northern Ireland as there appears to be a sense in some quarters that the language is fabricated. The media have not been helpful in this regard. It would be extremely important to encourage development of language and to encourage standardisation with the Ulster Scots Community. However in our view the Ulster Scots Language has reached a difficult stage in many areas and it is important to preserve what remains while accepting that in many areas Ulster Scots is no longer a major linguistic factor in communities. In our community the last remnants of native speakers have now passed away and this will make it extremely difficult to reinvigorate the language locally, even though words and phrases of Ulster Scots remain in everyday usage.
043	Carrickfergus Borough Council	Carrickfergus Borough Council welcomes the use of language within this Strategy and recognises it as a key area for development.
044	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE) youth	Some of the Fermanagh children had learned a little of the Ulster Scots Language through the FUSE poetry recital competition which in turn led to some of the parents learning a little and the teachers. Not only did it introduce a new language but built confidence in their communication and presenting skills and their memorising skills. They were unaware of Ulster Scots words/expressions they used here as part of their everyday language, many of the expressions their great grandparents would have used are now lost. The children enjoyed trying a new language.
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council recognises that its own Ulster Scots community do not identify with the language rather with the Ulster Scots culture and heritage • The Council believes negative attitudes towards the language are not acknowledged and consequently an area for action would be to foster positive attitudes towards the language

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The emphasis in this area of action seems to be on raising general awareness about the language and not about increasing the numbers of speakers of the language There is a need for standardization of the spoken and written language
050	Sinn Féin	<p>Of some concern are the following, mentioned under 'Areas For Action':</p> <p>Under 'Use of Language – Improvement of Charter Position'. We agree with COMEX that 'Charter position' in itself should not distract us from the important work of developing and promoting Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. Rather, as the language progresses, Charter position will change accordingly in order to raise the level of protection required. COMEX note in paragraph 59 of their report that excessive emphasis on achieving Part III status by the Ulster Scots Academy Implementation Group may have been one reason behind the failure of the Academy.</p>
052	Individual	<p>This area has suffered over the years a detailed approach needs to be seen to understand strategy better.</p>
054	University of Ulster	<p>The University of Ulster welcomes moves to extend the use of Ulster-Scots language in public life. The University would suggest that it is imperative that strategic usages of the language are underpinned by a form of Ulster-Scots that is acceptable to stakeholders. The inclusion of Ulster-Scots language is an important element of recognising the benefits of multilingualism in Northern Ireland and is to be welcomed, and is a long overdue gesture of respect to a significant historic linguistic culture within Northern Ireland.</p> <p>An important element of this is finding agreement on a workable standardisation of Ulster-Scots. This aim requires considerable investment with the need to take advice from Scots language professionals and enthusiasts in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and especially Scotland. In addition further assistance should be sought from developers of minority and lesser used languages in other parts of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Europe. It is should also be recognised that future plans should deal sensitively with existing stakeholders of the language.</p> <p>The extension of the Charter position is a positive step, but a timescale for this action plan would be helpful.</p>
055	MAGUS	<p>Add an overarching target at start of section: "<i>To protect</i></p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p><i>and preserve the spoken language; encourage and enable people to speak and write using Ulster Scots; and develop standard forms of the language for use in education and public services."</i></p> <p>Insert at 15f: "Raise public awareness of the inter-relationships amongst Ulster-Scots, other forms of Scots, and the various dialects of English spoken in Ulster."</p> <p>Amend 18b to read: "Drawing on best practice in Scotland and elsewhere as appropriate establish a <i>suitably qualified orthography committee</i> for the Ulster Scots language to meet the requirements of the educational system and public services."</p> <p>Amend 19b to read: "Subject to the outcome of this research develop a <i>timetabled business plan to achieve Part 3 status</i> for the Ulster Scots language"</p> <p>Amend 19c to read: "Monitor <i>progress with the implementation of this plan through a system of annual reporting</i> until Part 3 status is achieved"</p>
056	Individual	Excellent
062	Democratic Unionist Party	<p>The development of an Ulster-Scots dictionary is something that the DUP would be supportive of. This will provide a useful standardised text for academic research and further language programme development. The Ulster-Scots language has not received anything like the level of support and development afforded to other minority languages and is starting from an extremely low capacity base from which to build: we therefore support the other measures outlined in the "Use of Language" section of the draft strategy.</p>
063	Ulster Unionist Party	<p>The Ulster Unionist Party strongly supports the aim to improve the Charter position for the Ulster Scots language by attaining Part 3 status. Part 3 of the Charter contains a list of specific actions that could be taken in support of a language and when a certain number and range of these are being fulfilled for a language, that language is said to have 'Part 3 status'. It is up to the Minister to work to achieve this for Ulster Scots.</p> <p>Projects which familiarise and stimulate interest from the public in Ulster Scots must be taken forward. The current 'Liofa' project has been devoted substantial departmental time and resources and there must be equivalence for Ulster Scots.</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
064	Individual	<p>There is too much emphasis on the Ulster-Scots language. Many folk, like myself, are of Ulster-Scots heritage and are not interested in the Ulster-Scots language. If fact, we doubt whether it actually is a language.</p> <p>Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>I would like to see some work done on the relationship between Scots Gaelic and the Irish language.</p>
067	Strabane District Council	<p>Strabane District Council supports the actions identified to change attitudes towards the Ulster Scots language and to raise the profile and promote the value of it. Council also recognises the merit in promoting language use in the home and everyday life by providing advice and guidance to families. The identification and implementation of measures to improve transmission of the Ulster Scots language between generations is also supported, as is language standardisation and the improvement of charter position.</p>
129	Individual	<p>The next few questions are about the use of the language with changing attitudes and then speaking Ulster Scots in the home. Well, as I said the best way to change attitudes is for all schools to be taught all history so that we can all have an understanding of the 'other side'. As I also said Ulster Scots is not really a language in the true sense of the word but I think that for you to ask if there should be projects to encourage the speaking of Ulster Scots in the home and amongst family members then you really are stretching it. Do you seriously think that this is going to happen?</p>
131	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)	<p>Actions 18a to 18c outline a road map for the standardisation of the written Ulster Scots language. From an educational perspective, this standardisation is an essential prerequisite to offering any qualifications in the Ulster Scots language or providing curriculum materials through the medium of Ulster Scots, as these are dependent on an agreed and consistent use of terminology.</p>
132	Individual	<p>To me the Ulster Scots language has always been and spoken, not written language. I would see attempts at writing Ulster Scots in the newspapers and find it very difficult to read. A proper form of written language would be essential to the language being handed down. Schools at present (as in my days at school) will correct children for improper grammar, when they are actually using Ulster Scots phrases, this causes a dilution of the language and the</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>understanding of it.</p> <p>The Ulster Scots as spoken by my Grandparents, is not the language used today by my children, a large percentage of the language has been removed by the teaching in the schools of standard English.</p>
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>The need for this section to be clearly linked to an objective within the strategy has previously been discussed.</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency welcomes the commitment of the strategy to the development of Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency currently provides core funding to the Ulster-Scots language sector, as well as undertaking its own development work in relation to Ulster-Scots. The Agency has also recently established the Ulster-Scots Language Forum, which includes representatives from the Ulster-Scots Language Society; Ullans Speakers Association; MAGUS; the University of Ulster and the BBC.</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency has adopted a language development model pioneered by Professor Joshua Fishman for reviving threatened languages. It comprises an eight step process, viz:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquisition of the language by adults, who in effect act as language apprentices (recommended where most of the remaining speakers of the language are elderly and socially isolated from other speakers of the language). 2. Create a socially integrated population of active speakers (or users) of the language (at this stage it is usually best to concentrate mainly on the spoken language rather than the written language). 3. In localities where there are a reasonable number of people habitually using the language, encourage the informal use of the language among people of all age groups and within families and bolster its daily use through the establishment of local neighbourhood institutions in which the language is encouraged, protected and (in certain contexts at least) used exclusively. 4. In areas where oral competence in the language has been achieved in all age groups encourage literacy in the language but in a way that does not depend upon assistance from (or goodwill of) the state education system. 5. Where the state permits it, and where numbers

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>warrant, encourage the use of the language in compulsory state education.</p> <p>6. Where the above stages have been achieved and consolidated, encourage the use of the language in the workplace (lower worksphere).</p> <p>7. Where the above stages have been achieved and consolidated encourage the use of the language in local government services and mass media.</p> <p>8. Where the above stages have been achieved and consolidated encourage use of the language in higher education, government etc.</p> <p>Clearly this model envisages a gradual recovery of the language which prioritises grassroots awareness raising and engagement over technical language development in the short term, however our suggestion for Areas of Work and individual pieces of work to be identified as short, medium and long term priorities accommodates this.</p> <p>The use of this model has been endorsed by the Ulster-Scots Language Forum and the Agency would suggest that the language section of the strategy should be placed in this context.</p> <p>The Fishman model reflects the reality of the distinction between Part II recognition and Part III recognition under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.</p> <p>The Agency welcomes the inclusion of a clear aspiration for Ulster-Scots to receive Part III recognition under the Charter, however this is not achievable without significant work being undertaken by Departments which to date have manifestly failed to engage with Ulster-Scots in the context of Part II recognition. Aside from DCAL, not one Department has brought forward an initiative to promote Ulster-Scots in the last five years, which is deeply disappointing in light of the expansive commitment to Ulster-Scots contained in Part II of the Charter.</p> <p>We would submit that the strategy should include a clear action plan for the implementation of Part II as an immediate priority, to be followed in due course with proposals to work towards Part III recognition.</p>
134	Green Party	<p>To ensure the Ulster Scots language is able to continue on, survive and be used by people it is of the utmost importance to establish a standard dictionary. It is important to respect and maintain dialects, but the language would be stronger if it was unified into one main body. We would also stress the need for close cooperation with Scotland on the</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Use of Language

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Use of Language as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>development of the language.</p> <p>Study of the language could be introduced more widely to ensure the language is passed on. At the same time adult courses should be set up and developed to help make Ulster Scots a language for everyone, regardless of age or background. The Irish language program, Líoifa, has already had great success. Perhaps a similar program could be implemented for the Ulster Scots language. The Green Party believes that schools should have the right to opt into teaching Ulster Scots rather than being forced to do so.</p> <p>Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>The Irish language program, Líoifa, has already had great success. Perhaps a similar program could be implemented for the Ulster Scots language. Other courses could look at Ulster Scots history, heritage and even crafts (art, painting, knitting and weaving). Combining language with an activity would be an interesting way of making language more accessible. It would also help people begin to reflect on their heritage and perhaps even encourage other groups to follow suit and use Ulster Scots language during their activities.</p>
137	Anonymous	<p>Support</p> <p>Other specific use of language related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Drawing best practice from Scotland is appropriate.</p>
138	Cookstown District Council	<p>Within the Cookstown District Council area, there is considerable support for the cultural elements associated with the strategy however locally there would be little knowledge of the Ulster Scots language. This is backed up by the research quoted in this strategy. The Council has over the years locally supported Ulster Scots cultural development and we deliver various funding initiatives through our Good Relations strategy.</p> <p>The Council believes that whilst the development of language is something DCAL should promote, we believe that the cultural aspects of music, song and dance are more relevant to our local community.</p>

Part 6

Comments on Public Services as an Area for Action in the Strategy

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
004	Individual	The more the language is seen and used in the public arena the more it will be accepted. To use it in everyday ways would be acceptable such as street names, official documents, and in public places such as libraries, hospitals, community areas etc
005	Individual	Fluent Ulster Scots speakers should be employed within the public services to promote all aspects of the language and educate those around them of Ulster's heritage.
006	Individual	agree
008	Individual	Not needed
009	Individual	There is no demand for public services in Ulster Scots, and no artificial demand should be created to placate some politicians.
011	Individual	They should be as accommodating to the language and culture as possible. Public Services, in Ulster Scot high usage areas, signs to be in both English and Ulster Scots.
013	Individual	This is not needed as no one who speaks Ulster Scots does not understand English. Demand is coming from political reasoning not practical. We need roads and teachers, not money wasted on this just to be seen to be equal with Irish speakers.
014	Individual	I believe it should receive equal consideration as other language and culture. However overall consideration should be given to costs where these impact on the actual services provided Other public service related actions which this Strategy should include equality of all decisions impacting on language heritage and culture
020	Individual	Public services should be available in Ulster Scots on an equal basis to Irish
021	Individual	Presume this means that Ulster Scots is one of the languages listed on Public Service publications. If so not sure if this is necessary.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
022	Individual	I see very little role for the Public Services, given that Ulster Scots has not been developed as a means of communication. The framework (legislative) is the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and it is noteworthy that the 3rd Monitoring Report 'ECRML (2010)4', by the 'Committee of Experts' (COMEX) stated that "inappropriate claims for parity of treatment between Irish and Ulster Scots in a number of instances led to the result that no measures were taken for either language, since it was not practically possible to apply the measures to Ulster Scots."
023	Individual	They basically aren't available in Ulster Scots. I work in a govt department and we are told to refer all Ulster Scots enquiries to the languages department. There should be a register of speakers like myself available to handle such things. Other public service related actions which this Strategy should include There are books in the library in Ulster Scots but very few even in my area where there'd be a reasonable base of speakers.
026	Individual	There should be no separate translation standards for Ulster Scots. Standardisation should be undertaken jointly with Scotland, reflecting the linguistic reality that there is only one Scots language.
028	Individual	The consigning of taxpayers' money to a black hole of translations incomprehensible to ordinary users is a waste of public resources. Those resources would be better invested in areas where the language is actually consumed – in Scots language literature, the performing arts such as poetry reading, story-telling, song and theatre, along with television and radio broadcasts in the language. If a serious demand for translations of official documents into Scots should ever arise, it cannot be dismissed. However, it may be wise to translate documents that deal with the Scots language itself in the first instance. In Scots-speaking areas, a policy of rewarding Scots-speaking and Scots literate staff employed in public-facing positions may be an option in order to encourage the facilitation of communication with officialdom in the language.
030	Ards Borough Council - External	The Committee supports DCAL in its goal to develop the Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture.

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Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
	Affairs & Planning Committee	The Committee does not, however, support proposals which would effectively force public bodies to provide their services in Ulster Scots as the cost of doing so would, in many cases, have to be offset by cuts elsewhere in their budgets.
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	In our view the increased cost of providing documents in Ulster Scots and Irish is difficult to sustain as an argument in a community which is being adversely affected by economic recession. In our view since everyone can speak English then funding for Ulster Scots and Irish Programmes should be seen as recreation funding. It is difficult to justify providing a document in three languages when readers can understand it perfectly well in English.
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>The Society believes that the approach of public services in Northern Ireland to the Ulster Scots language has been based on false premises. Please see the 'Analysis' section. Unless these very basic problems are resolved anything else that is done is largely irrelevant.</p> <p>However, the USLS is firmly opposed to any attempt by the public service to 'develop translation standards for Ulster Scots language'. This is a task for the community, not the civil service, and the civil service is not equipped to do it.</p> <p>20b. For a number of years, the Ulster Scots Language Society has maintained its policy decision that, except in government publications relating directly to language, it has no complaint against the production of documents in English only; however, if the department in question takes the decision, in regard to any other type of document, to commission a translation into any other language, then the Society insists that the text should also be translated into Ulster Scots.</p> <p>20c. The Society is concerned at the use of the phrase 'where demand has been demonstrated', and would point out that this does not seem to accord with the requirements of Charter, in particular with part II Article 7(1) (c), which stipulates 'resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them'.</p> <p>20e. This must be linked to status-building measures, or it would be pointless.</p> <p>Other public service related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Without (1)status-building and (2) engagement with the community these actions will not advance the language in any way.</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
033	Ullans Speakers Association	The Ullans Speakers Association believe that a low level approach should be taken to this, as in the current climate, the economic value may not be justified with grass root communities. We believe that where appropriate, conversations should be able to be held in Ulster Scots if demand exists so we welcome the training programme which is suggested, however the use of having all forms bi-lingual isn't required as English is taught in all schools.
034	Libraries NI	<p>As a library service, Libraries NI recognises the value of languages, literature, cultural heritage and cultural diversity. It actively promotes these through the services it provides across the network of branch and mobile libraries and through the key service themes of learning, information, culture and heritage, all of which are underpinned by reading.</p> <p>Libraries NI welcomes the actions in the draft strategy which would develop the range and scope of printed and online material available relating to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>Libraries NI recognised the need for public services to be accessible to all. Given the limited public funding, it is essential that this is targeted on areas which will make a real difference in taking these strategies forward and Northern Ireland should learn from the experience of other countries eg Wales in this respect. Learning should also be shared about means of supporting public bodies in implementing the strategies.</p>
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	RSPBANI does not believe that public services are key areas for action
037	Individual	Cost of providing documents in Ulster Scots and Irish is difficult to sustain as an argument in a community which is adversely affected by a deep economic recession. Since the ability to understand English transcends or cultural communities, finances would be better saved on other cultural projects rather than translation of public documents, etc.
038	Ballycarry & District Community Association	In our view the increased cost of providing documents in Ulster Scots and Irish is difficult to sustain as an argument in a community which is adversely affected by economic recession. We want to preserve Ulster Scots but as an Ulster Scot community we speak English and therefore

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		would see no need for official documents to be produced in Ulster Scots and Irish, or translation services being provided in these mediums.
043	Carrickfergus Borough Council	<p>To ensure consistency, public bodies who would wish to engage with the actions should be able to avail of guidelines established by DCAL. It should also be noted that in order to comply with some of the actions, considerable expenditure would be required.</p> <p>Other public service related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Tourism, sports provision</p>
044	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE) youth	<p>Noted that Ulster Scots literature lacking in libraries.</p> <p>Noted no dedicated building or service where they can go to in Fermanagh to learn about their Ulster Scots culture and heritage.</p>
045; 068-128	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst being staunch advocates for the language rights of the Ulster-Scots speaking community, USCN believe that no tangible need exists for the provision of public services in either Ulster-Scots or Irish. • USCN believe that in the current economic climate, even the Ulster-Scots community would not wish to see valuable resources being used to deliver public services in the Ulster-Scots language. Cost implications of staff training and document creation are not justifiable. • USCN do encourage the use of Ulster-Scots language in a way which is visible and accessible – when appropriate and where demand exists
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council believes this is a very Civil Service approach to this section • The Council believes that the development of the language has not yet reached the point where services should be delivered in Ulster Scots • Resourcing actions in this section would have financial implications and these issues are not addressed • There is a need to establish that there is a demand for services in Ulster Scots • It was felt that the first three action points were

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>aspirational and that 20e and 20g were linked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These areas of actions have the potential to raise expectations of the level of services which will be provided
049	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland	<p>21b Much has been done in recent years to develop the Ulster Scots tourism offer – particularly in North Down – so they have blazed the trail for others to follow.</p> <p>21g The development of an archive of Ulster Scots literature has already been established by the Institute of Ulster Scots Studies so it is a good starting point. However, it is by no means comprehensive and needs further development. Decisions need to be made as to what it should include - printed material as well as archives.</p> <p>The number of enquires that the Presbyterian Historical Society receives each year is testament to the demand for genealogical research from those with Ulster Scots ancestry in both the USA as well as in Canada. The Society would be keen to develop on-line databases on its website that would be of value to the Ulster Scots diaspora and to develop closer links with our sister bodies in the USA and Canada and with historical societies.</p>
054	University of Ulster	The University welcomes the recognition of Ulster-Scots language within public services. But it would suggest that the advancement of this objective is dealt with in a sensitive, sensible and appropriate manner. Given the potentially limited funding for this, the extension of Ulster-Scots language within public services should be in those areas where it is deemed most appropriate, or where demand dictates that it is necessary.
055	MAGUS	Add an overarching target at start of section: " <i>To promote the use of Ulster Scots and a good understanding of Ulster-Scots issues across the public services</i> "
056	Individual	Excellent
062	Democratic Unionist Party	It is essential that any strategy does not place upon the taxpayer a higher burden than can be reasonably asked for therefore point 20c is a crucial guiding principle which the department should apply to all minority language provision. We are supportive of the measures outlined in this section.
063	Ulster Unionist Party	The actions identified within this part of the strategy are welcome and in keeping with the Belfast Agreement which looks at appropriateness and demand as key considerations.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		An Implementation Plan for public bodies is especially advantageous in allowing adequate scrutiny and accountability of their contribution towards Ulster Scots.
067	Strabane District Council	Strabane District Council is supportive of the use of Ulster Scots in public life and recognises the need to analyse and review Ulster Scots language in public service provision. Council would welcome guidance from central government on any implementation plan requirements at a local level and more clarity of what public services could be delivered in the Ulster Scots language. Council’s linguistic diversity policy already demonstrates that Council will communicate with customers in Ulster Scots on request and uses an accredited and quality assured translation service for any requests received.
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>The Ulster-Scots Agency has previously suggested the inclusion of a new objective to “Promote respect for Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture”. We believe that an Area for Action on Public Services should sit within this objective.</p> <p>A narrow language focus on public service delivery is wrong in the short to medium term. Following the Fishman model which the Agency has adopted, the use of Ulster-Scots in the government sphere is the last area of activity, only taking place after all the other areas have been consolidated.</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency sees this strategy as an opportunity for the public services to lead, in the same way that they have led in relation to s75 duties on equality of opportunity and good relations. Indeed, we would argue that respect for Ulster-Scots, within the context of cultural diversity, should be an element of every public body’s commitment to good relations.</p> <p>We have previously highlighted the prejudice which confronts Ulster-Scots, which ranges from ignorance and disinterest to downright hostility, with some people even choosing to depict Ulster-Scots people variously as Nazis or imbeciles – a position that would not be considered acceptable for any other minority group and should not be considered acceptable for Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Other public service related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Awareness training for relevant staff in all areas of the public sector should be a good practice requirement in the context of good relations. The Ulster-Scots Agency could develop and deliver this training in the context of its role as the</p>

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		statutory adviser to government on matters pertaining to Ulster-Scots, although this would have to be on a full cost recovery basis in line with other areas of equality and good relations work.
134	Green Party	<p>Public Services conducted through a community language with caution. It is important not to alienate anyone and we must also be able to realise certain limitations, particularly in terms of available resources. The Green Party would stress that there is a need to standardise Ulster Scots before it should be used in literature by public services.</p> <p>Other public service related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>It is important to recognise that the added resource requirements of provision of public services through the medium of Ulster Scots could weaken the structure and have a knock on effect on professionalism.</p>
137	Anonymous	We feel strongly that the Ulster Scots Language is merely a piggy back for Irish language and disagree to dual Irish/Ulster Scots/English on public services ie Towns, Road signs, etc.
139	Larne Borough Council	<p>Larne Borough Council understands the importance of language in recognising our shared heritage and culture, and supports the development of strategies to help support their use and promotion.</p> <p>However, the energy and resources dedicated to the implementation of the strategies must be proportionate with the demand for services. In the current economic climate, Councils, like all public sector bodies, must make difficult decisions about where to prioritise funds. The actions detailed in the strategy will require additional funding and resources, and yet the documentation does not refer to any dedicated implementation budget. Council is already committed to a number of revenue and capital projects, and must demonstrate value for money to our constituents. For sometime the Council has had in place a Language Policy and Street Naming Policy which we believe meets the current demand for information and services in both Irish and Ulster Scots.</p> <p>In addition, Council note the inequalities between the two strategies, with the expectations on local government in relation to Irish Language, more onerous than that of Ulster Scots.</p> <p>As such, we will continue to listen to our communities and</p>

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Areas for Action – Public Services

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Public Services as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		will continue to develop our services and prioritise funding where the greatest need is demonstrated.

Part 7

Comments on Culture as an Area for Action in the Strategy

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
002	Individual	Absolutely
003	Individual	Our culture must be given equal footing with other cultures within Northern Ireland.
004	Individual	Obviously cultural events and awareness of cultural diversity is an absolute necessity. With more and more events and publicly staged plays, and concerts etc the language will flourish and become more prominent
005	Individual	Everything possible should be done to promote and enhance Ulster Scots culture
006	Individual	Agree Other culture related actions which this Strategy should include could promote tourism
009	Individual	I think this strategy should be confined to language, as the Irish language strategy is.
011	Individual	Greatly important as these are what help to form and build communities. Culture, can be promoted through learning and experiencing.
013	Individual	These seem like reasonable ideas.
014	Individual	see previous responses. key element with language and heritage Other culture related actions which this Strategy should include positive action required to halt discrimination, demonisation and other forms of attack
018	Individual	The culture needs to be preserved for future generations so it should be a cornerstone of any strategy.
020	Individual	Vitally important that the Ulster Scots Culture is promoted
021	Individual	Ulster Scots Culture is closely bound up with that of the many of the very good bands who produce excellent music and compete at the highest level in competitions winning world titles. Uniforms, musical instruments etc all cost a lot

Responses to the Public Consultation

Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>of money and it would help if the cost of these could be subsidised.</p> <p>Also of course there are the parades which we consider to be very important and expect under the GFA that we have the right to do this with respect for our culture.</p>
022	Individual	<p>Given that the language has been given only token support, I dare say that the areas of Culture and heritage are the only areas where progress can be made at this juncture. I have already given my views on how such action should be undertaken above.</p>
023	Individual	<p>I personally wouldn't put the culture at the top of the priority list as the language needs help first. Having said that, there's a need to set the cultural history in context.</p>
026	Individual	<p>21a-f</p> <p>I am sceptical as to whether a distinct Ulster-Scots culture still exists. There is a danger that we may simply end up reserving seats on public bodies for English-speaking evangelicals and Loyalists. That may, of course, be useful from some public-policy perspectives, but we should be open about it to avoid doing unintentional damage to the Scots language.</p> <p>21g</p> <p>I am strongly in favour of a comprehensive open-access online archive, which should be fully digitised to enable text searches and use in corpora.</p> <p>20a-e (cultural centres; perhaps these should be numbered 22)</p> <p>For reasons outlined above concerning the quite different nature of the "language" and "heritage and culture" communities, I do not think these would work. Probably, like the Ulster-Scots Agency, they would be dominated by unqualified English-speaking Loyalists, with complaints about public funds being wasted, financial scandals, etc. I am, however, strongly in favour of increasing libraries' stocks of Scots-language literature from Ulster and Scotland. This would be a considerably less expensive option.</p>
028	Individual	<p>As mentioned previously, a language strategy should be undertaken on its own without any diffuse heritage and culture baggage attached.</p>
029	Queen's University	<p>Queen's hosts a range of events celebrating Ulster Scots</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
	Belfast	culture, particularly within the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's. The Festival programme has included many such events over the years, including "Turn Down the Lamp - an Ulster Miscellany of Music and Readings", which was an annual event from 1978 to 1990, and has been revived for the 2012 Festival. The 2012 programme also includes events such as Ian Wilson and the Ulster Orchestra with the Ballygowan Flute Band. Previous Festivals have included a range of Ulster Scots events, such as the National Theatre of Scotland's Black Watch in 2010, and the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, with Galician piper Carlos Nuñez, in 2005.
031	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	<p>In our view the Culture of any community is of paramount importance and encompasses all other aspects such as language, ethos, religious outlook and other matters. In the context of Ulster Scots the culture of the Ulster Scots community should be promoted as a shared heritage for everyone to be aware of strong Ulster Scots concentration. Such centres would also be of benefit in an economic sense through provision of employment and learning. They would also assist in the important development of confidence within a section of the community and therefore are important for all of society.</p> <p>However unless there is adequate funding made available for Ulster Scots the object of aims of strategy will be meaningless. In our view over the years there has been a complete disparity of funding for Irish Language and Culture compared to Ulster Scots. As an organisation which represents a sizeable proportion of the Ulster Scots community we feel that this is unfair and imbalanced and should be addressed by heavier funding for Ulster Scots in the future by way of positive discrimination. We are also concerned that in any cultural strategy in the future the Ulster English population should not be neglected and left out as it played a very important and informative role in the 17th Century and the years thereafter. There is an important cultural heritage to this particular section of our community, which is currently one of the main cultural blocks which is ignored by Government.</p> <p>We would therefore ask that in considerations of Ulster Scots and Irish Cultural strategies there needs to be a measured effort to encourage understanding of and research relating to the Ulster English community.</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	The Language Society's primary focus is obviously on language; however, its vision has always been expressed as

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>embracing 'the Ulster Scots language and its attendant culture'. Most of our members combine their support for language with a corresponding interest in Plantation history, Scottish country dancing, Highland dancing, pipe bands etc. We therefore welcome the opportunity to comment upon the cultural aspects of the Strategy.</p> <p>As we see it, the difficulties as regards the culture arise in regard to (a) deciding what is distinctive about a particular aspect of Ulster Scots culture, and (b) how Ulster Scots culture is defined. These matters have not been addressed in the Strategy, but clarity in regard to them would be of benefit.</p> <p>21g. 'Develop an archive of Ulster Scots literature'. We presume that if this refers to published work, it should read 'library' rather than 'archive'. The Ulster Scots Language Society has been collecting publications and materials to do with Ulster Scots and language issues generally since its formation. In addition, similar collections of published (and in some cases unpublished material of Ulster Scots interest can be found at BCL, Linenhall Library, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Assemblies College and Sentry Hill (and there may be others). It is suggested that a comprehensive, annotated bibliography (which gives the location[s] of each publication) which be of more use, allied to the USLS textbase, which has captured the texts of the majority of these in electronic form. The Librarian at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, the late Ronnie Adams, was well advanced with the task of compiling just such a bibliography for all dialect publications at the time of his death. This is available at UFTM for consultation only, and there are obviously copyright issues attached. It is not developing 'archives' that is problematic, but finding suitable accommodation for them and good stewardship of them (involving security, conservation and gatekeeping) once amassed.</p> <p>Culture Centres (20a-20e)</p> <p>Similar centres for Antrim and Down were proposed by the USLS in 2008, and the Ulster Scots Agency refused to fund them, although it subsequently provided funding to another group to open one. Careful attention needs to be paid to consulting with the community in regard to optimal use of multi-function buildings and identifying the needs.</p> <p>2a, 20b (the numbering is out of sequence): The heavy reliance upon civil service input is troubling – please see 'Analysis' point 4 to 12.</p> <p>20d. Never having heard of 'Heritage Heartlands', the</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>Society is interested in learning more, but is not in favour of 'cantonisation' of Ulster Scots areas. This appears to be in direct conflict with the aim of mainstreaming Ulster Scots.</p> <p>What are your views on culture as a key area for action within the Strategy?</p> <p>The Ulster Scots Language Society welcomes these proposals, with the caveats outlined above, but cautions against becoming involved with plastic heritage.</p> <p>Other culture related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Engagement with the people for whom particular aspects of Ulster Scots culture has been an interest for many years should be specifically itemised as an objective. They are in the best position to advise on authenticity and help to ensure that public funds are not spent on what does not benefit Ulster Scots culture.</p> <p>An element of outreach would be desirable as a stated aim. In practice, a relatively small proportion of residents have the opportunity to engage with genuine manifestations of Ulster Scots culture. This activity is probably best classified as 'outreach', with the aim of informing people about what is available and why it might benefit them.</p>
033	Ullans Speakers Association	<p>The Ullans Speakers Association welcome the comprehensive range of actions detailed in this strategy. Our community have a rich and vibrant cultural identity which encompasses history, music, dance and of course, language and literature.</p> <p>These aspects of our identity combine to provide a unique product which should receive more attention from those tasked with the promotion of Northern Ireland as a cultural tourism destination. The recent "Our time, our place" advertising campaign paid no attention to the cultural identity of the Ulster-Scots community. Our award winning marching bands, the spectacle of our cultural pageants or the expressions of living history documenting the Ulster-Scots story have all been largely ignored.</p> <p>The Ullans Speakers Association believe there should be a number of Cultural Heritage centres located in Ulster Scots Speaking Zone areas which have rich cultural linkages to the Ulster-Scots story and should be staffed by those from the area who are knowledgeable and enthusiastic to share their culture. Feasibility studies and business plans have been completed in Ballymoney but there is still no movement on the development of such a facility which would mirror the</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>success of culturlann, so we would question if the civil servants will deliver on this.</p> <p>We believe in Heritage heartland partnerships. It is important to create and develop links with local government and communities outside Northern Ireland, especially in Scotland. No Ulster-Scots strategy can ignore or preclude interaction with Scotland. Such interaction has been promised but never secured under current arrangements.</p>
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	<p>RSBANI believes that culture is the key area for action within the strategy. We warmly welcome the actions proposed. We believe the Ulster Scots have a wonderful, diverse culture encompassing literature, language, visual arts, architecture and music and dance.</p> <p>RSPBANI have been for a number of years involved in Cultural tourism and believe that the contribution offered by pipe band related events is something that needs to be developed further. RSPBANI has led the way in the last few years getting overseas bands to come to Northern Ireland. RSPBANI has also been proactive by engaging with RSPBA Glasgow, encouraging more competitions over to NI, which increases the Cultural tourism footfall.</p> <p>There is a need for a strong East-West link to be established, we note that Ulster-Scots because it is a North/South body does not appear to have a remit to promote East-West. This is vital as far as RSPBANI is concerned given the Scottish pipe band connection with Ulster and also the American, Canadian pipe band link many of whom are of Ulster-Scots descent.</p> <p>We believe there is a need for representation from the piping and drumming world to be represented at any forthcoming heritage centres.</p>
037	Individual	<p>The culture of the Ulster Scots community should be promoted as a shared heritage for everyone. The suggestion of cultural centres is a significant proposal and this is one to be particularly welcomed. Having the site of a 1609 Scottish settlement within sight of the Scottish coast, the first Presbyterian congregation in Ireland, the burial place of the first Presbyterian minister in Ireland and being the birthplace and burial place of James Orr, the most prominent of the Ulster Weaver poets, it is my personal view and the view of our local Community Association that an interpretive centre highlights the heritage and culture of Ulster Scots and developing cultural events and programmes should be placed in or around Ballycarry area and we would ask the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to take this</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>on board.</p> <p>Cultural centres would be of benefit in an economic sense through provision of employment and learning and also in development of confidence within a section of the community.</p> <p>Unless there is adequate funding made available for Ulster Scots the object of aims of strategy will sadly be meaningless, however, and a great opportunity will have been lost.</p>
038	Ballycarry & District Community Association	<p>In our view the Culture of any community is of paramount importance. The culture of the Ulster Scots community should be promoted as a shared heritage for everyone. The suggestion of cultural centres is a significant proposal and this is one which we as a group particularly welcome. We believe that, having the site of a 1609 Scottish settlement within sight of the Scottish coast, the first Presbyterian congregation in Ireland the burial place of the first Presbyterian minister in Ireland in 1613, and the birthplace in 1770 of James Orr, the most prominent of the Ulster Weaver Poets and on a parallel with Robert Burns. Prior to Scots lowland settlement, the Highland MacDonnells fought a successful battle against the English authorities at Aldfreck on the outskirts of the modern village in 1597, reminding us of the duration of links with Scotland in this coastal area. The village cemetery is focus of a heritage trail marking 50 graves which highlight the course of Ulster Scots history, from early Presbyterian settlers to the United Irishmen through to service personnel from two world wars, including the officer who signed the mobilisation order in 1939, General Sir James Steele. There is also now a Weaver’s Trail around the village, highlighting the legacy of James Orr. Ballycarry is in a unique position to offer a historical legacy of Ulster Scots that we believe should mark the area out for attention in terms of any development of Ulster Scots centres in the years ahead.</p> <p>Such centres would be of benefit in an economic sense through provision of employment and learning. They would also assist in the important development of confidence within a section of the community and therefore are important for all of society. We believe that an interpretive centre for Ulster Scots in County Antrim would be of major tourist impact from a point of view of cultural tourism and would help to regenerate an area which has been adversely affected during the economic recession and which also fins itself sandwiched between Belfast and the causeway route in a tourist sense.</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		Unless there is adequate funding made available for Ulster Scots the object of aims of strategy will be meaningless, of course, and a great opportunity will have been lost.
039	Individual	Genealogical links need to be developed with Scotland as well as the USA. Scotland is the core base, in these Islands, from which the language, history and attendant culture has sprung from. Consequently, I request that Paragraph 21b is extended to read "develop genealogical links with both the USA and Scotland."
043	Carrickfergus Borough Council	Carrickfergus Borough Council welcomes the inclusion of culture as a key area for action and would be extremely keen to be a pilot 'Culture Centre' as we firmly believe that the cultural strand underpins everything else
044	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE) youth	<p>Tourism</p> <p>Plenty of potential in Fermanagh would like e.g. Walking tours, Bus Tours, exhibitions, re enactments etc. dedicated to their Ulster Scots heritage and culture.</p> <p>Youth Ulster Scots entertainment also lacking in Fermanagh – although those who went to the FUSE Ulster Scots Night – which included a band and caller for the Scottish Country dancing really enjoyed it. It was the young people who were first on the dance floor.</p> <p>One child had been on a study visit to Scotland and the children would like the opportunity to make more connections with Scotland in the form of exchange trips, study visits etc.</p>
045; 068-128	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<p>USCN welcome the comprehensive range of actions detailed in this strategy. Our community have a rich and vibrant cultural identity which encompasses history, music, dance and of course, language and literature.</p> <p>These aspects of our identity combine to provide a unique product which should receive more attention from those tasked with the promotion of Northern Ireland as a cultural tourism destination. The recent "Our time, our place" advertising campaign paid no attention to the cultural identity of the Ulster-Scots community. Our award winning marching bands, the spectacle of our cultural pageants or the expressions of living history documenting the Ulster-Scots story have all been largely ignored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage centres should be located in areas which have rich cultural linkages to the Ulster-Scots

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>story and should be staffed by those from the area who are knowledgeable and enthusiastic to share their culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage heartland partnerships - It is important to create and develop links with local government and communities outside Northern Ireland – especially in Scotland. No Ulster-Scots strategy can ignore or preclude interaction with Scotland. <p>This level of East/West interaction has been long promised but never secured under the current arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action is required to progress cultural targets – not more feasibility studies, consultations and pilot schemes. Expectations have often been raised yet the perception remains that little progress is made – or is allowed to be made.
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council believes that Ulster Scots cultural tourism is very important aspect to the area of culture and should be developed However The Council believes that much of this section is aspirational The development of cultural centres has the potential to undermine the objective of mainstreaming Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage
049	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland	<p>Cultural centres would appear to be another name for heritage centres which have not had a good track record in terms of sustainability so a robust business case for the establishment of such centres would be imperative.</p>
052	Individual	<p>Our culture is big, but yet our tourism board fails to tap into it use it and promote it. It all seems to be based around "Irish".</p> <p>Dates in calendar or events need to be advertised more so by all government dept as there is a real lack of doing so.</p> <p>Stronger Cultural Links with Scotland and America should be created as Ulster Scots is world wide.</p>
054	University of Ulster	<p>Given the developing cultural sector within Northern Ireland,</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		the University of Ulster views this area for action as an appropriate move and one to be recommended. The mainstreaming of Ulster-Scots culture within wider Northern Irish cultural and economic activities represents good policy, and reflects the historic significance of Ulster-Scots culture. It permits creative and new interpretations of Ulster-Scots culture to emerge, and represents a confident, committed and healthy approach to the cultures that constitute Northern Irish life. Again, the University would urge that institutions, groups and individuals who have already made a considerable contribution to this area for action be involved in the process.
055	MAGUS	Add an overarching target at start of section: " <i>To strengthen and promote Ulster-Scots culture in all its aspects as a resource for those who live here and for our visitors</i> "
056	Individual	Excellent
060	Alpha Newspaper Group	<p>The vibrant Scottish bagpipe bands within Northern Ireland should be supported with grants dependent upon their membership levels in order to help pay for instruments, practice rooms, uniforms and travel to the numerous competitions.</p> <p>The promotion of Scottish country dancing and Highland dancing should have a grant to all those organizations running such events. The approval for such grants should be short; at about four weeks. The criteria for the grant should not be too restrictive however should be non-profit making events.</p>
062	Democratic Unionist Party	We support these proposals.
063	Ulster Unionist Party	<p>This is perhaps the most important area given the rich cultural heritage of Ulster Scots.</p> <p>We believe in maximising the potential of genealogical tourism through promoting Northern Ireland as a destination whereby the millions of people worldwide from Ulster Scots or 'Scotch-Irish' descent can visit to trace their heritage especially areas such as America and Canada.</p> <p>To that end, a Tourism Strategy should embrace our heritage of producing exceptional people, as much as it promotes our world class destinations, like the Giant's Causeway, and our great achievements, like the Titanic. The Minister should work specifically with her colleague in the</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to draw up improved aims in this section of the strategy.</p> <p>The proud contribution of the Ulster Scots individuals to the development of America can play a significant role in raising the horizons and increasing the self-confidence of under achievers within deprived areas with an Ulster Scots basis.</p>
064	Individual	Culture is as important as heritage.
067	Strabane District Council	<p>Strabane District Council supports the need to enhance and develop Ulster Scots language, heritage and cultural tourism product via developing tours, walks and creating genealogical links with the USA. Strabane District Council also welcomes the examination of the contribution Ulster Scots makes to the cultural tourism product on the island of Ireland and the creation of an archive of Ulster Scots literature. Strabane District Council would also support the creation of Ulster Scots cultural centres, the creation of Pilot Heritage Heartlands and the development of secure and sustainable funding for Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p>
129	Individual	<p>The heritage and culture of Ulster Scots is a fantastic thing. It is part of the history of the ancient province of Ulster and we cannot get away from this fact so everybody in Northern Ireland should embrace this.</p> <p>Now, in your question on 'culture' well this is something that I do agree with. As I said at the start of the letter Ulster Scots has a great history and culture so let's have more of this in our libraries and museums. Let's have walking tours and trails and yes, let's have the calendar. There are two Ulster Scots festivals that I know of close to where I live. There is the Broadisland Gathering at Ballycarry and there is another festival at Cairncastle. These are great events and they must be publicised a lot more. We need to encourage nationalists to come to these because they probably feel excluded.</p> <p>There is a cottage outside Ballycarry where a poet called James Orr once lived. This should be turned into a museum similar to that of the Robert Burns Cottage at Alloway in Scotland. There are other ways that we can promote Ulster Scots. What about an Ulster Scots society similar to that of the Orange Order and Apprentice Boys where each town has a lodge and they have banners and collarets. They could then walk on two particular days each year. The Saturday closest to Robbie Burns Day which is January 25th and the Saturday closest to St Andrew's Day which is</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>November 30th. Or way not make Robbie Burns Day a holiday in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>A similar society could be set up to commemorate our link with the USA/North America. What about the Ulster North American Society where again there could be lodges with banners and collarettes? By coincidence (or maybe it is not a coincidence) the independence days of USA and Canada come within three days of each other – July 4th for USA and July 1st for Canada. What about this organisation having a parade on the Saturday closest to these dates and again on the Saturday of the USA Thanksgiving weekend to show our strong link to these two great countries. Indeed, why not make July 4th a holiday in Northern Ireland? No, this is not a joke.</p> <p>Look how many famous Americans have Ulster/NI roots. Dolly Parton, Elvis Presley, Neil Armstrong. The man who printed the declaration of independence in 1776 and probably many of the 55 signatories. There are half a dozen museums through Ulster dedicated to American Presidents and there are probably many others as well. And I am sure that there are American Vice-Presidents with Ulster connections as well. What about a bus tour in the first week of July which will take people around all those museums?</p>
132	Individual	<p>Music Culture</p> <p>Our children are being taught “English or central European Instruments” such as would be found in an symphony orchestra. We have our own music culture, with the bag pipes, accordions, flutes and the accompanying drums.</p> <p>In Scotland most schools or groups of schools have pipe bands, not the English bands we are forced on us. In primary school our children and made learn the recorder, this is not a very useful instrument and has completely the wrong note placement/fingering for the pipe chanter and actually puts of children learning the pipe chanter.</p>
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>The Ulster-Scots Agency strongly supports the identification of culture as a key Area for Action within the strategy, however we have suggested an amended wording to focus the culture related objective on outcomes, viz, “Maximise the economic and social benefits of Ulster Scots”.</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency works extensively with partners in the public and private sectors to promote Ulster-Scots as a positive force in tourism locally, both in terms of events and the development of heritage tourism product.</p>

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>The Agency is currently working with a number of local councils to develop significant local initiatives around Ulster-Scots and is also working on an initiative to support the development of Ulster-Scots Hairtlans – geographical areas where a strong mix of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture can be supported and developed to create a unique sense of place reflecting Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Other culture related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>A significant gap in the strategy is the absence of any actions around the protection, preservation and promotion of built heritage, which often represents not only a tangible link with our Ulster-Scots heritage, but also a valuable asset in terms of both education and tourism.</p> <p>The current regime only protects buildings on the basis of architectural merit, rather than on the basis of a link with particular people. This means for example, that Betsy Gray’s cottage from 1798, or the cottage of James Orr (Ulster’s equivalent of the Burns Cottage) would not be listed. Consideration should be given to establishing a mechanism either to legally protect such priceless heritage assets; or to bring them into secure ownership (the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-Upon-Avon might represent a useful model).</p> <p>Also, there are undoubtedly many buildings in existence which would be listed and protected if they were known. The Agency is currently working with NIEA and the local community in Bendooragh in relation to the preservation of a plantation home from the 1650s, the true age of which has only recently been discovered and which could easily have been demolished. A targeted survey needs to be carried out in order to identify and protect as many of this unknown category as possible.</p> <p>This area of work would require a resource commitment that is far beyond that currently available to Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Ulster-Scots would also significantly benefit from the ability to support public art reflecting Ulster-Scots heritage, either reflecting the lives of significant individuals, like the father of Belfast shipbuilding, William Ritchie; or various aspects of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a modest capital budget which could support Ulster-Scots public art, perhaps in support of the Hairtlan programme.</p>
134	Green Party	All actions highlighted in the Culture section give the Ulster Scots language and culture a safe and stable environment in

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Areas for Action – Culture

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on Culture as a key Area for Action within the Strategy
		<p>which to grow.</p> <p>In particular, the idea for Cultural Centres is promising. There is plenty of scope for cross cultural communication and cross community engagement.</p> <p>Other culture related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Cultural centres which bring Ulster Scots culture and language to the people should also be able to cater to all, in other words by offering Irish culture and language as well as Ulster Scots. This would be a good way of tackling sectarianism and by creating a space for engagement.</p>
137	Anonymous	<p>Agree</p> <p>Other culture related actions which this Strategy should include</p> <p>Ulster Scots is an everyday things people do as their culture and heritage and is represented by many groups and bodies.</p>
138	Cookstown District Council	<p>Within the Cookstown District Council area, there is considerable support for the cultural elements associated with the strategy however locally there would be little knowledge of the Ulster Scots language. This is backed up by the research quoted in this strategy. The Council has over the years locally supported Ulster Scots cultural development and we deliver various funding initiatives through our Good Relations strategy.</p> <p>The Council believes that whilst the development of language is something DCAL should promote, we believe that the cultural aspects of music, song and dance are more relevant to our local community. The development of these areas with additional funding opens the door to increased relationship building between communities. It also offers further potential for the Council and for Northern Ireland to increase tourism. The development in these areas would see increased interchanges between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p>

Part 8

Suggestions for Other Areas for Action in the Strategy

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Areas for Action: Other Ideas for Action

Response No.	Respondent	Any other Areas for Action which the Strategy should include
013	Individual	Promoting what is real culture and using it to remove the new culture of orange bands that have developed. 70 band members marching behind a number of paramilitary flags is not acceptable but is now considered Ulster Scots culture. The leaving behind of litter is distinctly against the heritage of clean, hard working protestants but no one wants to correct those who do, instead they can pick and choose the parts of the culture they want. I am a Protestant living in a Protestant area and find many of the bands to be intimidating. Some play melodies and I have no objection to anyone marching legally but we need to be careful what thuggary is allowed to be protected under the name of "culture and heritage"
014	Individual	funding, funding funding
022	Individual	Ulster Scots Agency should engage more with the RC / Nationalist community and not just protestant/unionists.
023	Individual	Building on the existing base of native speakers seems to me to be the key to supporting everything else.
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	<p>Areas for Action - Development</p> <p>RSPBANI are a cross community organisation which works closely with the Irish Pipe Band Association under a Joint Authority Council when it comes to promoting the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships, RSPBANI feels there is scope for development in this cross border cooperation.</p> <p>The RSPBANI Branch School also has a formal agreement with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland to supply pipers, drummers and drum majors for their Peace Proms concerts. We believe this can be developed and used as a tool for how Ulster-Scots can promote peace and reconciliation.</p>
039	Individual	<p>Legislation is required to combat the discrimination and demonising of the language, history and culture within sections of our media.</p> <p>For example, a recent BBC broadcast on the Causeway Coast along counties Antrim and Londonderry, included references to the Irish language, the Irish famine and an Irish folk session, but contained absolutely nothing on the Ulster Scots language, history and attendant culture – it was as if the language, history and attendant culture didn't exist.</p> <p>Another example, is that of the Irish News newspaper with a published cartoon featuring a number of confused looking schoolmarm types wearing tammies and sitting round a table, with the question "Where?" in a speech bubble above their</p>

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Areas for Action: Other Ideas for Action

Response No.	Respondent	Any other Areas for Action which the Strategy should include
		<p>heads. On the other side of the room an elephant tramples some kind of board on which are the words, "Ballykeigle Ulster Scots School Project." Across the forehead and ears of the elephant are written the words, "There is no Ulster Scots language," and on its side are the words, "It doesn't exist."</p> <p>Consequently, I request an additional section in Part 4 titled Legislation, Combat discrimination and demonization of the language, Action, addition of paragraph 23a to read "Develop legislation outlawing discrimination and demonization of the Ulster Scots Language, history and attendant culture by the media."</p>
064	Individual	The strategy should include more action in researching the Scottish families whose members migrated to this part of Ireland.
134	Green Party	As recommended in our consultation response to the Irish Language, we believe that the Administration of Justice (Language) Act of 1737 should be revoked.

Part 9

Comments on Proposals in the Strategy for Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability

Responses to the Public Consultation

Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability

Response No.	Respondent	Comments relating to Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability
026	Individual	<p>Part 5: Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability</p> <p>5.7</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency lacks both the linguistic expertise (Scots-language academics) and the perception of political neutrality (Northern Nationalist members to serve alongside Northern Unionists) necessary to advise the unit effectively. Given that the overwhelming critical mass of Scots-speakers and academics is in Scotland, why is there no mention of any Scottish body?</p> <p>5.8</p> <p>DCAL and the Executive must take steps to guarantee that all deadlines in this regard are met.</p>
028	Individual	<p>Will the strategy actually be a strategy or an unachievable wish list? Will it be fact-based or faith-based?</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>Implementation</p> <p>5.3. There is a total absence of interface with community representatives. This part emphasizes how heavily dependent the whole Strategy is on the civil service contribution, seemingly uninformed by any specialist or community input.</p> <p>Monitoring and Accountability</p> <p>5.4. The Society cannot see how this group is going to be in a position to assess the priorities, quality and usefulness to the Ulster Scots speaking community of any proposed 'development of resources'. Development is again 'top down' rather than 'ground up' (please see 'Analysis', concluding paragraph).</p> <p>5.5. It is noted that the Strategy Unit of DCAL is to 'provide expert advice'. However, it is unclear where this 'expert advice' is to be sourced. Does DCAL's 'Strategy Unit' stipulate skill and experience in the use of the Ulster Scots language when recruiting?</p> <p>5.7 Role of the Ulster Scots Agency. Please see 15b.</p> <p>5.8 Again, there is a total absence of engagement. Civil servants are not in a position to drive a language development programme. Please see 'Analysis', concluding paragraph.</p>
033	Ullans Speakers Association	<p>We believe that the community should also be involved in monitoring progress and that it's not just left with MAGUS and the Ulster Scots Agency.</p>

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Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability

Response No.	Respondent	Comments relating to Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability
039	Individual	<p>Part 5: Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability</p> <p>It is extremely important that accountability for the implementation of this strategy is not left solely in the hands of NICS and or the DCAL minister. The requirement is for people who are steeped in, and believe in, the language, history and culture to be fully involved and accountable for driving forward and implementing this strategy so as to protect, grow and develop the language, history and attendant culture.</p> <p>Consequently, I request the following changes:</p> <p>Paragraph 5.3 is deleted. It looks like the ISDG is just another layer of bureaucracy, so instead make the Strategy Unit within DCAL fully accountable for driving forward the strategy within all NICS departments.</p> <p>In paragraph 5.4, request that the complete paragraph is changed to read as follows, "A Strategy Unit within DCAL will be established with dedicated staff to drive forward the implementation of this strategy across all NICS departments. This Strategy Unit will be fully accountable to the Ulster Scots Academy and the Ulster Scots Language Society for implementation of this strategy."</p> <p>For Paragraph 5.5. In the first sentence request that the letters "ISDG" are replaced with "Strategy Unit" and in the second sentence request that the letters "ISDG" are replaced with "Strategy Unit."</p> <p>For 5.5 (ii), request wording changed to read "report annually to the Executive, Ulster Scots Academy and Ulster Scots language Society on the progress of the Strategy."</p> <p>Paragraph 5.7; request that the first sentence is deleted. The Strategy Unit is accountable to the Ulster Scots Academy and the Ulster Scots Language Society for implementation of this strategy.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.11, change to read "Any review, revision or replacement of this strategy must have the joint agreement of all three primary stakeholders; the Executive, the Ulster Scots Academy and the Ulster Scots Language Society."</p>
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	<p>The strategy seems to have a top down approach and there is little community development included in the strategy. It is evident that from NMDC's work that there is a need for capacity building in the Ulster Scots community. The danger is that such a strategy may be doomed to failure if the Ulster Scots community are not at the heart of implementing the strategy.</p>
050	Sinn Féin	<p>Under 'Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability'. We urge consideration to be given to the above advice regarding inappropriate parity when considering implementation and</p>

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Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability

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		<p>monitoring of the Ulster Scots Strategy. The requirements upon NICS departments and staff, and upon the wider public sector, will differ greatly in scale and character from those resulting from the strategy to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. Accordingly, different mechanisms and structures should be put in place 1) to ensure efficient delivery and value for money, and 2) to ensure public servants are not overloaded with laborious responsibilities that could make tending to any language needs seem like an unnecessary hardship. Emphasis must be placed on appropriate training of all public body staff, including language awareness training and awareness of the European Charter.</p> <p>look forward to the implementation of the Ulster Scots Strategy.</p>
052	Individual	<p>There firstly needs to be an increase in capacity and infrastructure within the Ulster Scots Community. The strategy doesn't show what will be done, by who, by when, there have been no targets set, no dates set, I just hope this wasn't another paper exercise to appease the Ulster Scots Community.</p>
055	MAGUS	<p>Part 5: Implementation</p> <p>The final document should include or be accompanied by a statement of commitment to providing the necessary resources, such as the following:</p> <p><i>"The Executive will strive to ensure that sufficient resources are available on a sustainable basis to enable this Strategy to be implemented within a reasonable timescale. This will include building capacity in the voluntary and community sector to enable it to contribute to the process on a basis of partnership and mutual respect."</i></p> <p>The sector should have at least two representatives on the proposed Interdepartmental Strategy Delivery Group.</p>
067	Strabane District Council	<p>Strabane District Council has some concerns regards DCAL's ability to fully implement the strategies' aims and objectives. It is clear that cross departmental commitment is required and it is not clear if this has been sought nor agreed. Council would reiterate the call from Omagh District Council in relation to the need for an action plan. Moreover, the strategy does not have a clearly articulated funding stream and Council would have concerns that non mandatory activities are often the first to be cut in any austerity measures.</p>
133	Ulster-Scots Agency	<p>Interdepartmental Strategy Delivery Group</p> <p>The ISDG should be underpinned as far as possible by bi-lateral relationships between DCAL and individual departments. Previous experience of the interdepartmental group on the European Charter</p>

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Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability

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		<p>for Regional and Minority Languages has not been positive, the latter group not having progressed any initiative on Ulster-Scots in the past five years. We would suggest that specific engagements between relevant people would be more helpful than high level discussions between generalists.</p> <p>Policy Support</p> <p>Policy Support for the ISDG should be shared between the Ulster-Scots Agency and the DCAL Strategy Unit, with appropriate additional resource given to the Agency to provide this support. The creation of further posts at the centre which create additional demands on the Agency for input, without a balancing resource in the Agency is counter-productive for Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>This suggestion also recognises the Ulster-Scots Agency’s role to “Provide advice for both administrations, public bodies and other groups in the private and voluntary sector”, which is not explicitly acknowledged in the strategy.</p> <p>European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency would recommend that as part of the strategy, the mechanisms for monitoring and implementation of the European Charter be reviewed with a view to introducing participation from the Ulster-Scots Agency to act as a catalyst for developments which have not taken place to date.</p>
135	Community Relations Council	<p>Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>The strategy makes insufficient linkages to the distinct and complementary roles of the Ulster Scots Academy and the Ulster Scots Agency, and it is unclear the role these bodies will have in the implementation of the various aspects of the strategy.</p> <p>Implementation</p> <p>As the strategy currently exists the tasks seems almost overwhelming. It would be helpful if DCAL and the relevant delivery partners devised a strategic delivery map thereby helping to realise a progressive model of implementation.</p> <p>CRC also seeks further detail on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how will the actions as currently developed be measured; • what resources are needed to implement the strategy; • what is the lifespan of the strategy; • how will the overall outcomes be defined; <p>Clarification on the above points would help strengthen the strategy and would provide a realistic approach for delivery and implementation.</p>
136	Northern Ireland Human	<u>Monitoring</u>

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Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability

Response No.	Respondent	Comments relating to Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability
	Rights Commission	<p>1. The Commission notes that the monitoring of the Strategy will reflect the reporting cycle of the Charter. The Commission recalls the lack of information provided in the UK's third State report to the Advisory Committee on the FCNM in respect of Ulster Scots. The Commission previously raised concerns about this in its own parallel report.</p> <p>2. The COMEX has noted the important role which devolved institutions must play in promoting the use of indigenous minority languages. The Commission advises that the UK's fourth State report is to be submitted to COMEX in May 2013. To enable COMEX to carry out its analysis of Ulster Scots, all necessary information must be provided. The Commission advises that such relevant information should be included in the UK's next State Report.</p> <p>The Commission advises that the Department, in collaboration with the Executive, make relevant inputs into the reporting procedures of each of the relevant treaty bodies, to ensure that compliance across the range of human rights instruments can be assessed. The Commission recalls that the UK Reports for ICESCR, UNCRC and FCNM in 2014.</p>

Part 10 Other Comments on the Strategy

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Any Other Comments

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002	Individual	As an Irish Speaker I feel there is widespread perception that the Ulster Scots is lagging well behind the Irish culture and i am pleased to see that something is now being done about this. Of course there needs to be an equality of funding or, at least, a narrowing of the colossal funding gap between the two cultures to give fairness to everyone, especially in our depressed economy.
006	Individual	Probably needs to be developed slowly to spread costs over several years.
008	Individual	This is a total waste of time, energy and resources
009	Individual	Please abandon the idea of having a strategy, or at least make these clear points in it. The strategy is for language only. Ulster Scots does not belong exclusively to Protestants. There will be no attempt to introduce academic qualifications in the subject.
013	Individual	I am glad this was put to consultation. Do not let the terms of the Good Friday Agreement force spending in this area. Learn from the mistakes of too much money being given to the Irish Language sector. I am in favour of it being preserved but there need to be an objective look at what is needed. Our society needs to continue becoming one, not using the attitudes of the past. Just because "one side" got money, there is no need to spend the same on the "other" or we perpetuate the division.
014	Individual	Well worthwhile and could lead to much better community relationships
018	Individual	Hopefully the strategic review will be a positive thing and not merely a case of a department paying lip service to this to try to pacify people.
021	Individual	Happy about the fact that this strategy has been well thought out. Trust that funds will be available to resource the findings
023	Individual	I like that it's there. As you'll have seen on the preceding screens, I have some issues with aspects of it but overall, it's a good place to start from.
026	Individual	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department's draft Ulster-Scots strategy. As the holder of, to my knowledge, the only PhD in Ulster-Scots language policy in the world and, for my sins, a civil servant, I hope that my views will be of interest to you. Part 2: Context and Vision 2.1

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		<p>The order of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 should be reversed.</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>As the largest group of Lowland Scots arrived in Ulster as late as the 1690s, it is more plausible to suggest that Ulster Scots as a distinct variety is a product of the eighteenth rather than the seventeenth century.</p> <p>The word "adaptation" suggests to me deliberate speciation from parent varieties rather than the historical reality of environmental influence from English and Irish together with some autonomous development. Ulster-Scots writing exhibits no deliberate speciation from Lowland Scots before the revival of the 1990s.</p> <p>Since two out of three Scots-speaking areas in Ulster are concentrated in counties that were not part of the Great Plantation, it could be suggested that the "Plantation scheme personally supervised by King James following the Union of the Crowns in 1603" was not as important in this context as the Hamilton-Montgomery scheme that preceded it. One suspects that it has been mentioned because of its greater political significance.</p> <p>The sentence "Most of the people who came from lowland Scotland to settle in Ulster at this period spoke a version of Scots rather than English or (as in the Highlands and Islands) Gaelic." is misleading, since it can safely be said that none, or virtually none, of the Scots Planters was a native speaker of (Southern) English, although many of them will have been able to write it after a fashion. Moreover, a substantial minority among them spoke Scottish Gaelic, which, far from being limited to the Highlands, was still alive, although recessive, in the south-west Lowlands at the time and would have been extremely close to varieties of Ulster Irish. Other Planters came from Arran, Argyll and the Inner Hebrides and would almost certainly have been Gaelic-speakers.</p> <p>2.8</p> <p>It is worth pointing out here that the legislation including this definition as a variety of Scots also has the status of an international treaty, since parallel legislation was passed by the Republic of Ireland under the Good Friday Agreement, i.e. without abrogating the Agreement, the UK Government has no legal power to redefine it unilaterally (and certainly not through the non-justiciable European Charter). It is therefore disappointing to see so many references to "the Ulster-Scots language" throughout the document, directly contradicting the definition included in that international treaty.</p> <p>2.19</p> <p>Great as my respect for the University of Aberdeen Scots Leid Quorum is, it is rather odd that DCAL quotes it when more recent</p>

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		<p>and more official research exists — that carried out in 1996 by Ian Máté for the General Register Office for Scotland. That gives a figure of 1.5 million speakers in Scotland, 30% of the population.</p> <p>As for the forthcoming data from the Northern Ireland (or, indeed, Scottish) census, in the absence of a comprehensive linguistic follow-up exercise, their value could be doubted, particularly given the influence on respondents of politics and activists' very public linguistic experimentation. It would be more sensible to work together with universities and commission more in-depth sociolinguistic research such as that carried out by GRO Scotland than accept self-designation (or non-designation) at face value in this case.</p> <p>Part 2: Context and Vision</p> <p>As a general comment, I suggest that, based on what we know about the Ulster-Scots revival hitherto, any strategy including "language" alongside "heritage and culture" will almost certainly fail, since it would be seeking to cater for two quite distinct demographics.</p> <p>The existing "language" community is of modest size. It spans the two main ethno-political groups and may be up to one third Catholic/Nationalist/Republican (more according to the 2007 Omnibus survey that you cite). The potentially much larger "heritage and culture" community will attract virtually no Catholics (seen in the results of the question on identity in the 2010 Omnibus survey) but might in the course of time be expected to include most Protestants in Northern Ireland, with the core probably Presbyterian. However, as the two main Protestant traditions have been in the process of merger since the early nineteenth century, I suggest that the sociological divide between Ulster Loyalist/evangelical and Ulster British/liberal is much more likely to provide the key with regard to self-identification as an "Ulster Scot". In practice, outside core areas, the Ulster-Scots "language" revival is very often an evangelical or (albeit middle-class) Loyalist affair. This is shown quite clearly by the tenure of the English-speaking Independent Methodist Mr. McCausland at the former Heritage Council, and by the grants awarded by the Ulster-Scots Agency to Loyalist bands in preference to spending on linguistic initiatives.</p> <p>Dealing with "language" alongside "heritage and culture" effectively ensures that the dialect is associated with one community, and probably with one socio-political stream within it. If the Catholic/Nationalist/Republican third of speakers is not to be alienated entirely, it is vital that language be promoted in a politically and ethnically neutral fashion. In that context, I recommend an approach based not on "heritage" but on arts.</p> <p>The Minister has had the foresight to have separate strategies for Ulster Scots and Irish, thus limiting unnecessary political linkage</p>

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		<p>between quite different speech varieties with different needs. She should now do the same for Ulster-Scots "heritage and culture" on the one hand and the Ulster variety of Scots on the other. This would also help alleviate the current situation, whereby money intended for Ulster Scots and its "attendant culture" is to a quite excessive extent spent on the latter — indeed, often there is no conceivable link to Scots as a language at all.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <p>The aim of promoting "heritage and culture" should be removed from what is primarily understood as a language strategy. If the Minister wishes, they can be promoted by another route.</p> <p>References to "the Ulster-Scots language" should be replaced with a legally defensible definition such as "Ulster variety of the Scots language".</p> <p>Part 3: Aims, Objectives and Stakeholders</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency lacks both the linguistic expertise (Scots-language academics) and the perception of political neutrality (Northern Nationalist members to serve alongside Northern Unionists) necessary to promote Ulster Scots effectively. Given that the overwhelming critical mass of Scots-speakers and academics is in Scotland, why is there no mention of any Scottish body?</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency's mission statement directly contradicts the legal definition of a "variety of the Scots language". DCAL and DAHG should compel it to accept the legal definition. The mission statement is also relevant to the above discussion of the "language" and "heritage and culture" communities. Who are the "Ulster Scots"?</p>
027	Individual	<p>I have read over the rationale, proposals etc and am still at a loss as to how there is promotion of an Ulster Scots Language when it is clearly a dialect of English.</p> <p>I lived in England until I was 28 and have lived in County Derry ever since (into my middle fifties now). I am mystified as to how I can speak, read and understand this 'language' despite never having had any lessons.</p> <p>I am a lover of the diversity of cultures across our globe and our small island and I believe old ways should be cherished and preserved. Continue that work but do not treat me like a fool and tell me that Ulster Scots is a separate language.</p>

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028	Individual	<p>Some introductory comments on the historical context:</p> <p>Section 2.1 is perhaps oversimplified but on the whole fairly accurate.</p> <p>In section 2.5 it states that the “Scottish settlers’ language has over the centuries slowly transmuted into a distinctive Ulster variety of Scots.” How distinct is distinct?</p> <p>“Ulster Scots is in the main a variant of wm.Scots.”</p> <p>The linguist James Milroy has pointed out that the Ulster Scots dialects of Antrim and North Derry “are barely distinguishable from Ayrshire dialects.” Ulster Scots has also been described as a form of Central Scots by Paul Johnston, and Caroline Macafee, editor of the Concise Ulster Dictionary, also described Ulster Scots as a dialect of Central Scots.</p> <p>Differentiation from the Central Scots varieties is due to contact with neighbouring dialects of English origin, and to a lesser extent Irish, rather than any autonomous development within Ulster Scots itself.</p>
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	<p>The Ulster Scots Language Society welcomes the overall aims of the Strategy, and believes that broadly the sentiments which it expresses merit our approval. However, we believe that much of its limited detail is indicative of a failure to break free of the ways of thinking that have been so injurious to the welfare of the language in previous years. It would be at best pointless and at worst positively dangerous for a patient to be prescribed medicine without the doctor’s having been told what the symptoms are.</p> <p>Analysis</p> <p>Therefore, in the interest of assisting the diagnosis, it should be noted that, in the past, the Ulster Scots language has suffered from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. failure to put in place a solid infrastructure for the language. For example, the North-South Language Body utilised previously-existing infrastructure for the Irish language (in regard to terminology, publication and general lobbying/promotion etc.), whereas at no stage has it been officially recognised that Ulster-Scots needs these things too. 2. failure to understand the importance of capacity-building. There is no point in setting up a fund to assist Ulster-Scots language broadcasting if there are no genuinely Ulster-Scots film or radio programme makers or if those who do exist lack the means or opportunity to make these programmes.

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3.		short-termism. Governmental agencies have focused on funding small, stand-alone projects that can be deliver within (usually) one financial year, which militates against the larger projects that are essential for language development and promotes an 'events culture'.
4.		constantly changing personnel and resultant failure to corporate memory within government. The prevailing and unacceptable heavy reliance on civil servants to drive language development results in frequent instances where personnel with no previous knowledge or skill are just getting to grips with the job when they are moved to other departments, and their replacements, thinking they are the first to address particular issues, have to start trying to learn about Ulster-Scots, and meanwhile make the same mistakes as their predecessors.
5.		civil service obstruction. Independent of speculation of motivation, undue reliance on the civil service has led to insurmountable barriers being placed in the way of the progress of worthwhile programmes and projects in the name of 'governance'.
6.		constant 'reinvention of the wheel'. The case of the current consultation exercise on MAGUS proposals is a case in point; it is unclear to the Society why the USAIG proposals could not have been reworked.
7.		lack of transparency. For example, only since the MAGUS consultation exercise began has it ever been officially stated in relation to the work of the USAIG that 'the proposals did not find favour with all interested stakeholders in the Ulster-Scots community and work on the Academy stalled'. Those who had been seconded to USAIG were 'pensioned off' in the autumn of 2007 with letters that stated the first stage of the work had concluded and thanked them for their input, stating that perhaps some time in the future they could again contribute to USAIG objectives.
8.		lack of engagement between government bodies and organisations representing the Ulster-Scots community. This has been a consistent failure, despite the terms of Article 7.4 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which requires government, in determining policy, to 'take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages'. So far as the USLS is concerned, this obligation is not discharged merely by holding consultation exercises. The structure of the ICIG remains a matter of some frustration to native speakers of Ulster-Scots, as it seems to be a 'closed shop' operating without reference to the wishes of their

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		community.
9.		'business' orientation in an inappropriate context. For instance, there is disproportionate emphasis on 'product' in a context in which a large element is preservation, which cannot be measured using business criteria. Heritage-based interests are rarely profitable in times of recession, as they relate to quality of life rather than to the essentials.
10.		continual planning without the resources to implement. One aspect of this wider malaise is that Ulster Scots in general has been the subject of many consultation exercises at which the wishes of the Ulster Scots community have been clearly expressed, but support for implementation of their vision for the language and culture has not been forthcoming.
11.		failure to establish quality control. This is inevitable when those evaluating the worth of particular projects have insufficient skill or knowledge to equip them to judge such activity – which results in 'products' that alienate the Ulster-Scots community, which in turn fuel the unhelpful attitude of the media.
12.		misconceptions in regard to the dynamics within the Ulster Scots community. The development of the Ulster Scots language has been greatly burdened by 'political' considerations and a marked tendency on the part of government to defer to the personal prejudices of individuals, regardless of whether these sources of opinion have even been involved in good quality work for the language. The USLS is by constitution apolitical, has no members of any political party on its committee, and concentrates on what the language needs. This has not worked to its benefit, in that because it refuses to deliver votes for anyone it cannot 'buy' support for the language.
13.		the 'culture and language' model. This is built into the remit of the 'Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch, but the effect has been concentration upon the 'culture' aspect at the expense of language.
		Stakeholders 3.3 -3.9
		The list of stakeholders is noticeably bare of any reference to the Ulster Scots community or its organisations. Neither MAGUS nor the Ulster Scots Agency represented anyone except more of the civil service. The Society would point to Article 7.4 of the European Charter, already quoted.
		Also, the Strategy makes no mention of best practice in regard to the safeguarding of regional or minority languages, either in the UK or in other countries. It should be noted that the renowned

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		<p>linguistic, David Crystal OBE, who was born in Lisburn, in his writings specifically warns that 'outsiders' should not be prescriptive in telling native speakers of these languages how to go about protecting them.</p>
033	Ullans Speakers Association	<p>Part 2 – Context and Vision</p> <p>The Ullans Speakers Association is satisfied that the content of this section is an accurate overview of the origins, evolution and current status of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. We would however wish to see included at 2.14, reference to the human rights obligations contained in the treaties ratified by the U.K. in regard to language, heritage and culture and specifically taking account of obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), The European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>Part 3 – Stakeholders</p> <p>In relation to stakeholders, we believe the list you have mentioned is noticeable lacking input from the grass roots community, notably absent is the Ulster Scots Community Network, and on the language front, The Ullans Speakers Association should part of the Key stakeholders. Article 7.4 of the European charter for Regional/Minority Languages requires government in determining policy to "take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups who use such languages". Clearly having MAGUS and the Ulster Scots Agency only does not meet this requirement. We also were lead to believe that MAGUS was a short term group. Duplication needs to be avoided and minimised as there is already confusion within the grass root Ulster Scots communities of the need for both the Agency and MAGUS.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>We do have real concerns around the actual delivery specifics of the document.</p> <p>When read alongside the recent strategy for the Irish language, the Ulster-Scots strategy appears to be an aspiration and is lacking in hard targets and specific delivery timescales.</p> <p>There exists a marked disparity between the strategies in terms of detail, actions and measurable results. We would strongly asked for a sound financial footing, that is earmarked for the development of Ulster Scots be ring fenced, in the past money was earmarked which subsequently was re-allocated. Our community perceives that in the past, progress on a number of Ulster-Scots language and cultural issues have been stalled and delayed. Whilst we appreciate that the creation of policy can be a slow process, we now call for a period of sustained investment in personnel and resources to allow</p>

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		<p>this document to be implemented. Grass roots community expectations have been raised by this document which can only be met by timely and meaningful progress towards the objectives of this strategy and its implementation.</p>
035	Individual	<p>I would see Ulster Scots as part of the make up of this part of Ireland, and is necessarily included in any comprehensive review of our culture and history. I do not see it as a separate from the whole but as a part of the whole. It should therefore be taken with the Gaelic/ Irish. I therefore disagree with the fundamental proposal of separate development.</p> <p>I am probably mainly from an Ulster Scots background. My ancestors were in Co Derry in 1820 and probably came there from Ayrshire as part of the Plantation of Ulster.</p> <p>I have the following opinions -:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulster Scots is not a language but a dialect, • Those of us who live in the northern part of Ireland (I include 9 counties of Ulster plus Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, and Leitrim) all have a common ancestry. If we were not in Scotland we were here. Those that were here in 1600 are called native Irish, those that came from Scotland during the Plantation are called Ulster Scots also Scots/ Irish. Therefore we are one community not two. • The State cannot afford to incorporate Irish, Ulster Scots or any other language into its everyday working. English only should be used. In Spain only Spanish is used not the regional languages, as I was told why should we lose the advantage of using a world language. Irish and Ulster Scots should be encouraged in cultural and tourism especially in response to public demand. The same principle should apply to education. • The Gaelic/ Irish tradition has developed over the last 150 years to now form well developed and strong organisations in sport, language and music. Ulster Scots on the other hand has retreated, become defensive, still accepting the role of coloniser. <p>In conclusion it is time for Ulster Scots to move into the mainstream, take pride in the contribution we have made and take our place with others to share our common history.</p>
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	<p>Part 2 – Context and Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSPBANI are concerned that the thrust of the content of this section concentrates almost entirely on Ulster Scots as a linguistic tradition. • We would wish to see much more recognition of the Ulster Scots cultural issues in particularly the links with Scottish music and

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		<p>dance.</p> <p><i>Part 3 – Aims, Objectives & Stakeholders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is reference to other government departments in the delivery of the document, it is written very much from a central government, insular perspective. Local government are key 'deliverers' on Ulster Scots • There is a very little specific reference to community engagement on Ulster Scots. • RSPBANI feel that as the organised body with a remit in the key Ulster Scot activity of piping and drumming should be recognised as a vital stakeholder in the delivery of the strategy
037	Individual	<p>In general terms, it has been disappointing that there has been little emphasis on the past in relation to the east-west links which are so vitally important to the Ulster Scots community. Our own community group has funded visits by several Scottish pipe bands and one Scots Gaelic choir to our annual festival and would like to develop links with communities in Scotland. However there is no funding available for this and no appetite it would seem within the corridors of power. The Scottish connection is the logical focus for us as Ulster Scots and its neglect is disappointing and unacceptable. I see little in the consultation document which addresses his or will directly benefit development of such links.</p> <p>In the past our group received funding from an Irish language body because there was no funding available from the Ulster Scots Agency to fund a Gaelic choir from Id Argyll to attend our festival. We were told that this "was not Ulster Scots", when in fact the origins of the Scots of Argyll lie in North Antrim and it is very much part of the Ulster Scots story. This example shows both the lack of knowledge and lack of interest in my opinion in meaningful engagement in respect of developing east-west links of lasting benefit to both regions.</p> <p>I raise this as I have done over several years, with government ministers, in the media and in public forums, with little sense that any notice is being taken.</p>
039	Individual	<p>Paragraph 3.3, request that two additional groups of key stakeholders are included, namely the Ulster Scots Language Society and a specified sample of native Ulster Scots speakers.</p>
040	Individual	<p>I am sending this email as i feel not enough resources are being invested in Ulster Scots there's no where near enough funding for promotion of the culture as there is other foreign cultures that come into Northern Ireland, Ulster Scots holds a proud tradition in the country and with not enough being done to help , it may be sadly</p>

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		lost to the history books.
041	Individual	<p>I am a proud Ulster Scot but i am writing this in English in case those who make the policy cannot read or speak Ulsterscots.</p> <p>The Ulsterscots language should be given the same advantages as is given to the Irish language if not more Irish is the dead language of a foreign country yet it is being forced down our throats by the republican supporters.</p> <p>Maybe we should have the road signs in Ulsterscots as well.</p>
042	Individual	I would strongly encourage your department to improve financial support for Ulster Scots it deserves the same support given to the Irish language and other ethnic groups
044	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE) youth	<p>General</p> <p>Michael [Willis, DCAL who attended the meeting] was unaware of many of the Ulster Scots activities taking place in the area and was impressed with the enthusiasm from those taking part in these activities. The activities are increasing with the formation of FUSE as an umbrella group for the area and we hope to build on this provided funding from DCAL is continued dedicated to Fermanagh. There is huge potential for Ulster Scots and we are at a developmental stage compared to some other areas in Northern Ireland. Fermanagh takes a unique place within Ulster Scots language, heritage and cultural life in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Finally</p> <p>The young people were keen to see an action plan in place and for the Consultation to lead to practical measures to ensure all this learning can take place within the next year.</p>
045; 068-128	Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	<p>Part 2 – Context and Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCN are satisfied that the content of this section is an accurate overview of the origins, evolution and current status of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture. We would however wish to see included at 2.14, reference to the human rights obligations contained in the treaties ratified by the U.K. in regard to language, heritage and culture and specifically taking account of obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), The European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. <p>Part 3 – Aims, Objectives & Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCN welcome the aims and aspirations of the Strategy document. We particularly welcome the recognition that other government

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		<p>departments (not just DCAL) have multilayered responsibilities in the successful delivery of this document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key Aim which is not included should be to increase capacity and infrastructure within the Ulster-Scots Community. • USCN are keen to ensure that all the stakeholders listed have clear remits in the implementation of the Strategy and that opportunities for duplication of services are identified and minimised • USCN believe that the wider Ulster-Scots community and it's representative organisations should be officially recognised and listed as a key stakeholder in this strategy. <p>Other comments –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ulster-Scots Community Network welcomes the publication of this strategy and recognises its importance as the most significant undertaking to date, by the Northern Ireland executive towards meeting their cultural obligations as defined in 1998, 2003 & 2006 and the various UN charters and conventions to which the UK Government have subscribed. • If the 2011-2015 Programme for Government is to be delivered in full, the implementation of this document is critical to the successful delivery of the cultural diversity element of a "Strong and Shared Community" • Whilst being supportive of the content of this strategy, USCN has concerns around the actual delivery specifics of the document. • When read alongside the recent strategy for the Irish language, the Ulster-Scots strategy appears to be entirely aspirational and is lacking in hard targets and specific delivery timescales. There exists a marked disparity between the strategies in terms of detail, actions and measurable results. • USCN would encourage the Department to begin the process of adding detail to this strategy – (How? Who? & When?) and then to plan for implementation by committing adequate resources and personnel to ensure the process is begun and meaningfully progressed in the life of the current executive. • Our community perceives that in the past, progress on a number of Ulster-Scots cultural issues has been stalled and delayed. Whilst we appreciate that the creation of policy can be a slow process we now call for a period of sustained investment in personnel and resources to allow this document to be implemented. • Community expectations have been raised by this document – these expectations can only be met by timely and meaningful progress towards the objectives of this strategy. Without progress, this paper is consigned to become merely an aspirational statement of intent and nothing will have been achieved.

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047	Individual	Not enough resources are being given to Ulster-Scots culture in Northern Ireland.
048	Newry & Mourne District Council	The strategy seems to have a top down approach and there is little community development included in the strategy. It is evident that from NMDC's work that there is a need for capacity building in the Ulster Scots community. The danger is that such a strategy may be doomed to failure if the Ulster Scots community are not at the heart of implementing the strategy.
050	Sinn Féin	<p>Sinn Féin welcomes the publication of this draft strategy which recognises the importance of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>Sinn Féin believes that regional & minority languages are an integral part of the fabric of Irish society. We support the promotion of new initiatives that explore Ulster Scots identity, heritage and genealogy. Equally important are those forms of outward cultural expression such as music, dance, and literature: as well as encouraging the development of an Ulster Scots community and affirming those who identify as Ulster Scots, these all add to Ireland's cultural wealth, enriching us as a people and enhancing our tourism potential, especially among the Irish diaspora.</p> <p>Sinn Féin sees the special protective status afforded Ulster Scots by the EU Charter for Regional & Minority Languages as the bedrock upon which to foster new interest and energy in this very unique aspect of Ireland's culture.</p> <p>In particular we agree with the EU Committee of Experts (COMEX) who say in their last report on the Charter (Strasbourg, 21 April 2010) that it is of paramount importance to continue to strive to secure for Ulster Scots the specific attention it requires rather than to facilitate what they call "inappropriate claims for parity" (para.16) with Irish, which will only serve to "hold back the development of both languages" (para. 57). In paragraph 17 of their last report, COMEX state that we must focus on</p> <p>"...treating each regional or minority language in accordance with its specific situation. The situation of the two languages is quite different, and language measures specifically directed towards each language are needed. That is the only way that both languages can be protected and promoted according to their specific needs." (ECRML-2010-4, pg. 6)</p> <p>It is important therefore that due attention is given to the specific needs of Ulster Scots and that no attempt is made to mimic the equally unique situation or requirements of Irish.</p>
053	Dungannon and	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council is committed to the

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	South Tyrone Borough Council	<p>protection and promote of Irish and Ulster Scots in its Borough as part of the UK government commitment to the European Charter for the protection and promotion of the regional and minority languages.</p> <p>Council would like to endorse the DCAL strategies for both languages.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken with a number of groups on the development of Ulster Scots at which DCAL were present and noted comments are:</p> <p>Agreement to the aims and objectives and areas of action. A key element of Ulster Scots is heritage and culture and expression of this is important in everyday life activity. To look at best practice from Scotland. It is important that the delivery of the strategy is given serious consideration.</p>
057	Arts Council of Northern Ireland	<p>General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arts Council supports comments within the Ministerial foreword which states the future development of Ulster Scots language is dependent upon the commitment of everyone in the Ulster-Scots sector. The Arts Council would support such a bottom-up approach (community, government departments and the Executive) to the delivery of the strategy, to ensure that the needs of all in relation to the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture are met. From a reader's perspective it would be useful to have a definition for language, heritage and culture. This would provide all in society with an understanding and value for Ulster Scots, for both a speaker and non-speaker perspective. In addition, it would be useful if inclusive language similar to that within the Irish Language strategy is used in order to highlight how Ulster Scots belongs to everyone as it is a "valuable part of our shared cultural heritage." The Arts Council would recommend the inclusion of terminology such as the arts, literature and creativity within the various context sections and areas of action when discussing language, heritage and culture. From an arts perspective it is important to discuss the role of dance, storytelling, song and instrumentation in the articulation of Ulster Scots heritage and culture. In terms of language, there is a noted history of poetry and prose within this sector. From a historical point of view it is important to document and comment on such literature, as the past and current production of such literature is a sign of a vibrant language. In other words, you cannot develop a language without the production of literature as this fuels learning,

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		<p>creativity and the survival of language in a globalised world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy does not provide detail around the level of consultation conducted in the development of the strategy. This is an important dimension as it provides a background to how the specific aims, objectives and actions were formulated. In addition, such detail would provide the individuals and groups consulted at the initial development phase with a sense of inclusiveness which will continue through to the implementation stage. • While the historical context section provides a succinct description of the origination and development of the Ulster Scots language, the Arts Council would recommend that this section is broadened. A central issue for those particularly within the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist communities is their understanding of Ulster Scots tradition and how they relate to it at an individual level from a language, heritage and cultural perspective. Section 2.17 of the strategy acknowledges this when it states that: "it is vital that the historic linkages between Scotland and Ulster and their continuing legacy are accurately identified, properly understood and appropriately acknowledged." Therefore, it would also be useful if references are cited within footnotes within this section. This would provide the reader with a basis on which this narrative was drawn upon as well as providing further reading suggestions. • The legislative context and narrative around the Good Friday Agreement provides useful background material in setting this strategy in a legal and political perspective. The St Andrews Agreement (2006) section gets quite lost within the Good Friday Agreement section. In fact, it is not until St Andrews that the commitment to developing this sector is included in amendments. The wording of this commitment is as follows: "The Government firmly believes in the need to enhance and develop the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture and will support the incoming executive in taking this forward." The Arts Council would therefore recommend an individual sub-section for the St Andrews Agreement within the strategy. • Within the international context section a number of recommendations cited by the Council of Europe Committee of Experts are outlined in relation to the development of an Ulster Scots strategy in Northern Ireland. The Arts Council wishes to stress the recommendation of adopting a strategy in co-operation with both speakers and non-speakers. This supports our opening comments which are in line with the Minister's remarks in the strategy's foreword in taking a bottom-up approach (community, government departments

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		<p>and the Executive) to the development and implementation of this strategy. In light of these comments and recommendations, the Arts Council suggests that the narrative within the stakeholder section (3.3.-3.8) reflects this inclusive approach. While it is important to identify key stakeholders such as the Ulster Scots Agency, Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster Scots Academy, NICS Departments and the Government of Westminster – this list is quite Government heavy. The Arts Council acknowledges that in section 3.9 the wish to develop the strategy in “an iterative and reflective way, with every voice being listened to, particularly via public consultation”; however, it is important that community engagement at every level is seen as an integral part of the strategy development and implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.19 notes that it is hard to estimate the number of people who speak Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland, as the last comprehensive study was conducted in the 1960s. While the 2011 Census for the first time has incorporated a number of questions on the Ulster Scots language, this is not addressed within the strategy. The Arts Council feels that its inclusion is fundamental as it provides an empirical baseline against which future delivery plans can be assessed. (note: 2011 Census data on the Ulster Scot language will be released on the 11th December 2012) <p>Areas for Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently the areas for action sit in isolation in the current layout of this section. The Arts Council would therefore recommend that this section is expanded, so that each action is linked to a specific strategy aim, objective, output and outcome. In addition, it would be useful if a timeframe and associated resources are also indicated to ensure the implementation and delivery of each action. The areas for action identified within the strategy include Education; Media; Use of Language; Public Services; Culture. Similar to the objectives of the strategy, the role of the arts are not specifically addressed within the associated actions. The Arts Council recommends that the arts are discussed in a wider context, e.g. dance, song, storytelling and instrumentation. In addition, while we are fully supportive of the development of the Ulster Scots language as discussed in our opening comments, the Arts Council for a number of years has supported a number of arts projects delivered by organisations such as the Ulster Scots Community Network through our core Annual Funding Programme. In relation to language, we suggest that a piece of work cataloguing the history of Ulster Scots poetry

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		and prose is central in fuelling interest, creativity and survival of the Ulster Scot language in today's globalised world.
058	Omagh District Council	<p>The Council wishes to highlight the following points in response to this consultation:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council believes there is significant work to be done to address cultural issues and political connotations associated with developing the Ulster Scots language. Unfortunately, both the Irish Language and Ulster Scots have often been associated with one or other political background or culture which has created barriers to people being accepting of either language. Major work needs to be undertaken at regional and local levels to raise awareness and change mindsets so that attitudes and behaviours change. • The Council supports the development of the Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture and considers the Strategy to be ambitious and forward thinking. However, it is also concerned that whilst the Strategy is proposing to respond to public demand, it could be viewed as DCAL's wish list, which if to be implemented in full, will require significant commitment, buy-in and funding from other government departments, which might not be forthcoming. • There is a need to develop an action plan which sets out a timeframe to deliver on the Strategies aims and objectives. The action plan should identify short, medium and long term objectives, so that those actions which can be quickly and effectively progressed can proceed. • The Council believes the Strategy will only be realised if the appropriate funding is provided at both central and local government level. In times of economic downturn, when costs saving are crucial, the areas most likely to suffer from under-resourcing are those which are not regarded as mandatory. The implementation of this Strategy requires the appropriate funding attached if it is to succeed. • Omagh District Council concurs with the need to develop appropriate extra curricular support and resources, the promotion of the language, heritage and culture internationally and the further research and development into the traditions of Ulster Scots around the world. • Omagh District Council supports the need to enhance and develop Ulster Scots language, heritage and cultural tourism product via developing tours, walks and creating genealogical links with the USA. Omagh District Council also welcomes the examination of the contribution Ulster Scots makes to the cultural tourism product on the island of Ireland and the

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		<p>creation of an archive of Ulster Scots literature. Omagh District Council would also support the creation of Ulster Scots cultural centres, the creation of Pilot Heritage Heartlands and the development of secure and sustainable funding for Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will respond to a pending audit to be carried out in the Omagh area regarding the Ulster Scots language in line with DCAL’s policy on the promotion of Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture in this area.
061	Alliance Party	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>This is a submission by the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland. The Alliance Party has a history of supporting the development of a comprehensive languages strategy that goes beyond the statutory duties around the Irish language, the Ulster-Scots language and sign languages.</p> <p>The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Irish and Ulster Scots strategies. This should be considered as a joint response to both the consultations ‘<i>Strategy for Protecting and Enhancing the Development of the Irish Language</i>’ and ‘<i>Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture</i>’.</p> <p>Both consultation documents make reference to Priority 4 of the Programme for Government 2011-2015 “<i>Building a Strong and Shared Community</i>”. To achieve this it is crucial that both languages are brought forward in an integrated manner. An integrated approach would demonstrate the Executive’s commitment to building a shared cultural heritage, in line with Priority 4 of the Programme for Government. Instead, the decision to bring forward two separate proposals on Irish and Ulster-Scots sets a precedent that suggests the two are “separate but equal”, with little shared value. This joint response reflects the Alliance Party’s commitment to promoting a shared future for all, by approaching languages, culture and heritage in an integrated manner.</p> <p>The Alliance Party recognises that the Irish and Ulster Scots languages have been granted statutory protection, through the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. However, Irish and Ulster-Scots, alone, do not reflect the diverse language needs of Northern Ireland. The absence of any other languages, spoken or used, does not reflect the reality of our language user base, and falls short of meeting the needs of sign language users as well as other ethnic language speakers.</p> <p>Alliance supports the development of a comprehensive languages strategy. A comprehensive languages strategy would cover both indigenous languages and other spoken languages used within</p>

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		<p>Northern Ireland, as well as the various sign languages. Legislative aspects could extend to creating a duty on public bodies to develop language schemes that meet the identified needs of their user base rather than a 'rights-based' approach.</p> <p>Alliance is also particularly aware of the ability of culture, the arts and language to make a positive contribution to a shared future. Alliance supports the appreciation and expression of our rich and varied cultural identities. We believe that cultural participation and self-expression should be developed in the context of respect and understanding of our own and each other's heritage.</p> <p>There is a need to establish an agreed strategy on how all languages, spoken and used, out of need or as form of cultural expression, can be acknowledged and supported. The Alliance Party believes this would be best served by a comprehensive languages strategy that goes beyond statutory requirements, as opposed to the current proposed strategies.</p> <p><u>Comprehensive Languages Strategy</u></p> <p>The Alliance Party recognises the special circumstances in relation to the Irish and Ulster Scots languages, particularly around the statutory protection granted through the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.</p> <p>Both languages are further recognised, within a succession of agreements, including the 1998 Belfast Agreement; the Joint Declaration of 2003; and the 2006 St. Andrew's Agreement. As such, there is a statutory requirement, as well as political agreement, to bring forward a strategy which protects and promotes both languages.</p> <p>However, the Alliance Party believes the current proposals represent a missed opportunity to create a comprehensive strategy, one which goes beyond the minimum statutory requirements and includes all languages spoken and used, whether out of need or as part of cultural expression. Such an approach would be fully inclusive, representing the wide range of cultural identities in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Indeed, page three of the Irish Language strategy recognises that "it is critical that the content of this strategy reflects the needs of our people". This is an important point that is not fully addressed by the current proposals, with no attempt to include the wide range of languages spoken and used in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is becoming rapidly more diverse and it is of vital importance that any languages strategy recognises this fact.</p> <p>In this respect, it must also be noted that any significant data on this topic is out of date and it may be best practice to await the results of the 2011 Census results before addressing the diverse</p>

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		<p>language needs in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Not only would a comprehensive languages strategy move towards satisfying the protected status, granted through the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, it would also sit more favourably with the requirements of the Good Friday Agreement, which states:</p> <p><i>"All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland".</i></p> <p>The Good Friday Agreement recognises the importance of the various ethnic languages, spoken and used in Northern Ireland, in relation to improving respect, understanding and tolerance among the diverse range of cultural identities found in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.3 of the proposed Irish language strategy recognises this when it states that:</p> <p><i>"The creation of a climate of tolerance and dialogue is necessary to enable our cultural heritage and cultural diversity in general to be a source and a factor, not of division, but of enrichment of our society. The strategy will therefore seek to promote wider understanding of the background to the language across all sections of our community".</i></p> <p>This is not reflected in the current proposals to bring forward consultations on Irish and Ulster-Scots alone, and absent of any other languages spoken or used. A comprehensive languages strategy would more fully support this vision.</p> <p><u>Community Relations</u></p> <p>The Alliance Party also recognises the particular importance of Irish and Ulster Scots in relation to culture, heritage and community relations in Northern Ireland. It is of fundamental importance that any forthcoming strategies do not worsen perceptions or increase divisions among sections of the community.</p> <p>The potential for both indigenous languages to become a focus point for divisions is highlighted in the Irish language strategy when it states that:</p> <p><i>"The development and protection of the Irish language should not be viewed as divisive".</i></p> <p>In this respect, the Alliance Party welcomes the development of languages policy; however, by bringing this forward in two separate strategies, there is a divisive tone set from the outset. This may increasingly become an issue if it is felt that one strategy is given priority over the other. In this respect, the lack of detail around</p>

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		<p>timescales will also become an issue.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Alliance Party is concerned that the implementation of two separate strategies may lead to further division between sections of the community. For example, both strategies promote Irish and Ulster-Scots within the education system. The schooling system in Northern Ireland is segregated and it is inevitable that schools in different sectors will choose which strategy to promote, strengthening cultural divisions at an early age. Any forthcoming languages strategies should be mindful of this and emphasis should be given to promote inter-cultural sharing.</p> <p>The Alliance Party also has concerns around paragraph 4.6.10, which states:</p> <p><i>"Local authorities should facilitate the proper preservation and signposting of Irish place-names and the naming of new housing developments to reflect local or national heritage"</i>.</p> <p>The Irish and Ulster-Scots languages provide a good means to promote cultural awareness, understanding and diversity. However, it is vitally important that neither becomes politicised nor becomes a means, intended or otherwise, to demarcate territory through the use of bi-lingual signs. Added to this, there is little evidence contained within either document to suggest that actions will be taken to encourage local authorities to promote a shared identity through place-names or the naming of housing developments. This could lead to further polarisation within local or regional areas.</p> <p><u>Needs Based Approach</u></p> <p>The Alliance Party believes it would be beneficial to bring forward proposals that meet the identified needs of language user's, rather than a 'rights-based' approach. Successful schemes such as Liofa have demonstrated the positive effect grass roots campaigns can have to protect and promote both indigenous languages. Providing support to grass roots organisations should provide the best, and most cost-effective, means to making language classes accessible to all those who wish to learn. There is a rich body of experienced organisations working hard to protect both indigenous languages; however, the current proposals show few attempts to harness this resource.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>While the Alliance Party appreciates the statutory requirements to bring forward a strategy on Irish and Ulster-Scots, and welcomes attempts to do so, there are a number of concerns about the current proposals. A comprehensive languages strategy, based on up-to-date census information, and focused on a needs based approach would represent best practice.</p> <p>An integrated approach to languages would bring forward guidance</p>

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		and support for both indigenous languages and other spoken languages used within Northern Ireland, as well as the various sign languages, in a manner that would improve tolerance, understanding, diversity and improved community relations across Northern Ireland’s entire user base.
062	Democratic Unionist Party	<p>The DUP recognises the centrality and importance of Ulster-Scots to the cultural and linguistic character of Northern Ireland. The DUP welcomes the Ulster-Scots revival that has occurred over the course of the last thirty years in the realms of music, dance, language and culture. The party recognises the massive potential which Ulster Scots has to add to the tourism product of Northern Ireland, especially with an increased awareness of the Ulster-Scots/Scotch-Irish identity in the United States of America, Australia and Canada. The DUP is supportive of measures which will see the positive progress of recent years built upon and which will enable the expansion and development of increased capacity in the Ulster-Scots sector.</p> <p>The DUP believes in fulfilling a textual implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. In keeping with that belief the party believes the measures outlined within the strategy fit with the stated principles of Part 2 of the charter.</p> <p>Whilst supportive of the measures proposed, the DUP is disappointed in the quality of the document in failing to provide better analysis of the present situation of Ulster-Scots, a lack of clear targets and timetables and no associated costings.</p> <p>In the context section there is mention of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, however, we believe that there should also be mention of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes educational and cultural rights and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Irish Language Strategy is a purely linguistic strategy, whereas the Ulster-Scots strategy covers language, heritage and culture and so cultural rights should be included in the context section of the consultation document.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>The DUP is broadly content with the proposals outlined in this draft strategy with the following provisos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All measures should be time bound in the final published strategy 2. An increase in focus of international tourism potential is required 3. Fuller details of the implementation of all measures, especially in the realm of education provision is required 4. We are concerned that the strategy has not detailed the progress towards the establishment of the Ulster-Scots

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		Academy and expect the department to expedite this without any further delay.
063	Ulster Unionist Party	<p>The basis for Ulster Scots, as well as the Irish Language, is within the Belfast Agreement which gives an equal footing in recognising the importance, respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity for both.</p> <p>To quote a recent Ulster Unionist policy paper:</p> <p><i>‘Cultural identity is an important part of our make-up and in that respect Ulster Scots heritage, culture and language should be advanced and developed alongside the significant resources currently being deployed on the Irish language. Unionism has been on the cultural back foot in the past as we have had to defend our heritage, however the Ulster Unionist Party want to change that so we can celebrate our history with a sense of pride.’</i></p> <p>As a Party we will continue to advance the Ulster Scots Culture throughout government and wider society in areas such as education, the media and the economy.</p> <p>We would disagree with the Minister in her foreword where she states that Ulster Scots has been given little recognition or support from government as it was the Ulster Unionist Party who created and first held this portfolio, putting in place many of the structures which remain today. It is important that she concentrates on her own performance as Minister in relation to Ulster Scots.</p> <p>Context and Vision</p> <p>Ulster Scots has a rich cultural history and the strategy accurately portrays the historical context of that stretching back some 1400 years. The legislative contexts as well as commitments within the current Programme for Government are also clearly set out and we would particularly highlight the importance of paragraph 2.14 and the aim for Ulster Scots to attain Part 3 status within the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.</p> <p>Aims, Objectives and Stakeholders</p> <p>The Ulster Unionist Party is broadly content with the aims and objectives of the strategy subject to below. However, the current Minister has yet to demonstrate any appetite to fulfil aims or objectives in relation to Ulster Scots and that must change.</p> <p>As regards the stakeholders, we would welcome the recognition that there should be a cross departmental approach to delivering this strategy, however, we would express some concern that various Ulster Scots organisations are not considered as official stakeholders and this should be rectified. It is also essential that the wider Ulster Scots diaspora is consulted and that means engagement with Scotland – something which there is currently a</p>

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		<p>distinct lack of.</p> <p>The Westminster government is also a key stakeholder and paragraph 3.8 of the strategy states that '<i>responsibility for some public services, such as Broadcasting, remains with the Government in Westminster. Engagement with the responsible Minister in Westminster to seek cooperation from their Departments on the aims of this Strategy will be critical.</i>'</p> <p>It is therefore far from ideal that in a response to an Assembly Written Question tabled on 4/10/12 the DCAL Minister stated '<i>I have had no specific discussions with Ministers in Westminster about Ulster Scots culture and heritage.</i>' There seems to be little recognition or support from the Minister in this regard.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Ulster Scots remains an important part of the historical culture of Northern Ireland and its potential, particularly as a means to attract tourism, is not currently being realised. The Ulster Unionist Party are hopeful that the actions contained within this strategy can be strengthened and built upon to maximise the opportunities which Ulster Scots can bring.</p>
064	Individual	<p>I believe there to be too much emphasis on the Ulster-Scots language within the Ulster Scots Strategy. Researching our shared Scottish heritage, and sharing it with all age groups, would, I consider, be welcomed by a more inclusive Ulster-Scots population.</p>
066	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland	<p>As the Commission does not have direct jurisdiction on language issues, our response should be viewed within the context of the Commission's remit in relation to anti-discrimination legislation (including the Fair Employment and Treatment Order - FETO) and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Further details on our remit are set out in Annex 1.</p> <p>We note the aims of the proposed strategy to ensure the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture can flourish and be shared and enjoyed; protect and support the development and learning of the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture; and promote wider understanding and recognition of the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. The Commission welcomes the comprehensive range of areas for action to protect, enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture, set out in the draft Strategy, to include: Education; Media; Use of Language; Public Services; Culture.</p> <p>The Commission recognises that minority language speakers are entitled to protection of their internationally recognised rights including those set out in the Council of Europe Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities). We also</p>

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		<p>acknowledge the references to language rights in the Belfast Agreement (1998), the Joint Declaration (2003) and the St. Andrews Agreement (2006).</p> <p>The UK Government ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in 2001, recognising obligations to protect and promote the Ulster Scots language, which has been accorded Part 2 status under the Charter which sets out objectives and principles in relation to regional and minority languages.</p> <p>Following the St Andrews Agreement, the Northern Ireland Act 1998 was amended to include a provision (Section 28D) that the Executive Committee shall adopt strategies to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language and to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>The Commission understands that the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has recommended that the UK strengthen efforts to improve the position of Ulster Scots (Council of Europe, Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers RecChL (2007)2, adopted 14 March 2007, recommendation 6). Furthermore, the Committee of Ministers, in relation to its 2008 conclusions further to the UK's examination under the Framework Convention for National Minorities, also called for "further support... for the Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage" (Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/ResCMN (2008)7, adopted 9 July 2008, p 2).</p> <p>The Convention's Advisory Committee had urged the Executive to adopt strategies "in accordance with the commitment expressed in the 2006 St Andrews Agreement" for Irish and Ulster-Scots "at the earliest opportunity" (Council of Europe, Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention, Second Opinion on the United Kingdom, ACFC/OP/II(2007)003, adopted 6 June 2007, para 190).</p> <p>The Commission therefore welcomes the publication of this draft Strategy and that issued in parallel for the Irish language, taken forward as part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment under the Programme for Government 2011-15 to deliver against the priority of 'Building a Strong and Shared Community'.</p> <p>The Commission considers that the use of any language should be a neutral act and that the speaking of Ulster Scots or its more general use in the community should not diminish the entitlements of those whose right to their Irish identity is guaranteed in the Good Friday Agreement. Similarly, the Commission considers that the wider use of Irish should not in any way diminish the entitlements of those whose right to their Ulster Scots identity is similarly guaranteed. The speaking of any language in Northern Ireland should not be perceived as a threat to any individual or group, nor should it be intended in such a manner.</p>

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067	Strabane District Council	Strabane District Council welcomes the publication of this draft strategy for public consultation. This strategy recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing the language, heritage and culture of Ulster Scots. It will promote increased awareness about Ulster Scots and ensure that the needs of the Ulster Scots community in education, broadcasting and accessing public services are met. It also will develop and exploit the tourist and economic potential of the language.
134	Green Party	The Green Party supports the full implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the recommendations by the Council of Europe. We believe that the Ulster Scots strategy should be underpinned by this charter and the recommendations.
135	Community Relations Council	<p>Council views Ulster Scots as a significant element in the cultural diversity that makes this place what it is. Our aspiration is to include all linguistic traditions as an important part of our intercultural heritage; to value these traditions as a living contribution to our quality of life, open to everyone, including those who currently have no knowledge or connection with the language.</p> <p>CRC welcomes the draft strategy in response to the report of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe who visited Belfast in 2009 and in meeting Section 28D of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 by seeking to adopt a strategy to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.</p> <p>CRC strongly supports the rationale, benefits of bilingualism and vision set out in the document, particularly the statement that a positive sense of belonging promotes confidence and community engagement.</p> <p>Ulster Scots is recognised under the Charter as a regional and minority language and as such the authorities have obligations under PART II - the general objectives and principles. The Ulster Scots strategy therefore should set out clearly the responsibilities under PART II and how it will begin to enhance and develop Ulster Scots in conjunction with the speakers taking into account the Charter's three year reporting cycle. The current range of actions proposed in the strategy is ambitious, yet it is unclear from the strategy which actions will take priority</p> <p>Therefore it is CRC's view that, in order to fulfil the recommendation by the Council of Ministers and to meet its obligations under Part II in relation to Article 7, the following areas should be prioritised within a final strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recognition of Ulster Scots as an expression of cultural wealth; • The importance of taking steps to ensure that the formation

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		<p>of new councils do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Ulster Scots within their geographical areas. Rather this should be used as a an opportunity to promote the development of Council Language plans in conjunction with Ulster Scots speakers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for resolute action to promote Ulster Scots and to safeguard it; • The need to encourage the use of Ulster Scots in speech and writing, in both public and private life; • The potential to maintain and develop links between those groups using regional and minority languages and cultural relations with others using different languages; • The need to make provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages; • The need to make provision for non –speakers living in the area where it is used to learn Ulster Scots; • The need to develop opportunities for the promotion of study and research on regional and minority languages at third level institutions; • The promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges particularly in Scotland and Wales; <p>Future Proofing</p> <p>The Third UK report from the Committee of Experts (COMEX) specifically recommends the formation of a strategy to enhance and develop Ulster Scots in conjunction with speakers. Part III of the consultation document provides a list of stakeholders but does not specifically refer to speakers either in their own right or in terms of the ability of the listed stakeholders to reach or accurately represent their views. CRC seeks clarification as to the role of individual speakers in the development of this strategy and what role they will play as the strategy progresses.</p>
136	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission ('the Commission'), pursuant to Section 69(1) of the <i>Northern Ireland Act 1998</i>, reviews the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice relating to the protection of Human Rights. In accordance with this function the following statutory advice is submitted to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure ('the Department') in response to the Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture 2012. 4. The Commission bases its position on the full range of internationally accepted human rights standards, including the <i>European Convention on Human Rights</i> as incorporated by the <i>Human Rights Act 1998</i> and the treaty obligations of the Council of Europe and United Nations systems. The

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		<p>relevant international treaties in this context include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The European Convention on Human Rights, 1950</i> ('ECHR') [UK ratification 1951]; • <i>The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966</i> ('ICCPR') [UK ratification 1976]; • <i>The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966</i> ('ICESCR') [UK ratification 1976]; • <i>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989</i> ('UNCRC') [UK ratification 1991]; • <i>European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, 1992</i> ('the Charter') [UK ratification 2001]; • <i>Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, 1993</i> ('FCNM') [UK ratification 1998]; • <i>UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005</i> [UK ratification 2007]. <p>5. The Northern Ireland Executive is subject to the obligations contained within these international treaties by virtue of the United Kingdom's ratification. The Commission, therefore, advises that the Department ensures the proposed Strategy is scrutinised for full compliance with all international human rights standards.</p> <p>6. In addition to these treaty standards there exists a body of 'soft law' developed by various human rights bodies. These declarations and principles are non-binding but provide further guidance in respect of specific topic areas. The relevant standards in this context include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 1992;</i> • <i>The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities, 1996;</i> • <i>The Oslo Recommendations Regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities, 1998;</i> • <i>The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life, 1999;</i> • <i>Guidelines on the use of Minority Languages in the Broadcast Media, 2003;</i> • <i>The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies, 2012.</i> <p>Specific UK Commitments</p> <p>7. The Commission recalls the specific nature of this</p>

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		<p>consultation, but recognises the commitment under the <i>Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement 1998</i> to respect for all minority languages.</p> <p>8. The Commission advises that the Department consider the full range of international human rights law and standards in accordance with its statutory duty under s.26 of the <i>Northern Ireland Act 1998</i>.</p> <p>9. The Commission notes the commitment made by the UK Government in relation to Ulster Scots under the <i>Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement 1998</i> which recognised; <i>"the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland the Irish language, Ulster Scots and the languages of various ethnic communities"</i>.</p> <p>10. This commitment was reinforced under the <i>Joint Declaration of the British and Irish Governments 2003</i> requiring the Government to; <i>"take steps to encourage support to be made available for an Ulster-Scots academy."</i></p> <p>11. The <i>St. Andrews Agreement 2006</i> stated a commitment to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture. This was reinforced by an amendment to the <i>Northern Ireland Act 1998</i> to include a statutory duty to adopt a strategy in relation to Ulster Scots.</p> <p>Applicable International Human Rights Standards</p> <p>12. The Commission recalls the protection of minority and regional languages in accordance with international law. The ICCPR, Article 27, states that; <i>"In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language."</i></p> <p>13. In addition, the ICESCR protects the right to culture under Article 15(1)(a) which recognises the right to take part in cultural life. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has considered that culture encompasses; <i>"ways of life, language, oral and written"</i></p>

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		<p><i>literature, music and song, non-verbal communication, religion or belief systems, rites and ceremonies, sport and games, methods of production or technology, natural and man-made environments, food, clothing and shelter and the arts, customs and traditions through which individuals, groups of individuals and communities express their humanity and the meaning they give to their existence, and build their world view representing their encounter with the external forces affecting their lives”.</i></p>
		<p>14. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has also referred to minorities and their right to; <i>“cultural diversity, traditions, customs, religion, forms of education, languages, communication media (press, radio, television, Internet) and other manifestations of their cultural identity and membership”.</i></p>
		<p>15. The UNCRC makes provision for the protection of the rights of children belonging to minorities in respect of culture and language. Article 30 states that; <i>“In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.”</i></p>
		<p>16. The UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions has among its objectives the creation of conditions for cultures to interact freely, to foster interculturality and to promote respect for diversity. In order to do so States should; <i>“provide opportunities for domestic cultural activities, goods and services among all those available within the</i></p>

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		<p><i>national territory for the creation, production, dissemination, distribution and enjoyment of such domestic cultural activities, goods and services, including provisions relating to the language used for such activities, goods and services."</i></p>
17.		<p>The prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of language is guaranteed by international law which includes provisions in the ICCPR, ICESCR, UNCRC and the ECHR. The elimination of discrimination relating to the use of a minority language is further required for all languages under Article 7(2) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages ('the Charter').</p>
18.		<p>The Council of Europe has published two specific instruments in relation to the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities; the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities ('FCNM') and the Charter.</p>
19.		<p>The FCNM states, under Article 5(1), that; <i>"[t]he Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage."</i></p>
20.		<p>The Charter requires a specified level of protection for a minority language which is commensurate with its status. Ulster Scots is a Part II language which requires compliance with Article 7 of the Charter. The UK is required to submit a State report on compliance with the Charter in respect of its regional and minority languages on a three-yearly basis. The Committee of Experts ('COMEX') provides detailed reports on compliance by State Parties.</p>
21.		<p>The UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities protects, inter alia, the right of minorities <i>"to use their own language, in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination"</i>. The Declaration further requires the State to protect the existence of linguistic minorities and encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity.</p>
22.		<p>The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe</p>

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		<p>(‘OSCE’) has produced a number of documents which refer to the rights of a minority to use their own language and provide guidance on the implementation and integration of minority languages in various sectors of public life. The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies recognise the importance of protecting and promoting minority language as a means to contribute to peace and stability. The guidelines suggest that;</p> <p><i>"States should ensure that minorities enjoy sufficient support in maintaining and developing their linguistic identities. This can include guaranteeing the right to use minority or regional languages in private and family life and by supporting their use in private and in public."</i></p> <p>The Proposals</p> <p><u>Human Rights</u></p> <p>23. The Commission notes the reference to the Charter throughout the consultation paper and welcomes the inclusion of human rights considerations at the consultation stage.</p> <p><u>Separate Strategies</u></p> <p>24. The Commission notes that distinct consultation exercises are being undertaken with respect of the Ulster Scots and Irish languages; a change from previous proposals. The Commission welcomes this and recalls that COMEX concluded that <i>"each regional or minority language should be protected and promoted according to its own situation"</i>. In this regard, the Commission notes the concerns raised by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention, in its third opinion on the United Kingdom, that the two minority languages will be treated on an equal footing despite their different needs. The Commission endorses this position.</p> <p><u>Status</u></p> <p>25. The proposed Strategy is broadly consistent with the UK’s obligation under Part II of the Convention. The Commission notes the significant proposals contained within the draft Strategy to promote the use of Ulster Scots through education, the media and public services.</p> <p>26. The Commission recalls the obligations of the NI Executive</p>

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		<p>under Part II of the Charter and the intention to attain Part III Status for Ulster Scots under the Charter. While seeking to enhance and develop the integration of the language in Northern Ireland, it is important to ensure that such is not attempted to the detriment of compliance under Part II obligations.</p>
138	Cookstown District Council	<p>The Council recognises the need for the strategy as an approach that will increase an inclusive society and supports much within the proposed strategy.</p> <p>The thrust of the strategy is focused on centralised delivery. We believe that any funding initiatives should be primarily delivered through the Local Government and Community Sectors.</p>

Part 11 Comments the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

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Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on any of the aspects of equality covered in the draft EQIA
004	Individual	The draft needs some trimming and tweaking but otherwise seems to be the right items to go forward with
006	Individual	Comprehensive
008	Individual	Would have no impact whatsoever
009	Individual	Ulster Scots is perceived as belonging to one community - Protestants - and in fact that is why this funding stream was created. Therefore all spending and action relating to Ulster Scots will be seen as discriminatory and against Section 75.
014	Individual	Positive action to be taken where discrimination found Any other Equality issues that have not been addressed in the EQIA Not enough done to eliminate discrimination or positive promotion
020	Individual	Ulster Scots is the main cultural background in NI and should be recognised as such by government
021	Individual	Happy enough that the equality aspects are what they should be and hope that they are used properly when assessing the information gained in this consultation.
023	Individual	As with most language projects like this, it's going to be more effective to target the mothers initially. Any other Equality issues that have not been addressed in the EQIA Realistically, it's going to be largely Protestants who are interested in this and I think it would be best to recognise this at the outset. The existing native speakers are probably very close to 100% Protestant so you're just not going to be able to bring up the speaking ability of Catholic native speakers.
026	Individual	Please also see my comments under "Part 2: Context and Vision". I draw your attention to two potential areas of discrimination. (a) Since Ulster Scots is linguistically little more than a sub-variety of the main Central Scots dialect, Scots-born speakers, who are both hugely more numerous and generally better qualified than speakers in Ulster — and may account for one in seven speakers in Northern Ireland — are likely to be

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Response No.	Respondent	Comments on any of the aspects of equality covered in the draft EQIA
		<p>indirectly discriminated against if jobs or services are advertised as of relevance only to speakers of "Ulster Scots". The discrimination would in fact be broadly equivalent to advertising jobs or services as of relevance only to speakers of "Ulster English" as opposed to speakers of "English". This point may seem somewhat esoteric to DCAL civil servants, but I assure you that it is obvious to Scots-language academics. I have made it to DCAL many times before, and it has never been acted on.</p> <p>(b) On your own Omnibus figures, Catholic/Nationalist/Republican speakers or potential speakers of Ulster Scots are highly likely to be alienated by an arbitrary focus on promoting the speech variety alongside ethnically distinct "heritage and culture" — which are generally speaking of interest only to Protestants and may positively repel or even intimidate Catholics. The EQIA deals only with the superficial question of who might benefit from a notional (language) strategy without addressing the equally important issue of whether a large group of potential (CNR) beneficiaries might be constructively excluded by its likely mode of delivery. The conclusion, which cites a purely linguistic headcount, is logically flawed, failing to consider the "heritage and culture" issue at all — an inexplicable omission, since on previous form, more may well be spent on "heritage and culture" than "language". The general effect is to draw attention to rather than mitigate sectarian associations. If the strategy is pursued as currently envisaged, it will result in the wholly preventable creation of what for a very large cohort of existing and potential speakers is a toxic brand, with consequent damage to the size and diversity of the speech community. Ulster Scots must be promoted within a shared cultural space, and that means a neutral one. Hitherto stereotypical associations, which are directly contradicted by your own statistics, must be avoided at all costs. In that regard, any strategy bundling "language" with "heritage and culture" must be regarded as not fit for purpose. These plans contain obvious grounds for a legal challenge. To prevent one, I think you need to go back to the drawing board.</p>
028	Individual	If the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is required to have due regard of the need to promote equality of

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Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on any of the aspects of equality covered in the draft EQIA
		opportunity between persons of different religious beliefs or political opinions, it should acknowledge the fact that attaching diffuse heritage and culture baggage to a language strategy would seriously undermine that intention – and take action to rectify the situation.
032	Ulster-Scots Language Society	The Ulster Scots Language Society, as an organisation which is apolitical by its constitution and is open to all categories of members, sees no equality implications in the implementation of this Strategy.
033; 045; 068-128	Ullans Speakers Association; Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment (FUSE); Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) supported by 60 organisations	We have no particular comments which are at odds with the assumptions made by DCAL concerning the EQIA for this Strategy
036	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch	RSPBANI does not have any comment to make regarding EQIA
039	Individual	At the moment, because of the short consultation period I'm running out of time and unable to complete a full study of this section and make comments. As I have already indicated in section 4 there is most certainly a need to promote equality and good relations for the Ulster Scots language. DCAL and the Executive should be able to help in this regard by supporting a strategy for protecting, growing and developing the language, history and culture. And, I think the time has come for legislation to be put in place that outlaws the discrimination and demonization of the language, particularly as that carried out by the media.
135	Community Relations Council	<p>Challenges</p> <p>The NI Omnibus Survey provides data which sets out potential impacts as well as challenges. For example the data analysed from this small scale surveys indicates that Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage is important to a significant number of Protestants and is recognised as such by a significant number of Catholics who were surveyed.</p> <p>Secondly the omnibus data indicates that age is a major factor in having some knowledge of, perceptions of belonging and valuing Ulster Scots in the school curriculum or as part of</p>

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Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Response No.	Respondent	Comments on any of the aspects of equality covered in the draft EQIA
		<p>NI culture. While this suggests the major benefit from the strategy may be to the older age groups, the challenges of making Ulster Scots relevant to younger people is underlined.</p> <p>This has implications for how Ulster Scots is respected and discussed in the public domain and the strategy should devise appropriate actions to respond to such attitudes.</p>

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