



CFO name: Feisean nan Gaidheal	Reference number (GMS): G200801049
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Lead officer’s recommendation

Summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and highlighting any specific risks):

The recommendation should clearly reflect the assessment.

Overall the recommendation is high, with a recommendation for and increase in funding (though not full request).

A lot of time has been taken in the application from FnG. They clearly detail current and potential projects. Scottish Arts Council has supported this organisation for over 10 years now, and the legacy of that long-term support is now being seen. The national profile of the organisation is high, and their Director is active at the highest level in advocating for support for Gaelic arts development. The model works well, and could be used elsewhere.

The organisation is well-run, with a committed team of staff and volunteers. They now cover a wide geographic spread across the country.

Many past participants are moving onto to become professionals themselves, and others are developing into a discerning audience – attending live events and buying CDs. The evaluation into the Feis cites the value of participating is not just in terms of musical development, but equally important in terms of boosting confidence and self-esteem generally. The significant impact on the participants is proven in evaluation studies such as the Matarasso report and more recently the report '25 Years of the Feisean' tracking past participants.

The tutors they use are amongst the best traditional musicians in Scotland. A high percentage of the students who attend the Scottish music course at the RSAMD come through the Feis. Some are now professional musicians such as Julie Fowles, Croft No 5 and Lauren McColl. The profile of the organisation has increased recently through participants taking part in the premiere of Donald Shaw’s ‘Harvest’ at Celtic Connections, on the TV programme ‘Bealach’ and the delivery of the YMI in the Highlands.

At present the annual funding from Scottish Arts Council comes from various budgets. The first recommendation would be to consolidate this into their core funding. In addition in an optimum scenario we would recommend an increase to allow the progression of key projects such as the drama project and the continuation of key posts.

Assessment:	High X	Medium	Low
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Areas of concern:

Discuss presentation of budget with finance department and FnG to see if this could be simplified – including the consolidation of existing funds from SAC

More collaboration with education department to ensure they are kept fully informed

Monitoring of success of Certificate of Music Tuition as first students take part

Development issues:

Regular review of staff responsibilities as the organisation grows.

The drama development should be discussed with the drama department who may be leading on Gaelic drama development generally, to ensure any developments fit within the bigger picture.

Discussions with Feis Rois to ensure no overlap in activity

Lead Officer: Carolyn Paterson

Date: 2.12.05

Stage 2**Decision and authorisation**

CFO name: Feisean nan Gaidheal

Reference number (GMS): G200801049

Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem

Category for support

Essential

In supporting my Lead Officer's assessment, I would reiterate that FnG is not only an essential organisation for continuing investment, but together with Feis Rois, a critically important organisation for the cultural life and wellbeing of Scotland. FNG reaches far beyond its Gaelic core and is an exemplar organisation for education and participatory activities that embrace the widest range of constituents and allow access to music-related experiences that are life-enhancing and now proving to establish strong career pathways for the many participants. FnG should certainly be considered for increased funding as suggested and I have no hesitation in supporting the **essential** banding of FnG.

Decision authorised:

Head of Department
Print name: **Ian Smith**

Date: 5/12/05

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario			
CFO name: Feisean nan Gaidheal		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
<p>All three Gaelic music/arts organisations are assessed as foundation, which demonstrates their growing worth, both to Gaelic culture, but as importantly to the cultural identity of Scotland. FnG is an exemplar organisation that delivers a wide variety of mostly music centred work throughout the Highlands & Islands but also working nationally and internationally. They engage regularly with YMI and provide an invaluable service both in their scope of performance activity and in their work with traditional music tutors and LA's.</p>			
Recommendation authorised:			
Head of Music Department: Ian Smith		Date: 15/2/06	

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Feisean nan Gaidheal		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
<p>Agree with the recommendation for Foundation funding status from 07/08 contingent on the lead officers approval for the additional activity supported through the enhanced funding, and consideration given to an incremental approach to these developments and the associated funds.</p>			
Decision authorised:			
Group Head Print name: Jim Tough		Date 14.02.06	
		By 14 February 2006	

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Feisean nan Gaidheal		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
Agreed as per Manager/Group Heads recommendation			
Committee Chair Print name: Jennifer Waterton		Date 06 February 2006	

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: Feisean nan Gaidheal		Reference number (GMS): G200801004	
Category for support	Foundation		
Approved Foundation funding as per Managers/Group Heads & Committee recommendation			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment