

**Rannsachadh air Poileasaidh Cànan
agus Dealbhadh Cànan**

Research on Language Policy and Planning

***FACLAIR NA PÀRLAMAID:*
A CRITICAL EVALUATION**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first edition of *Faclair na Pàrlamaid: Dictionary of Terms*, published in May 2001, is an important tool for the Gaelic community and a significant step forward in the process of Gaelic development. Further editions are planned in the future. This report presents a detailed evaluation of the first edition of the Faclair and presents a range of recommendations for a revised version, which must be seen as an urgent priority. If the project is to be more than a mere paper exercise, however, the preparation of an expanded and improved Faclair must be accompanied by a significant policy initiative by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Parliament to bring about the increased use of Gaelic in Scotland's national political institutions.

Section I of the report deals with structural issues. The layout of the Faclair is clear, attractive and 'user-friendly', but would be improved by ensuring that whenever a headword has more than one potential meaning, illustrative examples are given to show clearly the distinction between these meanings, or, preferably, that two or more headwords are supplied, using brackets to show the meaning in question.

Section II, the most important, tackles terminological issues. The following points are addressed in detail, with numerous examples:

- The Faclair makes use of many neologisms, but appears over-willing to adopt English terms wholesale, while making little use of the linguistic resources of Irish.
- In many instances the Faclair uses different forms of particular words or of very closely related words to convey distinct meanings. Unless both meanings are already familiar, there are significant risks that these new terms will not be adequately understood and will not achieve acceptance among Gaelic speakers.
- The Faclair often uses quite different words for related terms, where it would be easier and more logical to work with variations of the same word or root.
- A key difficulty in the Faclair is that of 'semantic overload', the use of the same words with too many distinct meanings. This can lead to considerable confusion and ambiguity.
- The converse problem is also apparent: the provision of more than one Gaelic form for a single term or concept in English. This can only have the effect of confusing users of the language and reinforcing the powerful tendency to fall back on clear and unambiguous English words.
- In a number of cases the forms supplied in the Faclair are substantively inaccurate, incomplete or otherwise deficient.
- The following items are proposed for addition to a revised edition of the Faclair: some 350 general terms of the kind that might be encountered in any broadsheet newspaper; some 80 terms having a specialist legal meaning but widely known to the general

public; the names of some 60 public officers, entities and institutions; and Gaelic counterparts to a range of rhetorical expressions used in English political discourse.

Section III considers grammatical issues, focusing on the usage of the dative and genitive cases and on noun gender. The Faclair generally follows conservative, indeed ultra-conservative practices, but there are puzzling inconsistencies.

Section IV considers orthographic issues. The most important problem involves the use of hyphens. The Faclair's operative principle is that hyphens (triggering lenition) are to be used in 'closely bound compounds' but not in 'non-closely bound compounds', but this principle is not applied in a coherent fashion. On a number of occasions the same word is spelled differently at different points in the Faclair, sometimes with a hyphen and sometimes without, while in others, highly similar compounds vary unpredictably in the use of hyphenation.

The report concludes that Faclair na Pàrlamaid requires careful revision, as a matter of urgency. The revision process must reflect an ongoing awareness of the evolving nature of the Gaelic language; decisions and practices must be open to re-examination, and there should be an ongoing debate about the growth of the language. Such a process is natural and healthy, and should be not only accepted but welcomed. At the same time, the preparation of an improved Faclair must be coupled with an intensified drive to ensure that Gaelic achieves official status and takes a significant role in Scottish public life.

INTRODUCTION

The first edition of *Faclair na Pàrlamaid: Dictionary of Terms* was published in May 2001, under the auspices of Comunn na Gàidhlig, the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Parliament. Five thousand copies were printed and the text was made available on-line at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/dictionary>. The Faclair was compiled by the European Language Initiative, ‘a non-political, non-profit body which specialises in producing dictionaries for public service’ (ix). Editor Clive Leo McNeir was aided by a production team consisting of Dolina MacLeod, Cassandra McNeir, Annie MacSween and Roy Wentworth; a consultants’ team consisting of Éamonn Ó hÓgáin, Ian MacDonald and Donald John MacLeod; and a Management Committee consisting of Hugh Dan MacLennan, Allan Campbell, Catriona Dunn, Mary Anne MacDonald, Donald Morrison, Ailig O’Henley and Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh.

The Faclair is an important tool for the Gaelic community and a significant step forward in the process of Gaelic development. Further editions are planned in the future. This report presents a detailed evaluation of the first edition of the Faclair and presents a range of recommendations for a revised version, which must be seen as an urgent priority. For financial — that is, ultimately political — reasons, the Faclair was produced within an extraordinarily short space of time (ix), and the consequences of rapid preparation are apparent in numerous respects.

1. The Faclair in a language planning context

Gaelic corpus planning — the process of codifying, standardising and systematically expanding the language — remains seriously under-developed. The lack of official involvement in the process, both in past decades and during more recent years of significant public spending on Gaelic development, is both striking and distinctly unusual in an international context. As such, the official imprimatur on the Faclair project is extremely important; but the dearth of existing resources means that the challenge of producing a viable tool for using Gaelic in modern public life is an immense one.

The Faclair project implicates several different aspects of corpus planning: grammatical standardisation, orthographic standardisation, and, crucially, ‘elaboration’, the functional development of the language to cope with new fields of use, most obviously through the process of terminological modernisation and expansion (Kaplan & Baldauf 1997: 38-49). Fundamental work still remains to be done in all these areas.

Gaelic still lacks a comprehensive, authoritative dictionary of any kind, whether Gaelic-English, English-Gaelic or Gaelic-Gaelic. The principal tool remains Edward Dwelly’s *Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary* (Dwelly 2001), produced by a single amateur lexicographer on a subscription basis between 1902 and 1912. Although still a hugely useful work, Dwelly’s dictionary can by no means serve the needs of the Gaelic community in the 21st century, particularly if Gaelic is to be used successfully in high-prestige settings from which it has been excluded for centuries. More recent dictionaries, while all valuable in their own way, are much less than comprehensive: Derick Thomson’s *New English-Gaelic Dictionary* (Thomson 1996) contains only some 15,000 headwords and provides almost no illustrative examples, Richard Cox’s Gaelic-Gaelic primary school dictionary *Brìgh nam Facal* (Cox 1991) contains only 9,000 headwords, and Angus Watson’s recently published

Essential Gaelic-English Dictionary (Watson 2001), although a clear and user-friendly handbook of the contemporary language, is of modest scope and is primarily designed for learners. Finally, it now appears all but certain that the projected Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, upon which work began in 1966, will never be completed in the form originally contemplated.

At the same time, standardisation of the language itself remains a good deal less than complete. Orthography is still not authoritatively settled; the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions of 1981 (Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board 1981) constituted a significant step, but left many grey areas; a number of important users of the language, including authors of language textbooks, have declined to follow GOC, usually for solid linguistic reasons (Black 1994). The Faclair project is intended to take the matter of orthographic standardisation forward: certain matters have been addressed in the preparation of the first edition, and additional recommendations are to be forthcoming.

While debates about Gaelic orthography have sometimes been intense, the matter of grammatical standardisation has generally attracted far less attention. The Faclair cites George Calder's *Gaelic Grammar* (Calder 1980), first published in 1923, as the principal authority in grammatical matters. More recently, a handbook of Gaelic grammar has been produced for secondary school instruction under the auspices of the educational authorities (Byrne 2000). These steps are plainly insufficient to codify the grammar of the language in an authoritative fashion, however, particularly as it is recognised that the language is changing rapidly, most notably with regard to noun morphology. The Faclair's treatment of grammatical matters is at once highly traditional and (particularly with regard to feminine nouns) distinctly innovative.

A different aspect of language planning that impinges upon the Faclair project is the use of Gaelic for official purposes, especially official documents. In language planning terms, this represents both a form of status planning and a form of corpus planning, both with regard to terminological development (i.e. the development of a suitable lexicon) and stylistic development (i.e. the development of an expressive idiom appropriate to the purpose) (Kaplan & Baldauf 1997: 30-38, 45-46). Since the mid-1980s, the government has been producing a range of documents in Gaelic form (albeit a tiny proportion of the government's total publishing output), and this initiative will certainly continue in coming years. At the same time, no institutional structure has been put in place to underpin this work; in particular, there has been no mechanism established to train and employ qualified professional translators (McLeod 2000).

Disappointingly, the devolution process and the establishment of the Scottish Parliament have not resulted in significant positive changes in this area: no concrete policy has been put in place to institutionalise the use of Gaelic in the publications of Scotland's new national political institutions. The general approach continues to be one of 'ad hocery'. A forthcoming report in this series will set out concrete policy recommendations with regard to the use of 'official Gaelic'.

The absence of any structure to promote and encourage the use of Gaelic in the Parliament means that the Faclair currently exists in something of a vacuum. The language is little used in the Parliament and there are neither plans nor manifest intentions among those in authority to bring about an increase in its use. If the project is to be more than a mere paper exercise,

the preparation of an expanded and improved Faclair must be accompanied by a significant policy initiative by both the Executive and the Parliament to bring about the increased use of Gaelic in Scotland's national political institutions.

2. The Faclair: general overview

The Faclair provides a brief foreword that describes the nature of the project and discusses certain specific grammatical and orthographic matters (addressed below). There is no general discussion of the principles that guided the decisions involving terminology, however; when and why particular terms were borrowed from English or Irish, for example, or when compound words were created in preference to periphrastic expressions and vice versa. Similarly, there is no explanation of the approach taken to nouns whose gender varies according to dialect or whose morphology does not follow traditional rules; the reader is left to attempt to deduce the operative principles.

The foreword does not explain in detail the purposes for which the Faclair is intended. The diversity of the items presented suggests that a range of possible uses is anticipated. As noted in the foreword (ix), much of the terminology provided relates to parliamentary structures and procedures, but a considerable amount involves political rhetoric and phraseology of a more general nature — words and expressions that might (in theory at least) be helpful to a member preparing a speech. In addition, a range of specialist vocabulary is provided, material that will primarily be of assistance to the Gaelic media and to translators of public documents.

A consequence of this diversity is that different approaches are needed for different kinds of terms, and here the Faclair seems insufficiently clear in its objectives. For some relatively simple words and phrases, the Faclair functions as a sort of thesaurus, providing ready equivalents and alternatives. Here, precision is not especially important, and providing various possibilities may well be helpful (e.g. both *moit* and *pròis* for 'pride'). At the same time, the Faclair also supplies Gaelic forms for a range of technical vocabulary, most obviously legal terms, where precision of usage is critically important. As discussed below, the Faclair often fails to recognise the difference between the two functions, and either supplies multiple alternatives for specific technical terms or uses the same Gaelic word for two or more distinct technical words (e.g. both *cìs-oighreachd* and *cìs-seilbhe* for 'inheritance tax', *casaid* to mean at once 'prosecution', 'accusation' and 'indictment').

This report considers different aspects of the Faclair in turn. Part I considers structural issues involving the layout of the Faclair. Part II — the most important — looks at the terminology supplied by the Faclair. Part III discusses grammatical issues, and Part IV turns to orthographic matters.

Citations in this report are given to page numbers in the Faclair with the column in which an entry appears indicated by 1, 2 or 3 following a colon. In many instances, of course, items can be found simply by following alphabetical order, and usually a cited entry will have a parallel entry in the other part of the Faclair (Gaelic-English or English-Gaelic).

Where a new lexical item is proposed in this report, it is given in brackets with a question mark (e.g. 'forfeit' (? *arfuntaich*)). In some cases, the item in question may be familiar and uncontroversial, and in others more unusual; the use of the question mark is not necessarily intended as an expression of doubt or uncertainty.

I. STRUCTURAL ISSUES

The layout of the Faclair is clear and attractive. Three columns of text are given on each page, with Gaelic words in bold blue letters and English words in unbolded black letters. A range of useful illustrative examples are given to show the word in context and to provide important phrases.

The text is divided into two sections, a Gaelic-English section and an English-Gaelic section. The latter gives full morphology, indicating gender and supplying the genitive singular and the plural forms.

Where a headword has more than one shade of meaning, the Faclair often supplies two distinct entries to make the difference clear, using a bracketed word or phrase to show the meaning in question. This structure is most helpful and should be followed throughout.

Examples: the entry for ‘appropriate (funds)’ is followed by a separate entry for ‘appropriate (to take over ownership)’ (158:2), the entry for ‘balance (equilibrium)’ is followed by a separate entry for ‘balance (of money)’ (161:2), and the entry for ‘establishment (institution)’ is followed by a separate entry for ‘establishment (setting up)’.

In many instances, however, different shades of meaning are clumped together in a single entry and the distinction between them is not made clear. Sometimes illustrative examples clarify matters, but these are not always given and do not always illuminate. (Note that this structural issue is distinct from the provision of multiple terms to convey a single shade of meaning, an important matter addressed below).

Recommendation: where a headword has more than one potential meaning, illustrative examples should be given to show clearly the distinction between these meanings, or, preferably, two or more headwords should be supplied, using brackets to show the meaning in question.

Examples:

151:1 Both *diobair* and *leig dhìot* are given for ‘abdicate’, but the difference between these forms is not clear. The provision of alternative forms for ‘to abdicate responsibility’, *dleastanas a dhìobradh* and *an t-uallach a leigeil dhìot*, is confusing. A single term should be chosen, or the difference between these two forms clarified.

160:1 Both *gabhail os làimh* and *barail* are given for ‘assumption’. Two separate entries would be preferable, ‘assumption (taking up)’ (*gabhail os làimh*) and ‘assumption (presumption)’ (*barail*) (although note that this latter form is questionable as a substantive matter, as discussed below).

165:3 Both *buannachd* and *calpa* are given for ‘capital’. The illustrative example *buannachd p[h]oiliteageach a dhèanamh à* ‘to make political capital out of’ shows the meaning ‘benefit, advantage’; a separate example should show the meaning ‘financial assets’, or, preferably, two separate entries should be given. It would also be appropriate to add a third entry ‘capital (seat of government)’ (? *ceannbhaile*).

- 168:1 The two headwords for ‘charge’ are unclear. Three meanings of the English word are given in the Gaelic forms offered, ‘allegation’ and ‘penalty’ in the first entry and ‘attack’ in the second. No bracketed explanations are given for the two entries, although three illustrative examples show the distinctions fairly clearly. The structure would be clearer with three separate entries with appropriate bracketed explanations.
- 169:2 A slightly different problem arises with the entry for ‘civil’, where only *catharra* is given. It would be clearer to revise this entry and give two separate headwords ‘civil (civic)’ (*catharra*) and ‘civil (polite)’ (? *modhail*).
- 173:2 *Co-rèitich*, *mill*, and *tarraing amharas air* all given for the verb ‘compromise’. Two illustrative examples are given, but these both make use of the form *tarraing amharas air*. The distinction between *mill* and *tarraing amharas air* is not clear; *tarraing amharas air* might suffice for a revised entry ‘compromise (reduce credibility or value)’, with *co-rèitich* being supplied for ‘compromise (agree)’.
- 181:1 Both *cliù* and *creideas* are given for ‘credit’. Illustrative examples show the two forms in context, but two separate headwords ‘credit (praise, praiseworthiness)’ and ‘credit (financial)’ would make matters clearer.
- 181:2 Both *riatanach* and *tàireil* are given for ‘critical’. Illustrative examples show the two forms in context, but two separate headwords ‘critical (vital)’ and ‘critical (making criticism)’ would make matters clearer.
- 184:3 Both *cuir dàil* and *gèill* are given for ‘defer’. Illustrative examples show the two forms in context, but two separate headwords ‘defer (postpone)’ and ‘defer (yield)’ would make matters clearer.
- 193:2 The entries for ‘duty’ should be reorganised. Both *dleastanas* and *cìs* (*cusbainn*) are given for ‘duty (obligation)’, while *cìs* alone is given for ‘duty (tax)’. *Cìs* (*cusbainn*) properly belongs to the second entry; *dleastanas* should suffice for the meaning ‘duty (obligation)’. A more specific form is needed in place of the overworked and more generic *cìs*, which should be deleted; note, however, *cìs cusbainn* is already given for ‘customs duty’ (182:3).
- 198:2 *Cuir aonta ri* is given for ‘endorse (approve)’; no form is given to express ‘endorse (write on back)’. This should be added. On the other hand, both *aonta* and *cùl-sgrìobhaidh* are given for ‘endorsement’. Illustrative examples show these two forms in context, but two separate headwords ‘endorsement (approve)’ and ‘endorsement (writing on back)’ would make matters clearer.
- 205:1 Four terms are given for ‘factor’ in the sense of ‘causative element’, while an illustrative example is given for ‘estate factor’ (*bàillidh oighreachd*). Two separate headwords would make matters clearer. As discussed below, a single term should be selected for ‘factor (causative element)’.
- 211:1 Both *fosgarr* and *ri teachd* are given for ‘forthcoming’. Illustrative examples show the two forms in context, but two separate headwords ‘forthcoming (candid)’ and ‘forthcoming (upcoming)’ would make matters clearer.

- 212:2 Both *cruinneachadh sòisealta* and *gnìomh* are given for ‘function’. Illustrative examples show the two forms in context, but two separate headwords ‘function (event)’ and ‘function (task or operation)’ would make matters clearer.
- 218:2 *Cùis*, *èisteachd* and *rannsachadh* are all given for ‘hearing’. Two illustrative examples are given: *cùis lagha* ‘a court hearing’ and *rannsachadh poblach* ‘public hearing’. The distinctions between these terms are not at all clear, as discussed below; layout and substance should be revised.
- 219:2 A separate entry should be given for ‘High Court of Justiciary’, currently subsumed under ‘high court’. Such a revision would mean the inclusion of morphology for this important term, a useful aid.
- 238:3 A separate entry is given for ‘left-winger’, but ‘right-winger’ is subsumed into the entry for ‘right-wing’ (301:1). A separate entry would be better.
- 229:3 A separate headword for ‘Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments’ would be appropriate,
- 259:1 Both *dèan eucoir* and *thoir oilbheum do* are given for ‘offend’. The distinction between the two terms is not clear as only one illustrative example (somewhat confusingly based on *gabh oilbheum do* rather than *thoir oilbheum do*) is given. It would be clearer to revise this entry and give two separate headwords for ‘offend (break the law)’ (*dèan eucoir*) and ‘offend (cause offence)’ (*thoir oilbheum do*).
- 245:2 Both *stiùir* and *dèan a’ chùis* are given for ‘manage’. An illustrative example shows *dèan a’ chùis* in context, but it would be clearer to revise this entry and give separate headwords for ‘manage (supervise)’ (*stiùir*) and ‘manage (cope)’ (*dèan a’ chùis*).
- 256:3 Both *norm* and *àbhaist* are given for ‘norm’. While *àbhaist* is a common word in Gaelic with the meaning ‘customary situation’, *norm* is not familiar and appears to be simply an adoption of the English form with the meaning ‘required standard’. The entry should be clarified accordingly.
- 278:3 *Rach dàn* is given for ‘presume’, with the meaning ‘overstep bounds’; no form is given to mean ‘presume (assume)’. Such an entry should be added. On the other hand, both *ladarnas* and *ro-bheachd* are given for ‘presumption’, and no examples are given to show the different meanings. It would be clearer to revise this entry and give two separate headwords for ‘presumption (assumption)’ (*ro-bheachd*) and ‘presumption (overstepping bounds)’. It would also be helpful if the form supplied for ‘presumption (overstepping bounds)’ corresponded to that given for ‘presume (overstep bounds)’; perhaps *dànadas* rather than *ladarnas*.
- 282:2 Both *craobh-sgaoil* and *thoir gu buil* are given for ‘promulgate’. It would be clearer to revise this entry and give two separate headwords for ‘promulgate (make widely known)’ and ‘promulgate (put into effect)’.
- 283:3 *Protocal*, *co-ghnàths* and *leas-chunnradh* are all given for ‘protocol’. Illustrative examples give some clarification, but two separate headwords ‘protocol (accepted

behaviour)’ (*protocal / co-ghnàths*) and ‘protocol (legal agreement)’ (*leas-chunnradh*) would make matters clearer. Moreover, as discussed below, it is not clear what difference exists between *protocal* and *co-ghnàths* and why two forms are appropriate.

- 294:1 Both *clàraich* and *leig ris* given for ‘register’. Two illustrative examples are provided, both using *clàraich*. The form *leig ris* would correspond to a more informal use of the term ‘register’, i.e. ‘indicate’, as in ‘the members registered their concern at this development’. Potentially two headwords should be given here, ‘register (enrol or inscribe)’ (*clàraich*) and ‘register (indicate)’ (*leig ris*).
- 302:2 A separate entry is appropriate for ‘Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland’, currently subsumed under ‘Royal Commission’.
- 304:1 A useful structure is given with regard to the entries under ‘sanction’. However, it is not clear whether there is indeed a distinction in English between ‘sanction (to allow)’ and ‘sanction (to approve)’; the first of these might be better deleted.
- 314:3 Given that a separate entry is given for ‘Social Services Inspectorate’, it would be appropriate to provide a separate entry for ‘Social Work Services Inspectorate’ (currently subsumed under ‘social work’) as well.
- 319:1 Three different forms are given for ‘standard’, *ìre de mhathas*, *bun-tomhas* and *inbhe*. The first form appears to correspond to the meaning ‘degree of quality’ while the second refers to the meaning ‘accepted benchmark’. Two separate headwords seem appropriate here.
- 326:1 Both *cuir à dreuchd rè ùine* and *cuir dheth* are given for ‘suspend’. Illustrative examples show the two forms in context, but it would be clearer to provide two separate headwords ‘suspend (remove from office temporarily)’ and ‘suspend (make inoperative temporarily)’. The same is true for the following entry, ‘suspension’.
- 330:1 Four terms — *teirm*, *cumha*, *briathar* and *stèidh* — are given for ‘term’. Illustrative examples show these various forms in context, but it would be clearer to provide four separate headwords ‘term (period)’ (*teirm*), ‘term (parameter)’ (*cumha*), ‘term (technical word)’ (*briathar*), and ‘term (basis)’ (*stèidh*).¹
- 340:2 *Àite bàn*, *obair* and *dreuchd* are all given for ‘vacancy’; no illustrative examples are given. These last two terms simply mean ‘job’ and are arguably insufficiently specific. If distinctions between these forms are indeed necessary, these should be explained.
- 341:1 Both *carbad* and *seòl* are given for ‘vehicle’. Two headwords, ‘vehicle (for transport)’ and ‘vehicle (means or method)’ would make matters clearer.
- 341:2 Both *cunntas* and *tionndadh* are given for ‘version’. One illustrative example is given, but the distinction between the two forms should be made clearer, ideally through the use of separate headwords.

¹This last form may not properly exist in the singular; it might instead be given under ‘terms (basis)’.

342:2 The entry for ‘virtue’ is unclear. The form *subhailc* is given; this has the meaning of ‘virtuousness’. However, two illustrative examples are given, neither of which make use of the word *subhailc*: *àille a dhèanamh den èiginn* ‘to make a virtue of necessity’ and *mar thoradh air earrainn 1 san sgrìobhainn* ‘by virtue of paragraph 1 of the document’. This entry would benefit from clarification.

II. TERMINOLOGICAL ISSUES

1. General observations

The terminology given in the Faclair covers a wide range, some of it technical in nature, but much of it non-specialist. A number of issues arise, most notably matters relating to comprehensibility and specificity.

In several important places the Faclair gives forms different from those that have become dominant in media usage and other ‘new’ settings. For example, the word *earrann* is used to mean ‘sector’ (309:2), as in the common phrases ‘private sector’ (*earrann phrìobhaideach*) (279:3) and ‘public sector’ (*earrann phoblach*) (286:1). The word *roinn* has hitherto been used almost universally here. Similarly, *cunnradh* is used for ‘contract’ (177:3) rather than the more usual *cùmhnant*, which is used in the Faclair to mean ‘condition’; yet *cùmhnant* is also used to mean ‘convention’ (52:1), an international legal agreement and thus a form of contract, and the phrase *leig a-mach air cùmhnant* is given for ‘put out to contract’ (286:3).

Such changes can only confuse Gaelic users and complicate the process of language development. It is noteworthy that Radio nan Gaidheal news broadcasts since the publication of the Faclair continue consistently to use *cùmhnant* for ‘contract’ and the forms *roinn phoblach* and *roinn phrìobhaideach* for ‘public sector’ and ‘private sector’.

At the same time, it is surprising that the Faclair occasionally fails to use common neologisms that have gained currency in new forms of high-register Gaelic. The most significant example may be *prìomhaich* ‘prioritise’ and *prìomhachas* ‘priority’, where the Faclair uses instead the periphrastic *cuir an òrdugh tàbhachd* and *àite air thoiseach / nì air thoiseach* (279:2).

The Faclair contains a number of neologisms or new shades of meaning that seem eminently suitable: clear, specific and transparent.

Examples: *bailteil* ‘urban’; *buntainneas* ‘relevance’; *co-dhealbhadh* ‘joint planning’; *co-iomairt* ‘joint venture’; *dearmadach* ‘negligent’; *dearmadachd* ‘negligence’; *ro-shampall* ‘precedent’; *tiomnadh* ‘devolution’; *tuilleadas* ‘additionality’

In some instances, the Faclair makes imaginative use of traditional idioms or images, e.g. *dotair-grèisidh* ‘spin doctor’ (literally ‘embroidery doctor’) and various phrases with *car* (*car math* ‘upturn’, *car tuathal* ‘reversal’, *car iomlan* ‘U-turn’).

2. English borrowings

The Faclair makes very heavy use of direct borrowings from English in preference to locating or coining Gaelic forms. A general statement of principles in this regard would be most helpful. While some of these choices seem inevitable or at least unimpeachable, others appear distinctly unnecessary and inappropriate, e.g. *àidseant* ‘agent’ (cf. Gaelic *neach-ionaid*), *griod* ‘grid’ (cf. Gaelic *cliath*), *haidhp* ‘hype’ (cf. Gaelic *aibheiseachadh*).

Some notable examples are given below. Where these forms cannot readily be located according to alphabetical order, references are given in brackets.

acranaim, actuaraidh (118:3, 215:1), *àidseant, baileat, bhèato*,² *bheasaiciular* (143:2, 326:2), *biurocrasaidh, biùrocrat, biurocratach, boycott, caibineat, caucus, cluba* (202:3), *coimisean, coimiseanar, concordait, consal, crèche*,³ *cuòram, cuota*,⁴ *dàs* ('dais'), *deamocrasaidh*,⁵ *dioplòmasach, dioplòmasaidh, dogma, encephalopathaidh, facsimile* (139:3), *faicsean, feadarail, fiosgail, fòram, formula, gileatain* ('guillotine'), *griod, guitear* ('gutter') (108:3), *haidhp, dìùraidh, lègion* (302:1),⁶ *log* (turn on or off a computer), *leifteanant, mandat, manifesto, mèar* ('mayor'),⁷ *megafòn, miocrofon*,⁸ *modail, modarat, monarc / monarcach / monarcachd, monatar* (128:3), *monopolaidh, munaiseapal, neodrail* ('neutral'; compare *neodrach* 'neuter'), *niotrait* ('nitrate') (10:2, 128:1, 255:2), *norm, pàidsear, pàirteasan, panacea, paraimeadar, parol* ('parol', i.e. 'given or expressed orally'), *pìolat, pòideam* ('podium'), *pragmatach, procsaidh, proiseactar, propaganda, protocol, reaprografaig, reat, referendum, seaiplin, seat*,⁹ *seiminear, sgrion* (222:3, 233:3), *sionopsas, slum* (314:1), *slump, sòn* ('zone'), *sponsair, strèan, sumain, taga, taraif, teanant* (330:1), *teleacs, trafaig, treaspas, tribiunal, uàrd*

3. Irish: an underused resource

One of the more surprising aspects of the Faclair is its limited use of terminology developed in Irish. Parliamentary business has been carried out in Irish in Dáil Éireann since the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, and substantial public resources have been put into the development of appropriate terminology and registers (Ó Cearúil 1999). As a result of these corpus planning initiatives and decades of institutionalisation, including the systematic work of an official terminology authority (An Coiste Téarmaíochta) and the codification of a standard grammar and orthography more than forty years ago (Rannóg an Aistriúcháin 1958), Irish has become a supple medium for discussion of public business and intellectual matters in general (Ó Murchú 1982: 49). The same can by no means be said for Gaelic.

Although Irish and Scottish Gaelic have diverged substantially over the centuries, and much Irish vocabulary is plainly not suited to adoption in Scotland, the resources of Irish nevertheless provide a rich storehouse for corpus planning in Scottish Gaelic. Irish

²This spelling does not reflect the pronunciation of the English 'veto'; *bhìoto* might be more suitable.

³Note that the plural form *crèches* is given, suggesting that the French word is to be retained here rather than Gaelicised.

⁴A long *o* would be expected here to reflect the vowel of the English 'quota'; the spelling as given would also imply pre-aspiration according to traditional Gaelic orthographic principles.

⁵Ronald Black has suggested *sluaghfhlaithes* here, a transparent and useful term (MacilleDhuibh 2001). The Irish *daonfhlaithes* is also an attractive alternative.

⁶The spelling with *g* here adds to the peculiarity; the form *lèidion* might be an improvement.

⁷Some commentators have criticised the inclusion in the Faclair of the term *mayor*, which is not used in Scotland. However, it is important that terms are made available to describe entities and offices outside Scotland; a form for 'mayor' is useful if, for example, the Gaelic media are to report on political developments involving the Mayor of London or if an MSP wishes to welcome the visiting Mayor of Paris in Gaelic.

⁸The form *miocrofon* does not effectively represent the first and third syllables of *microphone*; *maidhcrofòn* might be better.

⁹To mean '(parliamentary) seat'; the inelegance of this choice is compounded by the provision of another arguable neologism, *seat(a)* to mean 'set'.

terminology could have provided a ready first port of call in the preparation of the Faclair. This, however, is clearly not the approach taken by the Faclair's editorial team. The apparent disfavour for terms established in Ireland is most obvious in the preference for literal translations of the major offices *Prìomh Mhinistear* 'First Minister' and *Leas-phrìomh Mhinistear* 'Deputy Prime Minister' in place of the more traditionally Gaelic *toiseach* (Irish *taoiseach*) and *tànaiste* (Irish *tánaiste*), but there are scores of instances where a suitably revised term taken from Irish would have been superior to the form ultimately chosen.

Only a scattering of apparent borrowings from Irish appear in the Faclair (several of them themselves loanwords into Irish):

anailis 'analysis', *cainnich* 'quantify (technical)', *contrarrachd* 'contradiction', *corparaid* 'corporation', *eisgeachd* 'exception',¹⁰ *eitic* 'ethics', *fèicheanas* 'liability', *foirmle* 'formula', *imeachdan* 'proceedings', *ìos-mheud* 'minimum', *lionra* 'network', *mionn-sgrìobhainn* 'affidavit', *pàitinn* 'patent', *pribhleid* 'privilege', *pròiseas* 'process', *rèabhlaid(each)* 'revolution(ary)', *stàitire* 'statesman', *tar-sgaoileadh* 'waiver', *uas-mheud* 'maximum'

Several of these terms are not immediately transparent to Scottish Gaelic speakers, however, and there may be problems of acceptance.

4. Neologisms and related difficulties

The Faclair necessarily makes use of a considerable number of neologisms, new compounds and new shades of meaning, together with a number of established but relatively rare words. Such new terminology is a vital part of language elaboration. Nevertheless, there may be difficulties achieving understanding, acceptance and use of these forms in the wider Gaelic community, particularly in light of the limited use and circulation of high-register Gaelic.

Examples:

agartachd 'litigation'; *airidheachd* 'merit'; *creideas* 'credibility'; *cùirt-eadraiginn* 'arbitration court'; *dealas* 'commitment'; *eàrlas* 'deposit'; *earraid* 'sheriff officer'; *eintiteas* 'entity'; *ion-èigneachail* 'legally enforceable'; *ion-roghnach* 'eligible'; *ion-tràchdte* 'negotiable'; *smachd-bhann* 'sanction'; *reachdadaireachd* 'legislature'; *sgiobachd* 'manpower'

In some instances, however, such forms may go beyond the bounds of reasonable transparency:

amalaichte 'integrated'; *faice* 'ancillary'; *glasadh* 'stalemate'; *iol-chalpa* 'capital intensive'; *so-mhaoin* 'assets'; *tùs-abairt* 'premise';¹¹ *ùineach* 'periodical'

¹⁰The borrowing of the Irish term *eisceacht* is perhaps surprising, as the neologism *conadal* (literally 'a stray sheep') is given in *Faclan Ura Gàidhlig* (Buidhnean Eadar-Roinneil airson Foghlam Gàidhlig 1992) for 'exception'. Although this word is well-known in its literal sense, the new figurative meaning does not seem to have gained widespread recognition.

¹¹*Tùs-smuain* might be more workable here.

5. Unwieldy expressions

In several instances the Faclair offers forms that seem particularly awkward or unexpressive:

bi ri stuth gun bhrìgh ‘waffle’ (344:1); *còir air a bhith air thoiseach* ‘precedence’ (276:1); *cuir an òrdugh tàbhachd* ‘prioritise’ (279:2);¹² *nach gabh a chumail suas* ‘unsustainable’ (339:1); *neach a dh’fhulaing / a dh’fhulaingeas* ‘victim’ (342:1); *neach a tha airson dealachadh* ‘separatist’; *neach a tha ri spàirn* ‘agitator’ (155:2); *neach le lèirsinn* ‘visionary’ (342:3); *neach ri gràin-cinnidh* ‘racist’ (77:2, 288:3); *nì firinneach* ‘fact’ (205:1); *nì mionaideach* ‘detail’ (187:3); *siostam àireamh bhòtaichean as motha* ‘first past the post election system’ (208:3).

Recommendation: This is a difficult problem that reflects the lack of suppleness in Gaelic owing to its under-development in a range of registers. However, these forms should be re-examined to see if more concise or vigorous alternatives can be found.

6. New prefixes

In a number of cases the Faclair gives forms with novel or unusual prefixes. While some of these seem acceptable, others merit a review.

5:2 *air-loidhne* ‘on-line’
5:2 *air-teachdaireachd* ‘on-message’,¹³
43:1 *contra-chasaid* ‘counter-allegation’
43:1 *contra-mholadh* ‘counter-proposal’
46:2 *cuasai-bhreitheach* ‘quasi-judicial’
79:3, 80:1, 80:2 fourteen compounds with the prefix *in-*
108:2 *òst-chraoladair* ‘host broadcaster’
142:1 *tele-cho-labhairt* ‘teleconferencing’
142:1 *tele-chonaltradh* ‘telecommunications’
142:1 *tele-theacsa* ‘teletext’

7. Related terms and difficult distinctions

In a number of instances the Faclair makes use of different forms of particular words or of very closely related words to convey distinct meanings. Unless both meanings are already familiar, there are significant risks that these new terms will not be adequately understood and will not achieve acceptance among Gaelic speakers. Such an outcome would mean that the use of Gaelic to deal with public policy matters — in official documents for example — will be impeded.

55:3 *Deamocrasaidh am measg an t-sluaigh* is given for ‘grassroots democracy’; *deamocrasaidh an t-sluaigh* is given for ‘popular democracy’. At the same time,

¹²As noted above, it is puzzling that *prìomhaich* is not given here.

¹³The use of the hyphen in these two entries seems to be transferred from English and is difficult to understand according to Gaelic orthographic principles.

- deamocrasaidh a' phobail* is given for 'people's democracy' (55:3). The distinction between these three terms is not entirely transparent in English, still less so in Gaelic.
- 57:1 *Deimhinne* is given for 'categorical'; *deimhinneach* is given for 'positive' (with the sense of 'favourable', as two illustrative examples indicate); and *deimhinnte* is given for 'definitive'. The first of these meanings is well established, the others rather less so, and confusion or uncertainty may arise here.
- 77:3 *Greadhnachas* is given for 'pomp'; *greadhnas* is given for 'trappings'. Note that Dwelly 2001 presents *greadhnas* simply as an alternative form of *greadhnachas* rather than a discrete word.
- 86:3 *Leas-chunradh* is given for 'protocol'; *fo-chunradh* is given for 'subcontract' (70:2, 323:1).
- 87:3 *Lèirsinne* is given for 'visual'; *lèirsinneach* is given for 'visionary'.
- 97:2 *Modhan-obrach* is given for 'machinery' (apparently in the figurative sense of 'mechanics, structure', as in the illustrative example *modhan-obrach riaghaltais* 'the machinery of government'); *modh-obrachaidh* is given for 'process'.¹⁴
- 106:1 *Oifis chis* is given for 'fees office'; *oifis chisean* is given for 'tax office'.¹⁵
- 115:3 *Rèite* is given for 'understanding', 'accommodation', 'settlement'; *rèiteach* is given for 'agreement' or 'settlement'; and *rèiteachadh* is given for 'conciliation', 'reconciliation' or 'settlement'.
- 183:2 *Ceann-latha* is given for 'date'; *ceann-ama* is given for 'deadline'. The term *ceann-latha* is well-established, although it can be somewhat ambiguous, carrying the meanings of both 'date' and 'deadline' (see Cox 1991: 104). *Ceann-ama*, although probably readily understandable, appears to be a neologism.
- 190:3 *Mì-onair* is given for 'dishonesty'; *eas-onair* is given for 'dishonour'. At the same time, the form *casaid eas-onair* is given for 'a charge of dishonesty' (168:1). Dwelly 2001 makes no meaningful distinction between these two words. A careful re-examination is clearly required here.
- 211:3 *Saorsa labhairt* is given for 'freedom of expression'; *saorsa cainnte* is given for 'freedom of speech'.
- 230:1 *Inntleachdail* is given for 'intellectual' (adj.); *inntleachdach* is given for 'intellectual' (n.), and *innleachdach* is given for 'tactical' (327:2). Note that Dwelly 2001 presents

¹⁴The use of the form *obrach* (< *obair* 'work') in the first term and *obrachaidh* (< *obrachadh* 'working') suggests inconsistency of usage rather than a viable means of clarifying the distinction here.

¹⁵The forms *chis* and *chisean* here must be understood as genitive plural, as no lenition would occur were they singular according to the rules of the Faclair (xvii: rule 2). The first form, with an older genitive plural form identical to the nominative singular, seems to be an unusual usage; again, the variation here suggests inconsistency rather than a viable means of clarifying a semantic distinction.

inntleachd / *inntleachdach* simply as alternative forms of *innleachd* / *innleachdach* rather than discrete words.

- 238:1 The relationship between *ceannas* ('presidency', 'rule', 'headship', 'hegemony') and *ceannardas* ('leadership (quality of a leader, position of a leader)') is not entirely clear, particularly in the illustrative example 'to show leadership' where both *buidhean ceannais a nochdadh* and *ceannardas a nochdadh* are given.
- 240:1 Discrete entries are given for 'liability (financial obligations, commitments)' (where *fèicheanas* is given) and 'liability (financial, for payment)', where the basic word *fiach* is given. The distinction between these two shades of meaning of the English word 'liability' is not entirely clear. In addition, the illustrative example offered for 'assets and liabilities', *so-mhaoin agus do-mhaoin*, does not clarify the matter. Reconsideration and reworking would be helpful here.
- 254:2 *Nàiseantachas* is given for 'nationalism'; *nàiseantachd* is given for 'nationality'; *nàiseanachas* is given for 'nationhood'. Counterpart adjectival forms are also potentially confusing: *nàiseantach* is given for 'nationalist' and *nàiseantachail* for 'nationalistic'. Of these five forms, only *nàiseantach* could be said to be well-established and readily familiar in Gaelic at present; the form *nàiseantachd*, meanwhile, has been widely used to mean 'nationalism' rather than 'nationality'.
- 296:1 *Ais-ghairm* is given for 'repeal'; *cùl-ghairm* is given for 'revoke' (300:2).
- 327:1 *Innleachd* is given for 'tactic'; but *ro-innleachd* is given for 'strategy' (322:2). The latter form is well-established in media usage and other 'new' high registers, but the meaning of 'tactic' for *innleachd* (also identified with the meanings 'expedient', 'plot', 'resort', 'conspiracy', 'scheme' and 'wile' (79:2)) appears to be new.
- 330:2 *Teisteanas* is given for 'testimonial' (n.); *teistias* is given for 'testimony'.

8. Asymmetry

One persistent feature of the Faclair is the use of quite different words for related terms, where it would be easier and more logical to work with variations of the same word or root. Using properly paired terms would be particularly useful in the case of neologisms, so that new forms can be readily understood, remembered and assimilated.

- 152:1 *ruigsinneachd* is given for 'accessibility', *so-ruigsinn* for 'accessible', and the phrase *cothrom ruigheachd don mhòr-shluagh*¹⁶ is given for 'accessibility to the public'. *Ruigsinneachd* / *ruigsinneach* / *ruigsinneachd don mhòr-shluagh* or *so-ruigsinneach* / *so-ruigsinn* / *so-ruigsinn don mhòr-shluagh* would seem clearer and more helpful.
- 158:1 *ath-thagraidh* is given for 'appeal' (n.), *cùirt nan ath-thagraidhean* is given for 'appeal court', *britheamh ath-thagraidhean* is given for 'appeal judge', and *ath-thagraiche* is given for 'appellant'; but *tagair* is given for 'appeal' (v.). The inappropriateness of

¹⁶The use of the alternative verbal noun form *ruigheachd* for *ruigsinn* in this example adds to the untidiness here.

- tagair* here is compounded by the use of *tagradh* to mean ‘plea’ (270:2); a plea being a pre-trial procedure and an appeal being a post-decision procedure, mixing terminology in this way is clearly inappropriate. It is recommended that *ath-thagair* be used for ‘appeal’ (v.).
- 335:3 *aon-ghuthach* is given for ‘unanimous’; but *aon-inntinn* is given for ‘unanimity’. A paired structure based on *aon-ghuthach* / *aon-ghuthachd* or *aon-inntinneach* / *aon-inntinn* would seem clearer and more helpful.
- 167:2 The neologism *meadhanachadh* is given for ‘centralisation’; but *gluasad bhon mheadhan* is given for ‘decentralisation’ (with forms thereof also being used for three related terms) (184:1). A matched pair would be more appropriate, such as *dì-mheadhanachadh* for ‘decentralisation’.
- 173:2 *gèilleadh* is given for ‘compliance’; but *cum ri* is given for ‘comply’. Either *gèilleadh* / *gèill* or *cumail ri* / *cum ri* would seem preferable.
- 198:1 *dèan lagh de* is given for ‘enact’; but *achdachadh* is given for ‘enactment’, *ath-achdaich* is given for ‘re-enact’, and *ath-achdachadh* is given for ‘re-enactment’ (292:2). *Achdaich* would thus seem to be the logical and preferable form for ‘enact’.
- 198:2 A slightly different issue arises with regard to the forms given for ‘energy efficiency’ (*lùth-èifeachdas*) and ‘energy conservation’ (*caomhnadh lùtha*). It is not clear why a compound word with *lùth* was created in the first instance but not in the second; the alternative forms *èifeachdas lùtha* and *lùth-chaomhnadh* would seem equally valid. A general statement of principles for the choice of terms in the foreword to a revised edition would be most helpful. In addition, the use of the term *lùth* here may be questioned; this word generally conveys ‘energy’ in the sense of physical movement, while the word *cumhachd* for ‘energy’ in the sense of ‘powering resource’ seems more normal in general and media usage, as in *Ùghdarras Eadar-nàiseanta a’ Chumhachd Atomaich* ‘International Atomic Energy Authority’ (148:2).
- 216:2 *barrantas* is given for ‘guarantee’ (n.), and *le barrantas* is given for ‘guaranteed’; but *rach an urras* is given for ‘guarantee’ (v.). In the interest of symmetry and clarity, a form based on *barrantas*, such as *thoir barrantas*, would seem preferable for ‘guarantee’ (v.).
- 228:1 Both *tionnsgail* and *ùr-ghnàthaich* are given for ‘innovate’, *ùr-ghnàthachadh* is given for ‘innovation’, *ùr-ghnàthach* is given for ‘innovative’; but *nuadhasair* is given for ‘innovator’ and *nuadhasach* for ‘innovatory’. It is not clear whether different terms are really necessary for ‘innovative’ and ‘innovatory’, a very fine distinction; more important, a form based on *ùr-ghnàthaich* would seem preferable for ‘innovator’ (although it has to be said that all the forms here are somewhat less than euphonious).
- 233:1 *nach buin don ghnothach* is given for ‘irrelevant’; but *buntainneas* is given for ‘relevance’ and *buntainneach* for ‘relevant’ (295:1). The pair *buntainneach* / *neobhuntainneach* would be more helpful.

- 278:3 *rach dàn* is given for ‘presume’, and *dàn* is given for ‘presumptuous’; but *ladarnas* is given for ‘presumption’. It would seem preferable to give *dànadas* for ‘presumption’, or to use forms based on *ladarna* for ‘presume’ and ‘presumptuous’.
- 278:3 Both *pròis* and *moit* are given for ‘pride’; only *moiteil* given for ‘proud’ (284:1). Logically, *pròiseil* should be given as an alternative form here. (Of course, these are both very common words and the Faclair is hardly needed to supply them).
- 295:3 *ath-eagrachadh* is given for ‘reorganisation’; but *cuir rian ùr air* is given for ‘reorganise’. It would seem preferable to give *ath-eagraich* for ‘reorganise’; this form would also match the term given for ‘restructure’, *ath-structaraich* (298:3).
- 326:2 *seasmhach* is given for ‘sustainable’; but *nach gabh a chumail suas* is given for ‘unsustainable’ (339:1). It would seem preferable to give *neo-sheasmhach* for ‘unsustainable’.
- 342:3 (*neach, nì*) *sa bheil sealladh* is given for ‘visionary’ (adj.); but *neach le lèirsinn* is given for ‘visionary’ (n.). Parallel terms seem appropriate here, with *lèirsinn* probably the better root.
- 344:2 *cuir an dàrna taobh* is given for ‘waive’ (v.); but *tar-sgaoileadh* is given for ‘waiver’ (n.). The form *tar-sgaoil* for ‘waive’ (v.) would be clearer.

9. Other inconsistencies

In addition to inconsistencies involving paired terms, there are various other terminological inconsistencies in the Faclair:

- 22:3 *Buidheann-rianachd Leasachaidh Chèin* is given for ‘Overseas Development Administration’. The basic term *buidheann-rianachd* is not given either under *buidheann* or for ‘administration’, however, only the simpler form *rianachd* (154:1). Terminology should be clarified here.
- 28:3 *Ceistean a’ Phrìomh Mhinisteir* is given for ‘First Minister’s Questions’; but *Ceistean don Phrìomhaire* is given for ‘Prime Minister’s Questions’. As these are questions directed to rather than belonging to these officials, a prepositional rather than genitive form seems more suitable; *Ceistean don Phrìomh Mhinisteir* should be substituted for ‘First Minister’s Questions’.
- 52:1 *cunnart bho theine* is given for ‘fire risk’; but *cunnart teine* is given for ‘fire hazard’. A single form should be used here.
- 57:2 *a’ chulaidh-bhacaidh dheireannach* is given for ‘the ultimate deterrent’; but *seòl bacaidh* is given for ‘deterrent’ (188:1) and *an seòl bacaidh deireannach* is given for ‘the ultimate deterrent’ (188:1). A single form should be used for ‘deterrent’ in all instances.

- 62:2 *dùnadh sòisealta* is given for ‘social exclusion’; but the form *às-dùnadh sòisealta* is given in the English-Gaelic section (314:2). The latter form is more specific and seems preferable.
- 79:1 *inbheach* is given with a single meaning, ‘mature’. Although this is correct, there is a potential for confusion as the principal meaning of this common word is ‘adult’ (adj. and n.).
- 87:1 *leibideach* is given with a single meaning, ‘unfortunate’. Although this is not incorrect, there is a potential for confusion as this common adjective can often carry much stronger meanings, e.g. ‘worthless’, ‘contemptible’, ‘shabby’, ‘vile’.
- 89:1 *Liosta Urraim Latha-breith na Bànrìghe* is given for ‘Queen’s Birthday Honours List’; but *Liosta Urraman na Bliadhna Ùire* is given for ‘New Year’s Honours List’. The plural form *urraman* seems preferable for ‘list of honours’ as opposed to ‘honourable list’.
- 108:3, 278:1 *pàipearan-naidheachd a’ ghuiteir* is given for ‘the gutter press’ (i.e. low-status newspapers); but *luchd-naidheachd an t-sàibheir* is given for ‘gutter press’ (i.e. the staff of such newspapers) (217:1).
- 145:3 *trèanaig* is given for ‘train’ (v.), but neither of the illustrative examples provided uses this form: *air a thrèanadh* ‘trained’ and *neach a tha ga thrèanadh* ‘trainee’.
- 146:1 *Tribiunal airson Ath-thagraidhean Meidigeach* is given for ‘Medical Appeal Tribunal’; but *Tribiunal-tagraidh Cosnaidh* is given for ‘Employment Appeal Tribunal’. A single structure is preferable here.
- 209:3 *caochlaideach* is given for ‘fluctuating’, and *caochlaideachd* for ‘fluctuation’; but *airgead luaisgeach* is given for ‘fluctuating currency’.
- 239:2 *reachdadaireachd* is given for ‘legislature’; but *reachdachadh dà-sheòmarach* is given for ‘bicameral legislature’ (162:2).
- 248:3 *lùghdaich* is given for ‘minimise’; but the illustrative example *fior lùghdachadh a dhèanamh air cumhachdan na Roinne* is given for ‘to minimise the powers of the Department’. In addition, the word *lùghdaich* means simply ‘decrease’ or ‘diminish’ and is insufficiently strong to convey the meaning ‘minimise’.
- 267:1 *peanas* is given for ‘penalty’; but *clàsa èirig ann an cunnradh* is given for ‘penalty clause in a contract’.
- 311:3 While all the entries relating to ‘opposition’ are based on the element *dùbhlain* / *dùbhlanaich* (e.g. *pàrtaidh dùbhlanaich* ‘opposition party’ (261:2), forms based on ‘shadow’ show variability between *dùbhlain* and *cùil*, e.g. *an labhraiche dùbhlain / cùil* ‘the shadow spokesman’ (311:3)). It would be clearer and more consistent to use *dùbhlain* / *dùbhlanaich* in all these contexts; and ideally a choice should be made between the genitive form *dùbhlain* and the adjectival form *dùbhlanaich*.

340:3 *Oifigeach Luachaidh* is given for ‘Valuation Officer’; but *oifigear* is given for ‘officer’ (259:3).

10. Non-distinctions and ‘semantic overload’

One of the most important issues that arises in the Faclair is that of ‘semantic overload’, the use of the same words with too many distinct meanings. Donald MacAulay drew attention to this problem with his famous example *dh’iarr a’ chomhairle comhairle air a’ chomhairle chomhairleachaidh* ‘the committee sought advice from the consultative council’ (MacAulay 1986: 123). Semantic overload is a natural consequence of inadequate register development and insufficient corpus planning, and there can be no quick solution.

It is vital, however, that clear distinctions are drawn to the greatest extent possible, particularly so that Gaelic can serve as an unambiguous means of expression in official documents.

Examples:

- 10:2 *ar-a-mach* is given as meaning both ‘rebellion’ and ‘revolution’. These terms are by definition quite distinct, a rebellion being unsuccessful (or at least provisional) and a revolution successful or complete. In this instance, the problem can be overcome by deleting the meaning ‘revolution’ here and confining *ar-a-mach* to the meaning ‘rebellion’, with the Irish-derived form *rèabhlaid* alone used for ‘revolution’ (300:2).
- 15:1 *barail* is given as meaning ‘assumption’, ‘conjecture’, ‘estimation’ and ‘point of view’. The last meaning is unobjectionable, but the first three terms refer to quite specific intellectual steps or processes and require specific and discrete Gaelic counterparts.
- 25:3 *casaid* is given as meaning ‘prosecution’, ‘protest’, ‘charge’, ‘accusation’ (and also ‘indictment’ (225:3)). The general word ‘protest’ raises no problems, but these other terms are specific legal terms of art and it is essential that specific and discrete terms be used.
- 27:2 *ceannas* is given as meaning ‘presidency’, ‘rule’, ‘headship’ and ‘hegemony’. At the very least, distinct forms are required for ‘presidency’ (perhaps a term to match *ceann-suidhe* ‘president’) and ‘hegemony’, which typically connotes a degree of alien or questionably legitimate authority.
- 29:3 *cìs* is given as meaning ‘charge’, ‘duty’, ‘fee’, ‘levy’, ‘tariff’, ‘tax’ and ‘taxation’. This array of diverse meanings is quite plainly unacceptable. The risk of ambiguity is especially serious here because financial matters are involved. It would be unthinkable to prepare tax regulations, for example, with such linguistic uncertainty.
- 44:1 *cosnadh* is given as meaning both ‘earnings’ and ‘employment’. The term *tuarastal* is clearer for the first of these, and would seem preferable (both here and at 193:3).

49:2 *cuir dheth* is given as meaning ‘postpone’, ‘suspend’ and ‘cancel’. This common phrase is simply a calque on the English phrase ‘put off’, but where the English phrase denotes a temporary postponement, the Gaelic is ambiguous between the meaning ‘postpone temporarily’ and the meaning ‘cancel altogether’. The illustrative example given, *coinneamh a chur dheth*, it would be impossible (without additional context) to know if the meeting had been abandoned or simply rescheduled. A specific term is clearly needed for ‘cancel altogether’.

Note that an alternative form meaning ‘postpone’, *cuir an dàil*, is given under ‘adjourn’ (153:3).

56:1 A remarkable thirteen different meanings are given for *dearbh*: attest, ‘carry’, ‘certify’, ‘convince’, ‘declare’, ‘determine’, ‘establish’, ‘insist’, ‘prove’, ‘substantiate’, ‘underline’, ‘validate’ and ‘verify’. Such heavy semantic overload clearly creates great dangers of ambiguity and confusion. Re-examination and re-working is certainly required here.

61:1 *dreuchd* is given as meaning ‘occupation’, ‘office (position)’, ‘profession’, ‘career’, ‘capacity’ and ‘designation’. These meanings are quite distinct from each other, perhaps most clearly that of ‘career’. Greater specificity is required here.

79:2 *innleachd* is given as meaning ‘expedient’, ‘plot’, ‘resort’, ‘conspiracy’, ‘scheme’, ‘wile’ and ‘tactic’. This constellation of meaning carries great risk of ambiguity and confusion, particularly with regard to the difference between strongly negative terms like ‘conspiracy’ and neutral ones like ‘tactic’. Greater specificity is required here.

102:2 *neo-eisimileachd* is given as meaning ‘independence’, ‘objectivity’ and ‘non-alignment’. The first meaning is well-established in Gaelic political discourse, but the other meanings seem quite distinct. ‘Objectivity’ is a more general and non-political term, whereas ‘non-alignment’ tends to be used in the context of international politics, particularly with regard to non-aligned states, which are by definition ‘independent’. Given the ready recognition of the meaning ‘independence’, new terms should be found for the meanings ‘objectivity’ and ‘non-alignment’.

127:1 *sgaoileadh* is given as meaning ‘adjournment’, ‘disclosure’, ‘dissemination’, ‘dissolution’, and ‘liquidation’. An illustrative example translates *sgaoileadh na Pàrlamaid* as both ‘adjournment of Parliament’ and ‘dissolution of Parliament’ — two palpably different things. Clarity is required here.

132:2 *sòisealachd* is given as meaning both ‘socialism’ and ‘social work’. The yoking of such widely different senses is problematic. It might be better to give *obair shòisealta* for ‘social work’; although *sòisealachas* might be better for ‘socialism’ if *-as* forms are to be used more generally for abstract terms of this kind.

184:2 *mì-chliùiteach* is given as meaning ‘defamatory’, but later with the meaning ‘disreputable’ (191:2). The ambiguity here is problematic given that ‘defamatory’ has legal ramifications.

- 194:3 *èifeachdas* is given for both ‘effectiveness’ and ‘efficiency’, two distinct and important concepts. At the same time, the highly similar word *èifeachd* is given as meaning both ‘efficacy’ (194:3) and ‘validity’ (340:3). These ambiguities are serious and should be clarified.
- 224:1 *do-dhèanta* is given as meaning both ‘impracticable’ and ‘impractical’. These two meanings are slightly but significantly different, and the use of one term for both is unacceptably imprecise.
- 294:2 The various meanings associated with *riaghail*, *riaghladh*, *riaghlaich* and *riaghailt* are unduly ambiguous. *Riaghail* is given for ‘govern’ (215:1); *riaghladh* is given for both ‘governing’ (215:3) and ‘regulation (control)’ (294:3); *riaghlaich* is given for both ‘regulate’ (294:2) and ‘rule’ (303:2); *riaghailt* is given for both ‘regulation (a rule)’ (294:3) and ‘directive’ (189:3). The overlap between these terms creates excessive confusion; distinct lines should be drawn to make them clearer.
- 334:2 *cunnradh* is given as meaning both ‘contract’ and ‘treaty’. Although a treaty can be understood as a special kind of contract, one between states, it would be advisable to use two distinct terms for these fundamental legal concepts.

11. Oversupply of terms

Perhaps the most significant defect in the Faclair is its tendency to give more than one Gaelic form for a single term or concept in English. This can only have the effect of confusing users of the language and reinforcing the powerful tendency to fall back on clear and unambiguous English words.

Note that this problem is distinct from the structural matter of grouping terms with multiple meanings under a single entry (see above).

Recommendation: whenever possible, a single Gaelic form should be offered for each English term in the Faclair. Such clarification is of the utmost importance if the basic project underpinning the Faclair — the successful use of Gaelic in Scottish public life — is to succeed.

- 28:3 *ceist èiginneach* is given for ‘emergency question’ in the Gaelic-English section but *ceist-èiginn* in the English-Gaelic section (197:1). As all other entries in the Faclair use *èiginn* rather than *èiginneach* for terms involving ‘emergency’, the latter form seems preferable; although note that there is significant confusion regarding the hyphenation of compounds with *èiginn*, as discussed below.
- 30:1 Both *cis-oighreachd* and *cis-seilbhe* are given for ‘inheritance tax’. Of the two, *cis-oighreachd* seems more specific, with *cis-seilbhe* better suited to ‘property tax’. Of course, developing specific and unambiguous terms for tax matters is crucial, as taxpayers and their lawyers can be counted on to exploit all interpretive possibilities.

- 36:1 Both *coirbeachd* and *coirbteachd* are given, in two separate entries, for ‘corruption’. *Coirbteachd* appears to be a mere variant of *coirbeachd*, and the latter form is used in the English-Gaelic section (179:3). Here, both *coirbeachd* and *truaididheachd* are given for ‘corruption’, with different forms of these two words also given for ‘corrupt’ (adj.), ‘corrupt’ (v.) and ‘corruptor’(179:3). The distinction between the two is not clear, and it would be more helpful to choose a single term. For the basic political meaning ‘financially dishonest’, as opposed to the more general ‘impure, polluted’, *coirbeachd* would seem preferable.
- 45:1 *cìs-chreideas* is given for ‘tax credit’ singular, while *creideasan cìse* is given for ‘tax credits’ plural. *Creideasan cìse* is also given for ‘tax credits’ in the English-Gaelic section (328:1), but there is no entry for ‘tax credit’. As noted above, precision of usage with regard to tax terminology is especially important.
- 46:2 Two forms are offered for ‘quasi-judicial’, *cuasai-bhreitheach* (46:2) and *leth-lagh-chleachdach* (88:2). Only the former form is given in the English-Gaelic section (287:2). Here, the mixed form *leth-bhreitheach* seems clearly superior to either of the forms offered; the term *lagh-chleachdach*, which is not given under ‘judicial’ (234:3), is less than transparent while, as discussed above, there is no clear need to import the prefix ‘quasi-’ into Gaelic.
- 49:3 Two different phrases are given for ‘to put down an amendment’, *atharrachadh a chur sìos* and *leasachadh a chur sìos*. Only *atharrachadh* is given for ‘amendment’ (157:1), and ‘amendment’ is not among the meanings ascribed to *leasachadh*. The illustrative example with *leasachadh a chur sìos* should be deleted.
- 64:3 *Eastwood* is given as the Gaelic form for the Eastwood parliamentary constituency; but *Coille an Ear* is given in the English-Gaelic section (193:3). A single form for this and all constituency names is clearly necessary.
- 66:1 Both *sòn an euro* and *ceàrn an euro* are given for ‘the euro zone’, while *bloc an euro* and *tìr an euro* are given for the alternative phrases ‘the euro block’ (66:1) and ‘euroland’ (143:3). Adding to the confusion, the forms *Sòn an Euro* and *Ceàrn an Euro* are given capital letters in a subsequent entry (350:3). A single form should be chosen here; *ceàrn an euro*, while not ideal, seems the best option, as the words *bloc* and *sòn* do not really exist in Gaelic.
- 66:3 Both *ùine-fhada* and *fad-ùine* are given for ‘long-term’. As only *geàrr-ùine* is given for ‘short term’, the second form would seem more appropriate.
- 105:2 Both *oifigear clàraidh an taghaidh* and *oifigear clàraidh nan taghaidhean* are given for ‘electoral registration officer’. The latter seems more precise.
- 122:3 *saoradh o chis* is given for ‘exemption from tax’, but *saorsa bho chis* is given for ‘tax exemption’; both *neo-buailteach do chis* and *saor bho chis* are given for ‘exempt from tax’ (203:2).¹⁷ Precision is essential in tax matters, and the distinction between ‘tax exemption’ (a form or portion of one’s income that is exempt from tax) and

¹⁷Inconsistency in the use of the forms *o* and *bho* is discussed below.

‘exemption from tax’ (complete non-liability for tax) is critical. It would be clearer to give *saorsa bho chis* for ‘tax exemption’, *neo-bhuailteach do chis* for ‘exempt from tax’, and *neo-bhuailteachd do chis* for ‘exemption from tax’.

- 130:2 Both *siorraidh* and *siorram* are given for ‘sheriff’, and this variability extends to all forms based on ‘sheriff’, e.g. *cùirt an t-siorraidh*, *cùirt an t-siorraim* (50:1, 312:1). These two parallel forms have long existed in Gaelic, but it is clearly necessary to choose a preferred term in naming important public offices and institutions for official purposes.
- 131:2 Both *sluaigh-bhòt* and *sluaigh-bhreith* are given for ‘plebiscite’. A single term should be chosen; the former might be rather clearer.¹⁸ It might be permissible to use this term for ‘referendum’ as well (where, disappointingly, the bare English word has been recommended in preference to the Irish *reifreann* or a Gaelic compound).
- 138:2 Both *taighean ann an ioma-sheilbh* and *taighean sa bheil grunn d’ a’ còmhnaidh* are given for ‘houses in multiple occupation’. The former seems preferable, although arguably imprecise in that *seilbh* tends to refer to possession rather than occupation.
- 151:3 Both *mì-ghnathachadh* and *droch dhìol* are given for ‘abuse’ (n.), while only *mì-ghnathaich* is given for ‘abuse’ (v.). It is not clear whether a distinction is intended here, and which form would be used for important terms like ‘child abuse’ and ‘domestic abuse’ (terms which probably merit new entries).
- 154:2 Both *comhairleach* and *neach-comhairleachaidh* are given for ‘adviser’.
- 155:1 Both *cleamhnaich* and *ceangail* are given for ‘affiliate’ (v.), and both *cleamhnachadh* and *ceangal* for ‘affiliation’.
- 157:1 Both *lèir-laghadh* and *maitheanas coitcheann* are given for ‘amnesty’. The latter seems preferable.
- 166:3 Both *càcas* and *caucus* are given for ‘caucus’. Although a traditional Gaelic form would seem preferable here, the Gaelicised *càcas* is at least superior to *caucus*.
- 169:1 Both *làithreach* and *suidheachail* are given for ‘circumstantial’. This is a legal term, most commonly used in the phrase ‘circumstantial evidence’, and a single form needs to be fixed.
- 169:2 Both *cathair-bhaile* and *cathair* given for ‘city’. As *cathair-bhaile* is used in the forms for ‘city council’ and ‘city hall’, it would seem appropriate either to remove *cathair* here, or to use this historic form throughout.
- 174:2 The Faclair’s terminology relating to contract law is confused, even though precision is of the utmost importance in this area. Here, both *cumha* and *cùmhnant* are given for ‘condition’; a single, clear term is essential. Although *cùmhnant* has become the

¹⁸The use of the genitive form *sluaigh-* as the first element here rather than the nominative *sluagh-* is puzzling and should be reconsidered.

- ordinary term for ‘contract’ in modern Gaelic, the Faclair generally uses *cunradh* for this purpose (177:3). At the same time, however, both *cùmhnant* and *coinbheirsean* are given for ‘convention’, which is a form of contract (178:3). A careful re-examination of terminology in this area is essential.
- 175:3 Three different terms, *co-fheall*, *cuilbheart* and *guim*, are given for ‘conspiracy’. As this is a legal term of art, a single, clear form is essential.
- 182:2 Both *Cunninghame a Tuath* and *Coineagan a Tuath* are given for the constituency name ‘Cunninghame North’, and both *Cunninghame a Deas* and *Coineagan a Deas* are given for the constituency name ‘Cunninghame South’. A single consistent form should be used for all constituency names.
- 184:3 *neach-diona* is given for ‘defendant’, while *dionadair* given for ‘defender’. It is not clear that two distinct terms are required here. There is no difference between these two roles in the legal system; the only difference is one based on the terminology used in English in the English and Scottish legal systems, but there is no clear reason why this variation need carry over into Gaelic.
- 193:3 Both *eaconamas* and *eaconamachd* given for ‘economics’. The suffix *-as* is a useful marker of disciplines, sciences and so on, and seems preferable here.
- 202:1 Both *teisteanas* and *fianais* are given for ‘evidence’; *fianais* is also given as meaning ‘witness’ (347:1) and ‘testimony’ (330:2), where *teisteanas* is also offered. ‘Evidence’, ‘testimony’ and ‘witness’ are specific legal terms of art and need unambiguous Gaelic equivalents. By the same token, basic words like *teisteanas* and *fianais* must themselves be unambiguous. Reconsideration is clearly required here.
- 205:1 Four terms are offered for ‘factor’, *adhbhar*, *bun-chùis*, *eileamaid* and *nì*. A single form should be chosen. Arguably none of the terms supplied is sufficiently specific, however; the simple *factar* might be better.
- 208:1 Three different forms are given for ‘finding’, *stèidheachadh*, *fiosrachadh* and *breith*, with both *stèidheachadh na fìrinn* and *fiosrachadh mun fhìrinn* given for ‘finding of fact’. A single, unambiguous form is required for this legal term of art; *stèidheachadh* seems adequate here.
- 210:1 Four forms are given for ‘foot and mouth disease’, *an ga lar roileach*, *an ga lar roilleach*, *an galar ronnach* and *an ga lar ladhair is beòil*. The form *an galar roilleach* seems to have become established through media usage and is to be preferred here.
- 211:1 Both *foirmle* and *formula* are given for ‘formula’.
- 212:1 Both *beingear-aghaidh* and *beul-bheingear* are given for ‘front-bencher’, but only *cùl-bheingear* is given for ‘back-bencher’ (161:1). As such, *beul-bheingear* would seem preferable here.
- 213:2 Both *gin* and *gnè* are given for ‘gender (sex)’.

- 214:3 Both *Glaschu Shettleston* and *Glaschu Baile Sheadna* are given for the constituency name ‘Glasgow Shettleston’. This and all constituency names should be given a single authoritative form.
- 217:2 Both *sàrachadh gnèitheasach* and *sàrachadh feiseil* are given for ‘sexual harassment’. The underlying problem here is that there is no agreed term in Gaelic for ‘sexual’, but a fixed and unambiguous form is clearly needed for ‘sexual harassment’, a term of legal significance.
- 218:2 *Cùis*, *èisteachd* and *rannsachadh* are all given for ‘hearing’. Two illustrative examples are given: *cùis lagha* ‘a court hearing’ and *rannsachadh poblach* ‘public hearing’. The distinctions between these terms are not at all clear, as discussed below; layout and substance should be revised.
- 222:2 Both *dearbh-aithne* and *ionannachd* are given for ‘identity’. The two meanings are quite different: ‘self-perception in social context’ as opposed to ‘identicalness’. It appears that the former meaning is intended, and as such *ionannachd* should be deleted.
- 223:1 Both *neo-chlaonachd* and *a bhith gun lethbhreith* are given for ‘impartiality’, and *gun lethbhreith* is given for both ‘impartial’ and ‘impartially’. In that *lethbhreith* is used to mean ‘discrimination’ (190:2) — an action in fulfilment of a predisposition rather than the predisposition itself — forms with *neo-chlaon* seem preferable here. *Claon* and *claonachd* could then be used for ‘partial’ and ‘partiality’, forms not presently given in the Faclair (although compare *claon-bhreith* ‘prejudice’ (276:3)).
- 227:3 Both *òrdugh* and *òrdugh-cùirte* are given for ‘injunction’. A single, unambiguous term should be chosen for this important legal term of art. Neither of these is sufficiently specific; they mean only ‘order’ and ‘court order’ respectively, and do not convey the particular meaning of ‘injunction’. *Òrdugh-bacaidh* might be appropriate. ‘Injunction’ is, of course, a term from English law; an entry should be added for the Scots law counterpart ‘interdict’, but there is no good reason why the same Gaelic form cannot be used for both.
- 228:1 Both *neo-chiontach* and *neo-choireach* are given for ‘innocent’. Greater precision is required here, particularly if the same form is to be used for ‘not guilty’, a legal term of art.
- 230:3 Both *eadar-dhìoghaiseach* and *eadar-easbaigeach* given for ‘inter-diocesan’; but only *sgìre-easbaig* is given for ‘diocese’ (189:3).¹⁹
- 230:3 Both *eadar-dhreuchdail* and *eadar-dhiosaplaineach* are given for ‘interdisciplinary’.
- 230:3 Both *buidheann brosnachaidh* and *buidheann iomairt* are given for ‘interest group’.

¹⁹Note that the simple form *easbaigeachd* might be preferable here, on the model of *rioghachd* and *siorramachd*.

- 233:2 Both *aonarachdas* and *lethoireachas* are given for ‘isolationism’, with variations of these forms being used for ‘isolation’, ‘isolationist’ (adj.) and ‘isolationist’ (n.). A single term should be chosen, probably the more specific *lethoireachas*, which better connotes the sense of non-participation suggested by ‘isolationism’.
- 234:3 Both *breith* and *binn* are given for ‘judgement’. This is a legal term of art, and a specific Gaelic counterpart is clearly required. Note that the Faclair has no entry for ‘sentence’ (criminal punishment); one of these forms might be reserved for that quite distinct meaning. Note further that a plural form is required for *binn* to mean either ‘judgements’ or ‘sentences’, although no such form is given in existing Gaelic dictionaries.
- 235:1 Both *uachdranas* and *dlighe-chomas* are given for ‘jurisdiction’. A single form is needed for this important legal term of art.
- 236:2 Both *baintighearna* and *ban-mhoraire* are given for ‘Lady’, but *ban-mhoraire* alone is given for ‘peeress’ (266:3). This being a specific legal title, a single form is required.
- 242:1 Both *lobaidh* and *trannsa* are given for ‘lobby’, and both forms are given in the illustrative example *lobaidh / trannsa cruinneachaidh* ‘mass lobby’. A single form should be chosen, or the distinction, if any, clarified with the use of separate headwords.
- 245:2 Both *stiùirichean* and *manaidsearan* are given for ‘management (the personnel)’.
- 250:3 Both *ùrachadh* and *nodhachadh* are given for ‘modernisation’.
- 251:1 Both *monopolaidh* and *lèir-shealbhachd* are given for ‘monopoly’. The latter form is somewhat unwieldy, but clear enough, and preferable to the unimaginative Gaelicisation of the English word.
- 256:1 Both *neo-eisimeileachd* and *neo-thaobhachas* are given for ‘non-alignment’, but only *neo-thaobhach* is given for ‘non-aligned’. Given the semantic overload on *neo-eisimeileach(d)*, the form *neo-thaobhachas* seems preferable here.
- 263:3 Both *obair taobh a-muigh uairean àbhaisteach* and *seach-thìm* are given for ‘overtime’. The former term would seem more appropriate for ‘unsocial work hours’.
- 265:1 Both *Bòrd Cead-saoraidh na h-Alba* and *Bòrd Paroil na h-Alba* are given for ‘Parole Board for Scotland’. No entry is given for ‘parole’; this should be added. The Gaelic form *cead-saoraidh* seems clear and acceptable, particularly since the term *parol* is used to mean ‘parol’, i.e. ‘given or expressed orally’ (265:1).
- 277:2 The entries relating to ‘presidency’ and ‘president’ are unclear. For ‘presidency (of a state)’, *ceannas* and *uachdranachd* are given, while *ceann-suidhe* is given for ‘president (of a state)’. In contrast, *ceannas* and *a bhith sa chathair* are given for ‘presidency (of a meeting)’, with *ceann-suidhe* and *cathraiche* given for ‘president (of a meeting)’. The tangling here should be resolved.

280:1 Both *pribhleid* and *sochair* are given for ‘privilege’. This is a legal term of art and it is essential that a single clear form be chosen. A form based on *pribhleid* would be preferable by virtue of its specificity; note that *sochair* is also given as denoting ‘benefit’ (131:3), its principal colloquial meaning. In addition, a plural form needs to be supplied.

This problem also arises in connection with the entry for ‘qualified privilege’, where both *pribhleid a thoradh air teisteanas* and *socair a thoradh air teisteanas* are given (141:3). However, at present there is nothing in the Gaelic to convey the sense of ‘qualified’ as opposed to ‘absolute’. In addition, the use of the word *toradh* (‘consequence’) in the forms given suggests immunity from adverse consequences following the giving of testimony, whereas privileges generally allow the holder of the privilege to refuse to testify at all.

The form *le aonta* is given with the general meaning ‘qualified (conditional)’ (287:1), but this is arguably both unsuitable and unclear. It might be better to use the term *coingheallach* here, a form given in Dwelly 2001 and well-established in this sense in Irish. As such, *pribhleid choingheallach* would be the form for the general term ‘qualified privilege’, and *pribhleid choingheallach a thaobh teisteanais* would be the form for ‘qualified testimonial privilege’.

280:2 Three terms are given for ‘proceedings’, *còmhraidhean*, *cùisean* and *imeachdan*. The first two are plainly too vague, while the third, based on the Irish term *imeachtaí*, may not be entirely transparent. *Gnìomharran* has been used in some circumstances and might be superior here.

281:1 Both *prothaid* and *buannachd* are given for ‘profit’.

287:2 Both *càileachdail* and *inbheil* are given for ‘qualitative’, and both *breith chàileachdail* and *breith inbheil* are given for ‘qualitative judgment’.

287:2 Both *càileachd* and *mathas* are given for ‘quality’. These words both relate to the same meaning of ‘quality’, ‘excellence’, rather than ‘feature’. A single form should be chosen for formal usage; it might also be helpful to add a new entry for ‘quality (feature)’ (? *feart*) for the avoidance of doubt here. In the interests of parallelism and clarity, the forms for ‘quality’ and ‘qualitative’ should match each other; it would therefore appear that *càileachd* should be used as the base term.

282:3 Both *co-rèireach* and *co-roinneil* are given for ‘proportional’, while *air stèidh cho-rèireach* is given for ‘on a proportional basis’ and *riochdachadh co-roinneil* is given for ‘proportional representation’. The use of two forms here seems inappropriate. In addition, *co-rèireachas* is given for ‘proportionality’, and *co-rèireach* is given for ‘proportionate’ (283:1). ‘Proportionate’ and ‘proportional’ appear to be mere synonyms in English, so the use of *co-rèireach* for both is acceptable (although the provision of the two entries may be superfluous). The form *co-roinneil* for ‘proportional’ should be deleted.

283:3 *protocal*, *co-ghnàths* and *leas-chunradh* are all given for ‘protocol’. As noted above, the sense of ‘legal agreement’ (*leas-chunradh*) merits a separate entry. Both

protocal and *co-ghnàths* appear to mean ‘accepted behaviour’ and a single form, preferably the transparent, Gaelic *co-ghnàths* should be chosen for this purpose.

- 284:2 Both *ùghdarras neach-ionaid* and *procsaidh* are given for ‘proxy’. The former Gaelic form, although somewhat unwieldy, is transparent and specific, and seems the better choice here.
- 287:1 Both *barrantas* and *teisteanas* are given for ‘qualification’.
- 287:1 *an urra ri* and *le aonta* are both given for ‘qualified (conditional)’. Neither form seems especially transparent, but a single term should be chosen. As noted above, the form *coingheallach* seems superior..
- 290:2 *lasachadh* is given for ‘rebate’ and *ath-dhioladh* is given for ‘repayment’ (295:3); but *lasachadh cìse* is given for ‘tax concession’ (328:1) and *ais-ìocadh cìse* given for ‘tax rebate’. A form also needs to be added for ‘discount’. Clear and appropriate distinctions between these various terms are required.
- 292:1 Both *anbharra* and *pàigheadh dheth* are given for ‘redundancy’. The latter form is simply a calque on the colloquial English term ‘pay off’. The form *anbharra*, as used in the illustrative example *airgead-diòlaidh anbharra* ‘redundancy payment’, seems appropriate here.
- 296:1 Both *ais-ghairm* and *cuir às do* are given for ‘repeal’, with *Achd ais-ghairm* given for ‘to repeal an Act’ and *cui[r]r às do lagh* given for ‘to repeal a law’. The specific form *ais-ghairm* seems preferable for the technical meaning of ‘repeal’.
- 300:3 Both *clàsa leasachaidh* and *clàsa rabhaidh* are given for ‘rider (to a document)’. The latter form would seem preferable here as it connotes more of the negating or prohibitory quality suggested by ‘rider’.
- 305:2 Both *Oifis Èifeachdas Cumhachd na h-Alba* and *Oifis Cùmhnadh Cumhachd na h-Alba* are given for ‘Scottish Energy Efficiency Office’.
- 308:1 Both *fo-fhastaich* and *cuir air iasad* are given for ‘second’. The former seems more specific, while the latter means simply ‘lend’ and could apply to anybody or anything.
- 308:2 Both *clèireachas* and *rùnachas* are given for ‘secretariat’.
- 314:2 Both *in-ghabhail sòisealta* and *com-pàirteachadh sòisealta* are given for ‘social inclusion’. The first form seems clearer and more specific, and matches the term given for ‘social exclusion’, *às-dùnadh sòisealta*.
- 315:1 Both *comann-sòisealta* and *sòisealtas* are given for ‘society’.
- 315:2 Both *dilseachd* and *dlùth-phàirteachas* are given for ‘solidarity’. As *dilseachd* means simply ‘loyalty’, *dlùth-phàirteachas* would seem superior, although the reason for the rejection of the form *dlùthachd* given in Thomson 1996 is not clear.

- 316:1 Both *uachdarail* and *neo-eisimileach* are given for ‘sovereign’. *Uachdarail* seems more specific, and there is significant semantic overload on *neo-eisimileach*. Moreover, the common phrase ‘independent sovereign state’ would be hard to translate.
- 317:3 Three different words are given for ‘sponsor’ (n.), *sponsair*, *goistidh* and *urrasair*. Forms of *sponsair* and *goistidh* are then used for ‘sponsor’ (v.) and ‘sponsorship’. Although perhaps not ideal, the Gaelic term *goistidh* seems superior to the borrowing *sponsair*.
- 319:1 Three different forms are given for ‘standard’ (n.), *ìre de mhathas*, *bun-tomhas* and *inbhe*. As noted above, the two meanings ‘degree of quality’ (*ìre de mhathas*) and ‘accepted benchmark’ (*bun-tomhas*) should be broken down into two distinct entries. The form *inbhe* is probably too vague to be useful here. At the same time, *bun-tomhasach*, *suidhichte* and *coitcheann* are all offered for ‘standard’ (adj.); the single form *bun-tomhasach* should suffice.
- 322:2 Both *Srath Cheilbhin agus Bearsden* and *Srath Cheilbhin agus Cille Phàdraig Ùr* are given for the constituency name ‘Strathkelvin and Bearsden’. A single consistent form is needed here.
- 323:3 Both *sineadas* and *cumhachd a thoirt nas fhaisg air na daoine* are given for ‘subsidiarity’. While the former term is not immediately transparent, it seems preferable to the long-winded and arguably imprecise *cumhachd a thoirt nas fhaisg air na daoine*.
- 323:3 Both *tabhartas* and *subsadaidh* are given for ‘subsidy’. As *tabhartas* is the only form given for the important term ‘grant’ (215:2), *subsadaidh* seems preferable here.
- 324:1 Both *guth-bhòtaidh* and *còir-bhòtaidh* are given for ‘suffrage’. The latter form seems more specific and transparent.
- 324:2 Both *sumanadh* and *bàirlinn* are given for ‘summons’. As *bàirlinn* generally has the specific meaning of ‘notice to quit’, the form *sumanadh* seems the better of the two for ‘summons’.
- 324:3 Both *stiùireadh* and *àireachas* are given for ‘supervision’.
- 325:3 Both *freasdal-lann* and *lèigh-lann* are given for ‘surgery’, with *freasdal-lann a’ BhPA* given for ‘the surgery of an MSP’ and *lèigh-lann dotair* ‘a doctor’s surgery’.²⁰ If it is intended to restrict the term *lèigh-lann* to medical contexts, in contrast to the more expansive use of the term ‘surgery’ in English, it might be better to give two headwords, ‘surgery (medical)’ and ‘surgery (other)’.
- 326:3 Both *gluasad* and *luasgadh* are given for ‘swing’ (i.e. a change in voting pattern).

²⁰Note that the form *freastal-lann* would seem mandated by GOC.

- 327:3 Both *cis* and *taraif* are given for ‘tariff’. *Cis* on its own is plainly too vague here, while the raw English term *taraif* seems inappropriate; the compound form *cis malairt* might be better.
- 330:1 Both *tabhainn* and *tairg* are given for ‘tender’ (v.), but only *tairgse* is given for ‘tender’ (n.). ‘Tender’ can have a technical meaning in relation to contracts, and care is required here.
- 333:1 Both *ath-sgrìobh* and *tar-sgrìobh* are given for ‘transcribe’
- 333:1 Both *atharraich* and *gluais thairis* are given for ‘transfer’ (v.), but only *atharrachadh* is given for ‘transfer’ (n.). *Atharrachadh* may well not be sufficiently specific here.
- 333:2 Both *san eadar-ama* and *eadar-amail* are given for ‘transitional’, and the illustrative examples fail to demonstrate a distinction between these two forms.²¹
- 333:3 Both *follaiseachd* and *trìd-shoilleireachd* are given for ‘transparency’. Although a common and much-used word, *follaiseachd* seems entirely sufficient here, while *trìd-shoilleireachd* is a mere translation of an English term whose meaning is, ironically, not immediately clear.
- 334:2 Three terms are given for ‘trespass’, *briseadh chrìochan*, *coiseachd gu mì-laghail* and *treaspas*. A single form is clearly required as ‘trespass’ is a legal term of art.
- 335:2 Both *rabhadh deireannach* and *fògradh deireannach* are given for ‘ultimatum’. The former seems more immediately understandable, although, despite being faithful to the original meaning of ‘ultimatum’, it may not convey the sense of adverse consequences being threatened.
- 338:1 Both *coitcheann* and *uile-choitcheann* are given for ‘universal’. The latter form seems more specific, just as ‘universal’ means something more than ‘general’ in English.
- 341:3 Both *ion-obrachadh* and *comas obrachaidh* are given for ‘viability’. As the form *a ghabhas obrachadh* is given for ‘viable’ (341:3), the latter form may be superior, although *ion-obrachail* might be substituted for *a ghabhas obrachadh*.
- 346:1 Both *an Iar-mhanachainn* and *Westminster* are given for ‘Westminster’. The Gaelicised form seems superfluous here.

²¹Note that the form *eadar-ama* has been criticised as ungrammatical by Ian MacDonald of the Gaelic Books Council (*Cothrom*, 24 (2000): 34), on the grounds that there is no basis for the use of the genitive form *ama* rather than the nominative *àm*. As such, *eadar-àm* would appear to be the correct form.

12. Problems of substantive accuracy

In a number of cases the forms supplied in the Faclair are inaccurate, incomplete or otherwise deficient. These shortcomings should be examined in the process of preparing a revised edition.

- 160:1 *barail* is given for ‘assumption’. A much more specific term is required here to mean ‘thing that is accepted as true, without proof’.
- 66:1 *eucoireach* is given as one of three forms for ‘heinous’. This word means simply ‘criminal’, and is typically used in the phrase ‘heinous crime’, which would come out as the redundancy *eucoir eucoireach*. *Eucoireach* should be deleted here and only *aingidh* and *gràineil* offered for ‘heinous’. Note that the Faclair does not include a form for ‘criminal’ (adj.) and *eucoireach* should be added for that meaning.
- 66:3 *fàg nas miosa dheth* is given for ‘marginalise’. This phrase is a mere calque on the English ‘leave worse off’ and is insufficiently specific here.
- 99:1 *leig mu sgaoil* is given for ‘leak’, with the illustrative example *leig e an sgrìobhainn mu sgaoil chun nam meadhanan* given for ‘he leaked the document to the press’. This phrase means simply ‘release’ and conveys none of the sense of unauthorised or underhanded conduct suggested by the term ‘leak’.
- 110:1 *piobrachadh* is given for ‘heckling’. While this word’s original meaning is ‘adding pepper to’, its most common figurative meaning is ‘encourage’, and in the context of a speech would tend to suggest supportive comments to the speaker along the lines of ‘hear, hear’ rather than antagonistic verbal harassment. A stronger term like *sàrachadh* might be more appropriate here.
- 162:1 *tha am beachd sin ri dheasbad fhathast* is given for ‘that statement begs the question’. This oft-misunderstood phrase properly means ‘assumes something that requires to be proved first’, with a common misinterpretation taking it as ‘raises an obvious question’. The Gaelic form given here (literally ‘that question is still to be debated’) seems to correspond to neither.
- 166:2 *lagh-cùise* is given for ‘case law’. The form *lagh-chùisean*, with genitive plural rather than genitive singular, would be more accurate as this body of law involving many cases rather than just one. *Lagh-cùise* might be used for the much more specific term ‘law of the case’ (a form of *res judicata*).
- 168:2 *thoir sùil air* is given for ‘check’. This phrase means simply ‘look at’ and does not convey the sense of ‘confirm’ provided by ‘check’.
- 174:1 *cead* is given for ‘concession’. This is of course the basic word for ‘permission’ (see 267:3) and seems ill-suited to any of the meanings of the term ‘concession’. Indeed, three distinct entries would seem appropriate here, ‘concession (acceptance)’, ‘concession (discount)’ and ‘concession (licensed enterprise)’.

- 175:1 *connspaideach* is given for ‘confrontational’. While this meaning is well established, the meaning ‘controversial’ for *connspaideach* is so basic in public policy contexts that there is a potential for ambiguity here.
- 182:1 *cruaidh-cheasnachadh* is given for ‘cross-examination’. This form is insufficiently specific and would apply equally well, say, to a police interrogation; it does not convey the sense of formal questioning by the other side in an adversarial legal procedure. *Tar-cheasnachadh* might be a better form.
- 192:3 *poileasaidh na dachaigh* is given for ‘domestic affairs’. Unless this is intended to refer to house-cleaning and the like, the term *dùthaich* should be used instead of *dachaigh*, as in *cùisean na dùthcha* ‘home affairs’ (220:1).
- 193:3 *lasachadh* is given for ‘easement’ (and, more appropriately, for ‘rebate’ (290:3)). *Lasachadh* means simply ‘easing’, while ‘easement’ is a legal term of art referring to the right to enter or cross another person’s land (etymologically based on the Old French adverb *aisement*). *Pribhleid cleachdaidh* or *pribhleid inntrigidh* would be better here.
- 203:3 *iomchaidh* is given for ‘expedient’. Although normal for ‘appropriate’, the term *iomchaidh* does not convey the sense of convenient impropriety suggested by ‘expedient’. A more specific term is needed.
- 220:1 *ro-innleachd chunnartach* is given for ‘high-risk strategy’. This Gaelic phrase is too faint; an intensifier like *air leth cunnartach* might suffice.
- 222:1 *cealgair* and *cealgach* are given for ‘hypocrite’, ‘hypocrisy’; *cealgach* is also given the meaning ‘underhand’ (26:3), and *cealg* ‘treachery’ (26:3). It is not clear that the specific meanings of ‘hypocrisy’ and ‘hypocrite’ (‘falsely claiming to have high standards’) are conveyed here.
- 223:1 *fillte* is given for ‘implicit’ and ‘implied’, and *ciallaich* is given for ‘imply’. These forms are clearly not specific enough, most glaringly *ciallaich* (the basic word for ‘mean’); reconsideration is required here. The forms chosen here should be based on the same root and should match those chosen for ‘explicit’, a term unfortunately omitted from the Faclair.
- 226:1 *neach* is given for ‘individual’. This form is insufficiently specific.
- 226:2 *co-dhùnadh* is given for ‘inference’. The basic meanings of this term are ‘conclusion’ and ‘decision’, and it by no means conveys the sense of indirect reasoning or deduction suggested by ‘inference’. A more specific term is required here.
- 231:1 The form *buin ri* is given for ‘interfere’, while *cur a-steach* is given for ‘interference’. The latter form is clear and seems adequate, but the first is puzzling. *Cuir a-steach* would seem preferable for ‘interfere’.

- 236:1 *buaidh* is given for ‘knock-on effect’. This is simply the basic word for ‘effect’, and does not convey the sense of secondary causation provided by ‘knock-on effect’. A more specific term is required.
- 240:1 both *cliù-mhilleadh* and *tuailleas* are given for ‘libel’ (n.); both *cliù-mhill* (*ann an sgrìobhadh*) and *cuir alladh air* are given for ‘libel’ (v.); both *cliù-mhilleadh* and *tuailleas* are also given for slander (314:1). Note also that the similar form *mì-chliùthachadh* is given for ‘defamation’ (184:2).
- 244:1 *nithean a chaidh a chall* is given for ‘losses’. This phrase means simply ‘things that have been lost’ and would not work to translate, for example, ‘the company has suffered significant financial losses’.
- 252:2 *Seirbheis Iomlaid Fala Nàiseanta* is given for ‘National Blood Transfusion Service’. The better form would be *Seirbheis Nàiseanta Iomlaid Fala*, following the structure of *Aonadh Nàiseanta nan Tuathanach* ‘National Farmers Union’ (252:3) and *Comann Nàiseanta Pheinnseinearan Seann-Aoise* ‘National Old Age Pensioners Association’ (253:3).
- 258:2 *ceannairceach* is given as one of two forms for ‘obstructive’. There may be a potential for confusion here, as this word has become strongly associated with the meaning ‘terrorist’ through media usage.
- 265:3 *craoladh taghaidh* is given for ‘party election broadcast’. The Gaelic form means simply ‘election broadcast’, with no reference to ‘party’.
- 268:1 *iomlaid* is given for ‘permutation’. This usage and the illustrative example *dh’fheuch sinn gach iomlaid dòighe air a’ chùis* ‘we have tried every permutation’ are difficult to understand.
- 271:1 *ath-ghabh*, literally ‘re-take’ or ‘take back’, is given for ‘poinde’. Strictly speaking, pointing is merely an intermediate step in the debt recovery process, in which sheriff officers compile an inventory of a debtor’s property, in preparation for a subsequent warrant sale, when the property is actually disposed of.
- 292:2 *iomraidhean bho na Cùirtean Nàiseanta (san Aonadh Eòrpach)* is given for ‘references from National Courts (in the European Union)’, under the headword ‘reference (to a subject)’. The term ‘reference’ here, however, does not mean ‘mention’, but instead means ‘referral’ or ‘transmission’; *ceistean / cùisean-lagha a chaidh a thoirt*, or a phrase based on *tar-chur* ‘referral’ (292:3), is needed here. Note also that the capitalisation of *Cùirtean Nàiseanta* and ‘National Courts’ seems odd.
- 299:3 *car tuathal* is given for ‘reversal’. This traditionalist phrase may be limited in its range; it would not be suitable for ‘reversal of party policy’, for example.
- 314:1 *aonad gnothachais beag* is given for ‘small business unit’. This form would suit a ‘business unit’ that is small in size, but the entity in question is one dedicated to meeting the needs of small businesses; *aonad ghnothachasan beaga* would be more appropriate.

338:3 *cainnt neo-oifigeil* is given for ‘unofficial language’. If this is intended to mean ‘informal verbiage’, this form is acceptable; if intended to mean ‘language without official status’, *cànan neo-oifigeil* would be preferable.

13. Gaps in terminology

The Faclair contains a wide range of useful terms, but the gaps are significant. A revised edition should add a considerable number of terms if the Faclair is to become a viable working tool for translators and media personnel.

Proposed new terms are listed below, in several categories:

1. General terms, all of which might readily be encountered in any broadsheet newspaper;
2. Terms having a specialist legal meaning but widely known to the general public, with precision and non-ambiguity being particularly important;
3. Names of officers, entities and institutions;
4. Rhetorical expressions used in political discourse which do not require precise equivalents but ideally should have Gaelic counterparts of equal rhetorical impact

Where a proposed new entry can be inferred from related forms given in the Faclair, it is suggested in brackets with the < symbol indicating its derivation. Where a related form is given in the Faclair, but there is no ready counterpart form for the proposed new term, or where the ready counterpart form seems inappropriate, the < symbol is used but with nothing before it.

In some cases, Gaelic equivalents for some of the terms proposed for inclusion are in fact already well-established in the language and the process of supplementing the Faclair is straightforward (e.g. *buannachd* ‘advantage’, *murt* ‘murder’, *pàirt-ùine* ‘part-time’). In other cases, there are a number of basic words common in general English usage for which no ready Gaelic equivalents exist (e.g. ‘automatic’, ‘negative’, ‘optimistic’, ‘quotation’, ‘unique’) and the task of coining viable Gaelic forms is by no means easy.

Category 1:

abortion
achieve, achievement
advantage
alienation (feeling of disaffection)
amateur (n. and adj.)
ambiguity, ambiguous
anarchist, anarchy
anticipate
apathetic, apathy
appease, appeasement
appendix

assimilate, assimilation
 asylum, asylum seeker (? < *comraich phoileataigeach* ‘political asylum’ (272:1))
 autocratic
 automatic, automatically
 backlash
 bad faith (? *droch rùn* < *deagh rùn* (205:2))
 bias, biased
 blueprint
 brand
 bribe
 burgh (? *baile (roinne-taghaidh)* < *baile (roinne-taghaidh)* ‘borough’ (163:1))²²
 buzzword
 candidacy²³
 cartel
 careerism, careerist
 category
 censor (n.), censor (v.), censorship
 centralise, centralised, centralising (? *meadhanaich* < *meadhanachadh* ‘centralisation’ (167:2))²⁴
 certificate
 charisma, charismatic
 check (n.)
 civil liberties (? *saorsainnean catharra* < *Comhairle Nàiseanta airson Shaorsainnean Catharra* ‘National Council for Civil Liberties’ (252:2))
 (middle, upper, working) class
 clawback (n.), claw back (v.)
 client
 climate change
 colleague
 colonial, colonialism, colonialist
 communism, communist
 competitive, competitiveness, competitor (? *farpaiseach* < (173:1))
 concession (acceptance)
 concession (discount)
 concession (licensed enterprise)
 confiscate, confiscation
 conservatism (? *caomhnachd* < *caomhnach* ‘conservative’)
 consistency (? *co-chòrdaileas* < *co-chòrdail* ‘consistent’)
 consortium
 conspirator²⁵

²²The provision of a term for ‘borough’, used in England and Wales but not Scotland, betrays the Faclair’s Welsh origins. However, there is no reason why the same term cannot be used for both ‘burgh’ and ‘borough’, although the form *baile (roinne-taghaidh)* supplied for ‘borough’ is somewhat unclear.

²³Note that *tagrachas* — a clear and suitable neologism — is given for the less common variant form ‘candidature’.

²⁴Note that forms are offered for ‘decentralise’, ‘decentralised’ and ‘decentralising’ (184:1). As discussed above, symmetry between the forms for ‘centralise’ etc. and ‘decentralise’ etc. would be helpful.

²⁵The form chosen here should correspond to that for ‘conspiracy’; as noted above, however, a plethora of alternative terms is supplied for ‘conspiracy’.

constituency (group of people or organisations with a particular interest)
 consultant
 consumer (? *neach-cleachdaidh* < *dìon luchd-chleachdaidh* ‘consumer protection’ (177:1))
 contender
 context
 contingent (? *tuiteamach*?? < *tuiteamas* ‘contingency’)
 contraception, contraceptive
 conventional wisdom
 corporate
 corporation (? *corparaid* < *Corparaid Leasachaidh Baile Ùir* ‘New Town Development Corporation’) (255:2))
 costed (? < 180:1)
 counterproductive
 credential, credentials
 crackdown
 culpable
 customer
 cyberspace
 cynical, cynicism
 decisive
 decommission, decommissioning
 defeatism, defeatist
 deference (? *gèilleadh* < *gèilleadh* ‘deferring’ (184:3))
 define (? *mìnich* < *mìneachadh* ‘definition’ (185:1))
 demagogic, demagogue, demagoguery
 democratic deficit
 demote, demotion
 deport, deportation
 diverse, diversify, diversity
 (multiple, social) deprivation
 deterrent (? < *bac* ‘deter’ (188:1))²⁶
 developmental (? *leasachail* ?? < *leasachadh* ‘development’ (188:2))
 differential
 dilemma
 disadvantage (n.) (? *mì-leasachadh* < *mì-leasachadh* ‘disadvantaging’ (189:3))²⁷
 disarmament
 discount (n. and v.)
 discourage
 disincentive²⁸
 disinterested (? *gun chom-pàirt sa chùis* < *le com-pàirt sa chùis* ‘interested’ (231:1))
 disinvest, disinvestment (? < *cur an seilbh* ‘invest’ (232:3))
 disposable (income)
 disproportionate (? < *co-rèireach* ‘proportionate’ (283:1))

²⁶The form *bacadh* for ‘deterrent’ is logical here but this term suffers from ‘semantic overload’ in the Faclair. Among other things, it is given to mean ‘embargo’ (196:2), a meaning so different that ambiguity in certain contexts is certainly possible.

²⁷The suitability of *mì-leasachadh* for ‘disadvantage’ is questionable; ideally, a term should be found that forms a logical pair with ‘advantage’, and that covers all senses of the word.

²⁸The form chosen should correspond to that for ‘incentive’ below.

distort, distortion
 divest, divestiture
 dividend
 divisive, divisiveness
 (public) domain
 double standard
 download
 drug, drugs, drug addict, drug addiction, drug dealer, drug tsar
 dynamic, dynamics
 dump, dumping (selling goods below cost for anti-competitive reasons)
 ecological, ecology (? *eag-eòlach* < *eag-eòlaiche* ‘ecologist’ (193:3))
 economic (? < *eaconamas*, *eaconamachd* ‘economics’ (193:3))²⁹
 elite, elitism, elitist
 endorse (give support to a candidate or policy)
 emphasis, emphasise
 entrepreneurial, entrepreneurialism (? < *neach-tionnsgain* ‘entrepreneur’ (199:2))
 environment, environmental, environmentalism, environmentalist
 ethnic, ethnicity
 escalation, escalate
 euthanasia
 eventuality
 exonerate
 experience, experienced
 explicit, explicitly³⁰
 exploit, exploitation
 extreme, extremist
 factual (? < 205:2)
 fascism, fascist
 favourite (person most likely to succeed)
 feudal, feudalism
 float (an idea)
 focus
 focus group
 forfeit (? *arfuntaich* < *arfuntachadh* ‘forfeiture’ (210:2))
 gaffe
 gay
 general practitioner (GP)
 genetically modified
 genocidal, genocide
 global warming
 globalisation
 graduate endowment

²⁹The form *eaconamach* is given as one term for ‘economical’; another word is plainly required for the quite different meaning ‘economic’. The need for this distinction does not seem to have been recognised, however, as *measadh eaconamach* is given for ‘economic appraisal’. Although not given in the Faclair, the (rather less than ideal) form *eaconamaigeach* is sometimes used. As noted above, a single term for ‘economics’ should be chosen; *eaconamas* would seem preferable.

³⁰The forms chosen for ‘implicit’ and ‘implicitly’ should correspond to those for ‘explicit’ and ‘explicitly’; however, the form given for ‘implicit’, *fillte*, is rather unsatisfactory.

grandee
 hard-line, hard-liner
 heresy, heretic, heretical
 heterosexual, heterosexuality
 high-tech
 hindsight
 hold (retain a seat at an election)
 holistic
 homosexual, homosexuality
 homophobia, homophobic
 hospice
 housing association (? *comann taigheadais* < *cosgaisean taigheadais* ‘housing costs’ (221:3))
 housing scheme (? *sgeama taigheadais* < *cosgaisean taigheadais* ‘housing costs’ (221:3))
 hypothecate
 hypothesis, hypothetical
 ideological, ideologue, ideology
 implausibility, implausible³¹
 incentive
 ineffective³²
 inefficient (? *neo-èifeachdach* < *neo-èifeachdas* ‘inefficiency’ (226:1))
 infer³³
 informant
 institutionalise(d)
 interaction, interactive
 interim (n.) (? *eadar-ama* < *eadar-ama* ‘interim period’ (62:3))
 interpolate, interpolation
 intolerance, intolerant³⁴
 investor (? < *Taic le Cur an Seilbh* ‘Investment Assistance’ (232:3))
 jargon, jargonistic
 junket
 land reform³⁵
 legalistic
 legitimacy (? < (239:2))
 lesbian, lesbianism
 liberalism (? *libearalachas* < *libearalach* ‘liberal’ (240:2))
 locum
 low-profile (? < (220:1))
 loyalist (? *dilseach* < *dilseachd* ‘loyalty’ (244:3))
 macroeconomic, macroeconomics
 mailshot
 manufacturing

³¹The forms chosen should correspond to those for ‘plausibility’ and ‘plausible’ below.

³²As noted above, different terms are required for *ineffective* and *inefficient*, which are quite distinct in meaning.

³³The form *co-dhùnadh*, the ordinary word for ‘conclusion’ or ‘decision’, is given for ‘inference’; as noted above, a more specific term is required, which should correspond to an appropriately specific form for ‘infer’.

³⁴The forms chosen should correspond to those for ‘tolerance’, ‘tolerant’ and ‘tolerate’ below.

³⁵Although no term is given in the Faclair, the form *ath-leasachadh an fhearainn* — a direct and infelicitous translation of the English phrase — is sometimes heard; *ath-leasachadh lagh an fhearainn* ‘land law reform’ would be preferable.

maverick
 mental health
 meritocratic, meritocracy
 metropolis, metropolitan
 militancy (? *mileantachd* < *mileantach* ‘militant’ (248:2))
 modalities
 modern
 modernise, moderniser (? < 250:3)
 momentum
 monetary policy³⁶
 mortgage, mortgaged
 motivate, motivated
 motive
 motorway
 multi-cultural, multi-culturalism (? *ioma-chultarach*, *ioma-chultaras* < *ionad-stòrais ioma-chultarach* ‘multi-cultural resource centre’ (251:3))
 multi-lateralism, multi-lateralist, multi-laterally (< *ioma-thaobhach* (252:1))³⁷
 multi-racial
 negative, negativity
 neo-liberal, neo-liberalism
 neutralise (? < 255:1)
 non-governmental organisation (NGO)
 non-profit
 non-proliferation³⁸
 occupy, occupation (hold territory illegally) (? *gabhail thairis fearainn* < *gabhail thairis togalaich* ‘occupation (of a building in protest)’ (258:3))
 offshore (financial services context)
 oligarch, oligarchy
 oligopoly
 opportunism, opportunist, opportunistic
 optimism, optimist, optimistic³⁹
 organic
 organised crime
 (sexual) orientation
 original (adj. and n.)
 orthodox, orthodoxy
 ostracise, ostracism
 overfund, overfunded, overfunding (? < *maoinich fo ìre iomchaidh* ‘underfund’ (335:3))
 pacifism, pacifist
 paedophile, paedophilia
 paranoia, paranoid
 pariah
 partial(ity) (? *claon*, *claonachd* < *neo-chlaonachd* ‘impartiality’ (223:1))

³⁶This important term is certainly worthy of a separate entry, but the appropriate form cannot be inferred; the Faclair gives (251:1) *gnothaichean airgid* for ‘monetary affairs’ but *com-pàirt ionmhasail* for ‘monetary interest’.

³⁷Note the range of entries at 337:2.

³⁸The form chosen should correspond to that for ‘proliferation’ below

³⁹The forms chosen should correspond to those for ‘pessimism’, ‘pessimist’, and ‘pessimistic’ below.

part-time
 passport (? *cead-siubhail* < *Buidheann-ghnìomha nan Ceadan-siubhail* ‘Passport Agency’ (266:1))
 patent (adj.)
 patient (n.)
 patronise, patronising
 peer pressure
 pensioner (? *peinnseinear* < *Comann Nàiseanta Pheinnseinearan Seann Aoise* ‘National Old Age Pensioners Association’ (37:2, 253:3))
 pessimism, pessimist, pessimistic
 philanthropist, philanthropy
 picket (n. and v.)
 platitude
 plausibility, plausible
 popular, popularity⁴⁰
 populism, populist
 power (energy or resource)
 presence
 presentation
 presume (take for granted) (< *ro-bheachd* ‘presumption’ (278:3))
 price-fixing
 princess (? *bana-phrionnsa* < *prionnsa* ‘prince’ (279:1))
 privatisation, privatise
 probation (? *probhaidh* < *Oifis Probhaidh* ‘Probation Office’ (280:1))
 probationary
 production
 productive, productivity
 profitability, profitable (? < *prothaid* ‘profit’ (281:1))
 profiteering
 prohibition (? *toirmeasg* < *toirmisg* ‘prohibit’ (281:3))
 proliferate, proliferation
 protectionism, protectionist
 protest vote
 provide, provision (contents of legislation)⁴¹
 publicist
 quotation, quote
 reciprocity, reciprocal, reciprocate
 recruitment⁴²
 refer (transfer, transmit)
 regenerate, regeneration
 regionalism, regionalist
 rehabilitate, rehabilitation (? *ath-ghnàthaich* < *Buidheann airson Ath-ghnàthachaidh tro*

⁴⁰The forms chosen should correspond to those for ‘unpopular’ and ‘unpopularity’ below

⁴¹The form *ullachadh* is given under ‘provision’ (284:1); this has the meaning of ‘preparation’. A form is needed for ‘provide’ / ‘provision’ as in ‘the bill provides that . . .’ and ‘this provision of the bill requires . . .’ The term *forail*, given in Dwelly 2001 and standard in Irish, seems the best choice here.

⁴²The term chosen here should correspond to that for ‘recruit’. The Faclair offers *tog* for ‘recruit’; a more specific term like *trusadh*, already used in some institutions with the meaning ‘recruitment’, might be preferable.

Thrèanadh ‘Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training (262:2))
 remunerative (? < *iocadh* ‘remunerate’)
 renege
 renewable, renewal (? < *ath-nuadhaich* ‘renew’ (295:3))
 reparations
 repatriate, repatriation
 reprisal
 reschedule
 retail, retailer
 riot, rioter
 rival, rivalry
 road-equivalent tariff
 rogue (adj.)
 scandal, scandalous
 scapegoat (v.) (? < *ceap coireachaidh* ‘scapegoat’ (n.) (304:2))
 scenario
 sceptic, sceptical, scepticism
 sectarian, sectarianism
 segregate, segregation
 separatism (? *dealachas* < *dealachaidh* ‘separatist’ (310:3))
 severance pay
 sexism, sexist
 share, shareholder (corporate ownership)
 shop steward
 (over)simplification (? < *sìmplich* ‘simplify’ (313:1))
 single-issue politics
 sleaze
 snub
 social cohesion
 sophisticated, sophistication
 (political) spectrum
 specialise (? *spèisealaich* < *spèisealaiche* specialist (317:1))
 speculate, speculation (financial)
 spin (? *grèiseadh* or *obair-ghrèise* < *dotair-grèisidh* ‘spin doctor’ (317:2))
 stake, stakeholder
 stalk, stalker
 standard of living
 standardise⁴³
 stealth tax
 stewardship (? *stiùbhardachd* < *co-òrdanaiche stiùbhardachd* ‘stewardship co-ordinator’
 (321:2))
 stereotype, stereotyped, stereotypical
 stigma, stigmatise
 stock market⁴⁴

⁴³The term chosen should correspond to a single term for ‘standard’. As noted above, however, a multiplicity of terms are offered for ‘standard’.

⁴⁴The obvious term here would be *margadh nan earrannan*, but this term is used to mean ‘stock exchange’. A distinct term is clearly needed for the more metaphorical ‘stock market’ as opposed to ‘stock exchange’, a building or institution.

(general) strike
 stunt
 sub-contractor (? *fo-chunnradair* < *fo-chunnradh* ‘subcontract’ (323:1))
 successive, successor
 superpower
 sympathiser
 technicality
 term of art
 tokenism, tokenistic
 tolerance, tolerant, tolerate
 trade (n.) (? *malairt* < *turas malairt* ‘trade mission’ (332:1))
 transaction, transactional
 umbrella organisation
 unanticipated
 uncosted (? < 180:1)
 unionism, unionist
 unique, uniqueness
 unpopular, unpopularity
 unsophisticated
 unwritten rule (? *riaghailt neo-sgrìobhte* < *bun-reachd neo-sgrìobhte* ‘unwritten constitution’ (339:2))
 vendetta
 victimisation, victimise (? < 342:1)
 voluntary (? *saor-thoileach* < *buidheann-iomairt shaor-thoileach* ‘voluntary agency’ (343:1))
 voucher (? *eàrlas* < *Ionad Eàrlais Sgoil Àraich* ‘Nursery Voucher Centre’ (257:2))⁴⁵
 whistleblower

Category 2:

Developing a full range of legal terms, including technical terms relating to practice and procedure, would be a major task, requiring the participation of trained lawyers as well as lexicographers, and should not be undertaken in a vacuum; it is only worth developing such terminology if it is to be put to use. Until the Executive takes significant steps to increase the actual use of Gaelic in the Scottish legal system, such a project should not be a priority.⁴⁶

On the other hand, there are a number of additional legal terms used in general political and media discourse that are needed immediately and should be added to the revised Faclair:

accusation (? < 152:3)
 accused (person charged with a crime)
 acquit, acquittal
 alibi
 aliment

⁴⁵Note that *eàrlas* is also given as meaning ‘deposit (election)’ (64:2), a seemingly incompatible meaning. The meaning ‘voucher’ is established, however, and is given in Cox 1991.

⁴⁶Note here that the Faclair provides a number of Gaelic forms for particular legislative enactments (1:3-3:1). This feature is certainly not harmful, but the selection is highly eclectic, and far less than complete. The foreword to the Faclair notes that expansion in this area ‘is a task for future editions’ (ix).

allegation, allegations
 alienate, alienation (give up property right)
 anti-trust
 appellee
 approximation (making national laws more similar to each other)
 arrestment
 bail (n.), bail (v.)
 bankrupt, bankruptcy
 beneficiary
 bond, bondholder
 breach of the peace
 causation
 caution, cautioner
 common law
 company law
 convict (? *dìt* < *dìteadh* ‘conviction’ (179:1))
 copyright
 criminal (? *eucoireach* < *eucoir* ‘crime’)
 culpable homicide
 custodial (sentence)
 damages (? *damaistean* < *damaistean peanasach* ‘punitive damages’ (286:3))
 debtor (? < *fiach* ‘debt’)
 declaratory
 delict
 derogate, derogation
 diminished responsibility
 embezzle, embezzlement, embezzler
 equity
 evict, evicted
 executor
 extradite, extradition
 feu
 harmonise, harmonisation
 (culpable) homicide⁴⁷
 indictment (? < *tog casaid an aghaidh* ‘indict’ (225:3))⁴⁸
 insolvency, insolvent
 intellectual property
 interdict
 justifiable homicide
 murder⁴⁹
 not guilty⁵⁰
 not proven

⁴⁷The term *murt* ‘murder’ tends to be used in Gaelic as a generic to mean ‘homicide’, but specific terms to convey the different shades of criminal intent are plainly necessary.

⁴⁸As noted above, the term *casaid* is severely overworked in the Faclair and is thus excessively ambiguous for a legal term like ‘indictment’.

⁴⁹See note above re ‘homicide’.

⁵⁰As noted, the Faclair gives both *neo-chiontach* and *neo-choireach* for ‘innocent’ (228:1); a single, specific term is required for ‘not guilty’.

paragraph (in legislation)
 parole (? *cead-saoraidh* < *Bòrd Cead-saoraidh na h-Alba* ‘Parole Board for Scotland’ (265:1))
 patent (n.) (? *pàitinn* < *Oifis nam Pàitinn* ‘Patent Office’ (266:1))
 predatory pricing
 pursuer⁵¹
 repossess, repossession
 reset
 sentence (n. and v.) (criminal punishment)
 servitude
 sexual assault
 sexual harassment
 short assured tenancy
 solicitor
 subsidiary (company owned by corporate parent)
 sue
 tax credit (? *creideas cìse* < *creideas an cìse* ‘tax credits’ (328:1))
 tenancy, tenant⁵²
 testament
 testify (? < *teisteachas* ‘testimony’ (330:2))
 warrant
 warrant sale

It might also be appropriate at this stage to give Gaelic forms for the following courts, court divisions and judges in Scotland:

Court of Criminal Appeal; Court of Exchequer; Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms; Court of Session; Election Petition Court; Inner House; Lord Justice-General; Lord Lyon; Lord Ordinary; Lord President; Outer House; Registration of Voters Appeal Court

At the very least, an official form for ‘Court of Session’, an entity mentioned almost daily in print and broadcast media, is essential.

Category 3:

The foreword notes that examples and collocations were provided ‘as time permitted’ (ix) but some of the choices are surprising. Various obscure entries are included (Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, Official Seed Testing Station, swine vesicular disease etc.) as are names for numerous private organisations, while authoritative Gaelic forms of names for important public bodies (Child Support Agency, Court of Session, Strategic Rail Authority etc.) are not provided.

⁵¹The term given for the English legal term ‘plaintiff’, *gearanaiche* (269:2), would be suitable for the Scots legal term ‘pursuer’. As discussed above in the context of the terms for ‘defendant’ and ‘defender’, there is no real need for two terms; difference in terminology for English/Scottish need not carry over into Gaelic.

⁵²The form *teanant* is used in *Comann nan Teanant* ‘Tenants’ Association’ (330:1). The use of the English word here seems unfortunate and unnecessary, since the modern legal concept of tenancy has been an important institution in Gaelic communities since at least the early nineteenth century; the more traditional terms *gabhaltach* and *gabhaltas* seem preferable.

Forms should be given for each of the local authorities in Scotland (Highland Council, City of Edinburgh Council etc.)

Forms should be given for each of the health boards and NHS trusts in Scotland (Argyll & Clyde Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Western Isles Health Board etc.)

Forms should be given for each of the local enterprise companies in Scotland (Lochaber Limited, Renfrewshire Enterprise etc.)

Forms should be given for each of Scotland's police forces (Fife Constabulary, Grampian Police etc.)

Forms should be given for each of Scotland's universities and FE colleges. Puzzlingly, the Faclair gives forms only for 'Open University', 'University for Industry' and 'University of the Highlands and Islands'.⁵³ Authoritatively agreed forms would be especially useful with regard to some of the newer universities whose Gaelic name is not immediately obvious, e.g. Glasgow Caledonian University and University of Abertay Dundee.

In addition, forms should be given for the following public agencies, offices and institutions:

Accounts Commission for Scotland; Advisory Committee on Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Advisory Panel of Economic Consultants; Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland; Audit Scotland; Benefits Agency; Broadcasting Standards Agency; Building Standards Advisory Committee; Central Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace (Scotland); Chief Constable; Child Support Agency; Children's Hearing; Children's Panel; Clinical Standards Board for Scotland; Common Services Agency for the National Health Service in Scotland; Community Education Review Group for Gaelic; Community Learning Scotland; Community Service Order; Competition Commission; Countryside and Natural Heritage Unit; Court of Session; Crown Estate Commissioners; Deer Commission for Scotland; Department for Education and Skills; Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions; Department for Work and Pensions;⁵⁴ Direct Labour Organisation; Disability Discrimination Act; Electricity Fisheries Committee; Electoral Commission; Environmental Impact Assessment; European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages; Faculty of Advocates; Fatal Accident Inquiry; Food Standards Agency; Framework Convention on National Minorities; General Teaching Council for Scotland; Health Technology Board for Scotland; Hill Farming Advisory Committee for Scotland; Historic Buildings Council for Scotland; HM Inspectorate of Education; Immigration Appellate Authority; Immigration and Nationality Directorate; Incapacity Benefit; Independent Television Committee;⁵⁵ Keeper of the Land Register; Law Society of Scotland;

⁵³Note that the term 'University of the Highlands and Islands' has been suspended until such time as the institution achieves full university status. It is now known as the UHI Millennium Institute, with the Gaelic form being *Institiud UHI nam [sic] Mile Bliadhna*.

⁵⁴Following government reorganisation in summer 2001, the Department for Education and Skills, Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions and Department for Work and Pensions replaced the Department for Education and Employment, Department for Education, Transport and the Regions, Department of Social Security, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The foreword to the Faclair (ix) acknowledges the continuing need for revisions of this kind.

⁵⁵The Faclair gives an entry for the Independent Broadcasting Authority (148:1, 225:2), which does not appear to exist, but not the ITC and other broadcasting-related agencies. The entry for the Independent Broadcasting Authority should be deleted.

Learning & Teaching Scotland; Low Pay Commission; Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland; National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting for Scotland; Monopolies and Mergers Commission; Northern Lighthouse Board; Office of Fair Trading; Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM); Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL); Post Qualification Education Board for Health Service Pharmacists in Scotland; Radio Authority; Radio Communications Agency; Registrar of Companies for Scotland; Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland; Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards; Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse; Scottish Advisory Committee on the Medical Workforce; Scottish Agricultural Wages Board; Scottish Ambulance Service Board; Scottish Childcare Board; Scottish Children's Reporter; Scottish Children's Reporter Administration; Scottish Committee of the Council on Tribunals; Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party; Scottish Conveyancing and Executry Services Board; Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education; Scottish Court Service; Scottish Crop Research Institute; Scottish Homes; Scottish Hospital Trust; Scottish Hospitals Endowments Research Trust; Scottish Industrial Development Advisory Board; Scottish Medical Practices Committee; Scottish Post Office Board; Scottish Records Advisory Council; Scottish Screen; Scottish Standing Committee for the Calculation of the Residual Value of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs; Scottish Transport Group; Scottish Valuation and Rating Council; Secretary of State for Education and Skills; Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions; Secretary of State for Work and Pensions;⁵⁶ Secretary of State for Scotland's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development; Social Security Appeal Tribunal; State Hospitals Board for Scotland; Strategic Rail Authority; United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority; Universities' and Colleges' Admissions Service; Universities Scotland; visitscotland; Water Industry Commissioner for Scotland

As suggested above, naming private organisations should not be a particularly high priority. The Faclair should, however, be consistent. A number of trade unions are given Gaelic forms but some of the largest (e.g. the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, the Manufacturing, Science and Financial Union) are excluded. It is recommended that forms be given for all unions affiliated with the Trades Union Congress.

Category 4:

Political rhetoric in English relies on a wide range of figurative usage, a richness that is unfortunately not now replicated in Gaelic owing to its small language community and limited range of use. Examples of such metaphors and expressions are given below. It would be bizarre to attempt literal translations of many of these items, but unwieldy Gaelic translations that seek simply to unpack these English terms would be equally inappropriate (e.g. *neach-poileataigs a tha ga stiùireadh a rèir phrionnsabalan agus bheachdan làidir* for 'conviction politician'). The only viable solution is to develop a rich Gaelic register of political discourse and debate, a complex process towards which a revised Faclair can make only an initial contribution.

Examples: 'bargaining chip', 'basket case', 'charm offensive', 'conviction politician', 'dark horse', 'feelgood factor', 'go pear-shaped', 'jump on the bandwagon', 'knee-jerk reaction',

⁵⁶These offices were created as a result of the governmental reorganisation noted above.

'litmus test', 'loose cannon', 'mudslinging', 'nanny state', 'olive branch', 'poisoned chalice', 'put on the back burner', 'slush fund', 'tartan tax', 'throw one's hat into the ring', 'turf war', 'underdog', 'wake-up call'

III. GRAMMATICAL ISSUES

In general, the Faclair is highly traditional in grammatical terms, retaining traditional inflected case forms to a significant, even marked degree. A significant exception is its innovative approach to the genitive case for feminine nouns, discussed in detail below.

1. Usage of the dative case

Usage of the dative case in the Faclair is entirely traditional. In almost all cases, indefinite feminine nouns are slenderised following prepositions:

Examples: *ri buidhinn* ‘to a group’ (27:1), *bho choinneimh* ‘from a meeting’ (51:1), *air coinneimh* ‘on/about a meeting’ (52:3), *aig coinneimh* ‘at a meeting’ (160:2).

Exception: *mu choinneamh* ‘about a meeting’ (dative *mu choinneimh*) (142:3)

This practice extends to the slenderisation of modifying adjectives:

Examples: *ann an dòigh bhagraich* ‘in a threatening manner’ (14:1), *ceàrn le àrainneachd chugallaich* ‘environmentally sensitive area’ (28:1), *fo fhaire phoblaich* ‘under public scrutiny’ (67:2), *san earrainn phoblaich* ‘in the public sector’ (78:3), *air stèidh shealaich* ‘on a temporary basis’ (123:3)

Exceptionally, one feminine noun not given its traditional dative form is *Alba*; the form *Alba* is used in all cases rather than the traditional dative *Albainn* and the traditional genitive *Albann*. Although the practice with regard to the genitive form is noted (if not fully explained) in the foreword to the Faclair, as discussed below, no reason for this treatment of the dative form is given.

Recommendation: a consistent practice should be followed with regard to the dative case.

2. Usage of the genitive case

A. Compound prepositions

With sporadic exceptions, the Faclair generally uses genitive rather than nominative forms of indefinite nouns following compound prepositions, a usage that is distinctly traditional, perhaps even bordering on hypercorrect.

Examples (among many): *airson adhbhair* ‘for a reason’ (3:1); *a rèir ceartais* ‘justifiable’ (28:2); *mu choinneimh fais* ‘for growth’ (42:1); *an lùib sgrùdaidh* ‘in connection with a review’ (129:2); *an aghaidh mì-cheartais* ‘against injustice’ (144:1); *a thaobh ionmhais* ‘with regard to finance’ (207:3); *air sgàth prionnsabail* ‘for reason of principle’ (318:3)

Exceptions: *an dèidh beachdachadh* (genitive *an dèidh beachdachaidh*) ‘advisedly’ (154:2); *airson taghadh* (genitive *airson taghaidh*) ‘for election’ (318:3)

This conservative usage is extended to indefinite nouns modified by an adjective:

aonad airson poileasaidh eaconamaich ‘economic policy unit’ (8:2), *an aghaidh poileasaidh phoblaich* ‘against public policy’ (111:1, 286:1)

Recommendation: a consistent rule should be followed here and genitive forms, if considered appropriate, should be used with compound prepositions throughout the revised Faclair.

B. The verbal noun

The Faclair also follows conservative practice in using genitive forms of indefinite nouns following a verbal noun. This usage is certainly not normal in colloquial Gaelic; it is not given in Byrne 2000 and was not recommended by any of the various experts consulted in connection with the CALG project (see McLeod 1998: 34).

Examples (among many): *a’ moladh faicill* ‘counselling caution’ (66:3), *a’ cur bacaidh* ‘hindering’ (141:1, 322:3), *dèanamh measaidh* ‘assessing’ (158:2)

Although the genitive is used in a heavy majority of cases, there are a number of exceptions: *a’ dèanamh dàil* ‘delaying’ (genitive *a’ dèanamh dàlach* (see 185:1)) (13:3); *a’ gabhail dragh* ‘worrying’ (genitive *a’ gabhail dragha*) (60:3); *a’ cumail sùil* ‘keeping an eye on’ (genitive *a’ cumail sùla*) (136:2); *a’ tarraing amharas* ‘attracting doubt’ (genitive *a’ tarraing amharais*) (173:2); *ag iarraidh ath-chunntadh* ‘demanding a recount’ (genitive *ag iarraidh ath-chunntaidh*) (185:2); *dèanamh eucoir* ‘committing a crime’ (genitive *dèanamh eucorach*) (259:1); *gabhail aithreachas* ‘regretting’ (genitive *gabhail aithreachais*) (294:2); *toirt geàrr-chunntas air* ‘summarising’ (genitive *toirt geàrr-chunntais air*) (324:2)

This conservative usage is extended to the use of genitive forms of indefinite nouns modified by an adjective following a verbal noun: *cur rian ùir air* ‘reorganising’ (295:3). This practice probably crosses the line into hypercorrection, as this usage appears to have been moribund by the early 20th century (Murchison 1960: xxvi).

Recommendation: a revised edition of the Faclair should ensure consistency of grammatical practice with regard to the verbal noun, and should re-evaluate whether continued rigid use of the genitive in all positions is truly appropriate.

C. Genitive forms of feminine nouns

One of the Faclair’s more striking and problematic innovations is the treatment of feminine nouns in the genitive case: adjectives (and nouns in hyphenated compounds functioning as adjectives) following genitive singular feminine nouns which have lost or do not form genitives with terminal *-e* are lenited. This is in contrast to the traditional practice (still applied to feminine nouns with genitives having terminal *-e*) whereby such adjectives are unlenited and given a terminal *-e*.

While this treatment is recognised as an optional form in existing grammars, it seems to be connected to the process of morphological simplification or breakdown (e.g. Byrne 2000: 32-34). In the Faclair, however, this principle is applied to all feminine nouns that form genitives without terminal *-e*, including those that have never (in recent centuries at least) taken a genitive form of this kind, and not simply those that may be considered to have undergone morphological simplification by loss of a former terminal *-e* in the genitive. The most important examples are nouns with genitives in *-ach* and *-achd*, which yield lenition in qualifying adjectives: e.g. *Roinn na Tèarainteachd Shòisealta* ‘Department of Social Security’ (186:2), *àrainneachd phoileataigich* as the genitive of *àrainneachd phoileataigeach* ‘political environment’ (272:1). However, there is variability in usage with feminine nouns whose genitive forms end in *-a* (pronounced in the same manner as terminal *-e*, i.e. as a schwa): *Achd na h-Eòrpa Shingilte* ‘Single European Act’ (313:2), but *Liosta Urraman na Bliadhna Ùire* ‘New Year’s Honours List’ (89:1).

Above and beyond any difficulties with this general principle, there are problems in its application as a result of the specific forms supplied in the Faclair. In general, the Faclair retains *-e* genitive forms in many nouns where they are no longer typical in vernacular speech; as such, an apparent relaxation of traditional grammatical principles in order to conform to vernacular practice may in fact be an awkward compromise. In addition, there is variability in the forms given in the Faclair, with an *-e* genitive being used in certain entries and a genitive without terminal *-e* appearing in different entries involving with the same word.

The following words appear to be given terminal *-e* in their genitive forms consistently throughout the Faclair:

àbhaist > *àbhaiste* ‘norm’ (256:3), *acfhainn* > *acfhainne* ‘equipment’ (208:2), *ais-ghairm* > *ais-ghairme* ‘repeal’ (296:1), *anailis* > *anailise* (157:1), *bànrigh* > *bànrighe* ‘queen’ (61:2, 287:2), *barail* > *baraile* ‘opinion’ (160:1), *being* > *beinge* (162:1), *binn* > *binne* ‘judgement (adjudication)’ (234:3), *bòid* > *bòide* ‘oath’ (257:3), *buaidh* > *buaidhe* ‘benefit, effect’ (194:3, 226:2, 236:1), *buil* > *buile* ‘consequence’ (175:2), *cainnt* > *cainnte* ‘speech’ (211:3), *cealg* > *ceilge* ‘hypocrisy’ (222:1), *connspaid* > *connspaide* ‘controversy’ (178:2), *cuip* > *cuipe* (346:1), *cùirt* > *cùirte* ‘court’ (180:3), *deuchainn* > *deuchainne* ‘examination’ (330:2), *duilichinn* > *duilichinne* ‘regret’ (294:2), *eas-onair* > *eas-onaire* ‘dishonour’ (190:3), *foighidinn* > *foighidinne* ‘patience’ (266:1), *foill* > *foille* ‘fraud’ (195:2, 211:2), *gaoid* > *gaoide* ‘flaw’ (209:2), *gin* > *gine* ‘gender’ (213:2), *grèim* > *greime* ‘custody’ (182:3), *ìmpidh* > *ìmpidhe* ‘persuasion’ (268:2, 296:3), *ìomhaigh* > *ìomhaighe* (cf. 219:2),⁵⁷ *lèirsinn* > *lèirsinne* ‘vision’ (342:3), *linn* > *linne* ‘era’ (200:1), *maoin* > *maoine* ‘fund’ (212:2), *mì-onair* > *mì-onaire* ‘dishonesty’ (190:3), *oidhirp* > *oidhirpe* ‘attempt’ (162:2), *oir* > *oire* ‘margin’ (246:1), *òraid* > *òraide* ‘speech’ (153:3, 261:2), *prothaid* > *prothaide* ‘profit’ (281:1), *puing* > *puinge* (331:1), *reic* > *reice* (26:1), *rèim* > *rèime* ‘regime (system)’ (293:1), *riaghailt* > *riaghailte* ‘rule’ (189:3), *roinn* > *roinne* (186:1), *seilbh* > *seilbhe* ‘property’ (158:2, 282:2), *sgairt* > *sgairte* ‘vigour’ (342:2), *sgiath* > *sgèithe* ‘wing’ (346:3), *spàirn* > *spàirne* (50:2),

⁵⁷The form given here for the genitive form of ‘high-profile’ is *ìomhaigh àirde*. The use of the terminal *-e* on the modifying adjective *àirde* indicates an underlying genitive form *ìomhaighe*, though this is disguised by the use of a phoneticised spelling that neglects the terminal *-e* of *ìomhaighe* because it is followed by a vowel. The Faclair’s use of such phoneticised spellings is discussed below.

stèidh > *stèidhe* ‘springboard’ (318:1), *taic* > *taice* (325:2),⁵⁸ *targaid* > *targaide* ‘target’ (327:3), *teich* > *teiche* (60:1), *teist* > *teiste* ‘record’ (291:2), *turchairt* > *turchairte* ‘windfall’ (147:1, 346:3)

While these forms generally reflect current formal usage (if not necessarily colloquial practice), it is significant that *Brìgh nam Facal* (Cox 1991) gives genitive forms without final *-e* for four of the words above: *connspaid*, *ìomhaigh*, *lèirsinn* and *linn*. Watson 2001 gives *connspaid* but *ìomhaigh*, *lèirsinn* and *linn*.

In contrast, the following words appear to be given no terminal *-e* in their genitive forms consistently throughout the Faclair:

abairt > *abairt* ‘expression (phrase)’ (204:2), *àmbasaid* > *àmbasaid* ‘embassy’ (196:3), *argamaid* > *argamaid* (159:1), *bileag* > *bileig* ‘form’ (170:1, 299:2), *breith* > *breith* ‘judgment’ (208:1, 234:3, 303:2), *coinneamh* > *coinneimh* (158:2, 247:2), *comraich* > *comraich* ‘sanctuary’ (272:1), *cosgais* > *cosgais* (179:3), *cusbainn* > *cusbainn* ‘customs, excise’ (182:3), *dachaigh* > *dachaigh* ‘home’ (220:2), *èiginn* > *èiginn* ‘emergency’ (181:2, 196:3), *eileamaid* > *eileamaid* ‘element’ (196:1), *Gearmailt* > *Gearmailt* ‘Germany’ (337:2), *gibht* > *gibht* ‘gift (talent)’ (214:2), *inntinn* > *inntinn* (16:1, 228:3), *labhairt* > *labhairt* (174:3, 211:3), *làrach* > *làraich* ‘site’ (313:2), *malairt* > *malairt* ‘trade’ (114:3, 161:2, 186:2, 332:1), *pàirt* > *pàirt* ‘part’ (282:3), *ùrnaigh* > *ùrnaigh* ‘prayer’ (276:1)

Again, there is some discrepancy with *Brìgh nam Facal* (Cox 1991), in which the genitive forms *abairte*, *argamaide*, *comraiche* and *cosgaise* are given.

A more serious discrepancy is the inconsistency in the forms used for specific words within the Faclair itself:

- *firinne* is given as the genitive of *firinn* ‘truth’ (205:1), but the genitive phrase *a rèir na firinn* ‘in accordance with the facts’ is used elsewhere (1:2, 340:3).
- *aithisge* is given as the genitive of *aithisg* ‘report’ (296:2), and is used in illustrative examples (6:1, 296:2) and in the genitive form *aithisge bliadhna* ‘annual report’ (157:3); but the genitive phrases *brìgh na h-aithisg* ‘the substance of the report’ (19:2) and *sgrìobhadh aithisg* ‘writing a report’ (296:2) are used elsewhere.⁵⁹
- *seirbheise* is given as the genitive form of *seirbheis* ‘service’ (311:1); but the genitive phrases *a thaobh ìre seirbheis* ‘(with regard to) service level’ (43:2, 311:1), *libhrigeadh seirbheis* ‘service delivery’ (125:1) and *solar seirbheis* ‘service provision’ (125:1) are used elsewhere. In addition, *seirbheis chatharra* is given as the genitive form of *seirbheis chatharra* ‘civil service’ (169:3), and form *mì-sheirbheis* is given as the genitive form of *mì-sheirbheis* ‘disservice’ (191:3).

⁵⁸The form *a’ toirt taic don argamaid* is given for ‘in support of their argument’ (138:1, 325:1). This is probably best understood as a nominative form of an indefinite noun following the verbal noun, and thus an inconsistency with the Faclair’s general use of genitive forms in this position. Alternatively, it may be understood as a genitive form here and thus inconsistent with the genitive form *taice* used elsewhere in the Faclair.

⁵⁹This last example may alternatively be understood as a nominative form of an indefinite noun following the verbal noun, and thus an inconsistency with the Faclair’s general use of genitive forms in this position.

- *oifise* is given as the genitive form of *oifis* ‘office’ (259:2), and this form is used in the genitive form *oifise prìobhaidich* that is given for ‘private office’ (279:3); but forms with the genitive *oifis* are used repeatedly elsewhere (*luchd-obrach oifis* ‘office staff’ (90:1, 259:3), *stiùireadh oifis* ‘office management’ (134:3, 259:3), *uairean oifis* ‘office hours’ (147:3, 259:3), *uidheam oifis* ‘office equipment’ (149:1, 259:2))⁶⁰
- *aithrise* is given as the genitive form of *aithris* ‘report’ (171:2, 320:1); but *aithris sgrìobhte* is given as the genitive form of ‘written statement’ (349:1), *neach-aithris* given as genitive form of ‘commentator’ (99:3), and *ath-aithris* is given as the genitive form of *ath-aithris* ‘repetition’ (296:1).
- *casaide* is given as the genitive form of *casaid* ‘prosecution’ (in the sense of a criminal proceeding) (283:3); but *luchd-casaid* is given for ‘prosecution’ (in the sense of the official agency mounting a criminal proceeding) (283:3).⁶¹ The genitive form *casaide* is given in Cox 1991 and in Watson 2001.
- *eas-onaire* is given as the genitive of *eas-onair* ‘dishonour’ (190:3), but the form *casaid eas-onair* is given for ‘a charge of dishonesty’ (168:1).⁶² The genitive form *eas-onoire* is given in Dwelly 2001.
- *freagairte* is given as the genitive form of *freagairt* under the headword ‘response’ (298:2); but *freagairt* is given as the genitive under the headword ‘rejoinder’ (294:3), and *freagairt sgrìobhte* is given as the genitive of *freagairt sgrìobhte* ‘written reply’ (349:1). The genitive form *freagairt* is given in Cox 1991 and in Watson 2001.
- *iomairte* is given as the genitive form of *iomairt* under the headword ‘venture’ (341:1), and this form appears in *co-iomairte* as the genitive of *co-iomairt* ‘joint venture’ (234:2), in *pròiseact co-iomairte* ‘joint venture project’ (234:2), and in *iomairte poblach* as the genitive of *iomairt phoblach* ‘public enterprise’ (285:1); but *iomairt* is given as the genitive form under the headword ‘initiative’ (227:3) and the forms *ceàrn iomairt* and *sòn iomairt* are given for ‘enterprise zone’ (199:1, 227:3). The genitive form *iomairte* is given in Watson 2001.
- *sgrìobhainne* is given as the genitive form of *sgrìobhainn* ‘document’ (192:3), and *mionn-sgrìobhainne* is given as the genitive of *mionn-sgrìobhainn* ‘affidavit’ (154:3); but *sgrìobhainn-chùirte* is given as the genitive of *sgrìobhainn-chùirte* ‘writ’ (348:3, 349:1). The genitive form *sgrìobhainne* is given in Cox 1991.
- *freagairte* is given as the genitive form of *freagairt* ‘reply’ (157:3, 296:1); but *freagairt sgrìobhte* is given as the genitive form of *freagairt sgrìobhte* ‘written

⁶⁰The examples given in brackets could be interpreted as genitive plural forms, but the genitive plural for *oifisean* is given in *àite oifisean* ‘office accommodation’ (5:3, 259:3).

⁶¹The entry for ‘prosecution’ is unclear and the distinction between the two meanings of the term ‘prosecution’ is not given in the Faclair. See above.

⁶²These entries are doubly problematic in that the form given in the Faclair for ‘dishonesty’ is not *eas-onair* but *mì-onair*; *eas-onair* is given for ‘dishonour’. See above.

answer’ (349:1). The genitive form *freagairt* is given in Dwelly 2001, Cox 1991 and Watson 2001.

- *fianaise* is given as the genitive form of *fianais* ‘evidence’ (186:1, 202:1, 330:2, 347:1); but *fianais dheimhinnte* is given as the genitive of *fianais dheimhinnte* ‘conclusive evidence’ (174:2), *neach-togail fianais* is given for ‘demonstrator’ (186:1), *togail fianais* is given for ‘demonstrating’ (185:3), and *dèanamh fianais do* is given for ‘witnessing’ (347:2).⁶³
- *fuaim* is given as the genitive form of *fuaim* ‘sound’ (315:3); but *siostam fuaim* is given for ‘sound system’ (315:3) and *blas fuaim* for ‘soundbite’ (315:3). The genitive form *fuaim* is given in Dwelly 2001, Cox 1991 and Watson 2001.
- most striking of all is the inconsistency with the word *pàrlamaid* itself. *Pàrlamaide* is given as the genitive form of *pàrlamaid* (264:2), and is used in *bile pàrlamaide* ‘parliamentary bill’ (17:3, 264:2); but the genitive form *pàrlamaid* is used more generally, as in *roinn-taghaidh pàrlamaid* ‘parliamentary constituency’ (264:3), *deasbad pàrlamaid* ‘parliamentary debate’ (264:3), *taghadh pàrlamaid* ‘parliamentary election’ (264:3), and many others, most notably the very title of the work, where *Faclair na Pàrlamaide* might have been expected.

In other instances, the Faclair gives alternative genitives of common feminine nouns, one form with terminal *-e* and one without. This has the consequence that the use of lenition in modifying adjectives is left somewhat uncertain — a potential problem with regard to formal names of entities and acts.

- *buidheann* ‘group’ (identified as either masculine or feminine), with alternative genitives *buidhinn* and *buidhne* (262:1).⁶⁴ In compounds the feminine gender and the *buidhne* genitive form are used. Thus *buidheann-bheachdachaidh* is given for ‘think tank’, with genitive *buidhne-beachdachaidh* (330:3); but *buidheann-beachdachaidh* with genitive *buidhinn-bheachdachaidh* would seem equally valid.
- *càin* ‘fine, penalty’, with alternative genitives *càine* and *cànach* (208:2); the form *càine* is used in compounds based on *càin*, so that adjectives in the genitive case are unlenited (e.g. *càine suidhichte* as the genitive form of *càin shuidhichte* ‘fixed penalty’ (209:1), rather than *cànach shuidhichte*).
- *còir* ‘right’, with alternative genitive forms *còire* and *còrach* given (251:2); the genitive form *còire* is predominant, as in *còire shònraichte* as the genitive of *còir shònraichte* ‘prerogative’ (277:1) (rather than *còrach shònraichte*) and *còire-dlighe rìoghail* as the genitive of *còir-dhlighe rìoghail* ‘royal prerogative’ (302:3) (rather

⁶³Note that *fianais* in the last two examples could be interpreted as a nominative form; as shown below, the Faclair generally uses the genitive form of indefinite nouns following the verbal noun, but is less than entirely consistent in this respect.

⁶⁴The morphology of this word is particularly complex, being masculine in some dialects although generally feminine and having alternative genitive forms. Dwelly 2001 and Thomson 1996 identify it as feminine only, while Cox 1991 and Watson 2001 show it as both masculine and feminine; Dwelly offers both *buidheinn* and *buidhne* as genitive forms, while Cox and Watson give only *buidhne*.

than *còrach-dhlighe*); the form *còire / còrach moralta* is given as the genitive of *còir mhoralta* ‘moral right’ (251:2), although *còrach mhoralta* would be expected rather than *còrach moralta*.

- *obair* ‘work’, with alternative genitive forms *oibre* and *obrach* given (260:3); only the form *obrach* is used in compounds based on *obair*, so that adjectives in the genitive case are lenited (e.g. *obrach shòisealta* as the genitive form of *obair shòisealta* ‘social work’ (314:3), rather than *oibre sòisealta*).

There is also confusing variability in the genitive forms supplied for certain other feminine nouns, although here there is no uncertainty concerning the lenition of modifying adjectives, as neither form ends in *-e*.

- For *còmhdhail* ‘transport’, the only genitive form given is *còmhdhalach* (333:3), and this form is used in *Roinn na h-Àrainneachd, na Còmhdhalach agus nan Roinnean* ‘Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions’ (186:2) and *Achd na Còmhdhalach* ‘Transport Act’ (333:3). In numerous other terms, however, the genitive form used is the simple *còmhdhail*, e.g. *Ministear na Còmhdhail* ‘Minister for Transport’ (249:1) (rather than *Ministear na Còmhdhalach*) and *Comataidh na Còmhdhail agus na h-Àrainneachd* ‘Transport and Environment Committee’ (333:3) (rather than *Comataidh na Còmhdhalach agus na h-Àrainneachd*). A consistent approach is required.
- Similarly, *codach* is generally used as the genitive form of *cuid* (e.g. 98:2, 130:3, 245:1, 249:2, 348:1); but *barail na mòr-chuid* is given for ‘the weight of opinion’ at 98:2 and both *barail na mòr-chuid* and *barail na mòr-chodach* are offered for this phrase at 345:1. (Note that although the form *codach* is given as the genitive of *cuid* in all dictionaries, its continuing vitality in the living language must be open to question).
- A different problem appears with regard to the word *beàrn* ‘gap’, where only *bèirn* is given as the genitive form (213:2); but the form *beàirn laghail* is given as the genitive of *beàrn laghail* ‘legal loophole’ (238:3). Both genitive forms are included in Cox 1991 and Watson 2001; the revised Faclair should address this inconsistency.

Finally, the Faclair abandons the traditional genitive form of *Alba, Albann*, although *Albann* has been used fairly consistently in official documents up to now. A brief note on page xiii announces summarily that ‘the team recommended the use of “na h-Alba” rather than *na h-Albann*’, but no explanation for this decision is given. The decision is somewhat puzzling in light of previous practice in official publications, the Faclair’s generally conservative treatment of the genitive case, and the retention of the traditional genitive form *Èireann* (203:1, 247:3, 256:3) in preference to the colloquial *Èirinn*.

D. The genitive case and complex definite noun phrases

The Faclair's treatment of complex definite noun phrases requires further attention: certain principles are stated explicitly but should be applied more consistently, and certain additional questions should be definitively resolved, clearly explained, and consistently applied.

The following rule is given on p. xvii of the Faclair:

In compounds of the type *genitive noun1 + article + genitive noun2* the genitive is not marked before the definite article in normal Gaelic usage (though the noun in question if a proper noun and masculine will generally if susceptible undergo syntactic proper noun lenition).

Example:

Clàr nan Làraichean Àrsaidh
(meud) Chlàr nan Làraichean Àrsaidh

Compounds of this type are shown as:

Clàr (*fir*) nan Làraichean Àrsaidh
Chlàr nan Làraichean Àrsaidh *gin*

This approach squares with the principles implicit in existing grammars (e.g. Calder 1980 [1923]) but does not appear to be applied consistently. For example, lenition of the initial noun might be expected in the genitive forms of the following entries (among a number of others), although this is not given in the Faclair:

182:2 *Comar nan Allt agus Cill Saidhe* 'Cumbernauld and Kilsyth'

201:1 *Banca Coitcheann na h-Eòrpa* 'European Central Bank' (cf. 201:3: *Bhanca Calpa na h-Eòrpa* given as the genitive of *Banca Calpa na h-Eòrpa* 'European Investment Bank')

213:1 *Pròiseact nan Ealan* 'Gaelic Arts Development Council' [*sic*]⁶⁵

214:1 *Barrantas Dreuchdail Coitcheann na h-Alba* 'General Scottish Vocational Qualification'

251:1 *Coimisean nan Lèir-shealbhachd is nan Coimeasg* 'Monopolies and Mergers Commission'

254:1 *Comann Nàiseanta nan Caorach* 'National Sheep Association' (cf. 201:3 *Chomann Saor-mhalairt na h-Eòrpa* given as genitive of *Comann Saor-mhalairt na h-Eòrpa* 'European Free Trade Association').

⁶⁵The word *pròiseact* is sometimes treated as feminine, and non-lenition of *Pròiseact nan Ealan* in the genitive could be explained on that basis. However, the Faclair identifies both *pròiseact* and *Pròiseact nan Ealan* as masculine.

In contrast, the Faclair appears to be consistent that in compounds of this type — *genitive noun1 + article + genitive noun2* — lenition of *genitive noun1* does not occur when this noun is feminine. Although implicit in the extract quoted above, this principle should be stated clearly and explicitly.

The Faclair does not state any operating principle with regard to complex definite noun phrases that do not include the definite article. One important unresolved question is the appropriateness of lenition in the genitive forms of such phrases that begin with a masculine noun. For example, lenition might be expected in the genitive forms of structures when a place-name beginning with a masculine noun is involved, such as *Coineagan a Tuath* ‘Cunninghame North’ (182:2), *Choineagan a Deas* ‘Cunninghame South’ (182:2), and *Baile Átha Cliath* ‘Dublin’ (193:1).⁶⁶ More generally, the role of lenition in genitive forms like *Cuibhreann Diolaidh Stuic air Talamh Àrd* ‘Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance’ (220:1), *Bhòrd Deuchainn Nàiseanta Sgoiltean Àraich* ‘National Nursery Examination Board’ (253:2), and *Comann Rìoghail nan Ealan* ‘Royal Society of Arts’ (303:1) should be re-examined. Lenition-related inconsistencies in related terms should also be reviewed: for example, *Ùghdarras Shlàinte a’ Phobaill* is given as the genitive of *Ùghdarras Slàinte a’ Phobaill* ‘Public Health Authority’, but *oifigear slàinte a’ phobaill* is given as the genitive of *oifigear slàinte a’ phobaill* ‘public health officer’ and *aonad slàinte a’ phobaill* as the genitive of *aonad slàinte a’ phobaill* ‘public health unit’ (285:2).⁶⁷

Also requiring attention is the appropriateness of lenition of feminine nouns in such definite noun phrases; the Faclair consistently gives genitive forms without lenition, but lenition is normal in ordinary usage with place-names like *Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain* ‘Campbeltown’ and entities like *Colaisde Bheinn na Faoghla* ‘Benbecula College’.

A more basic question involving such structures is the appropriateness of genitive marking in *genitive noun1* in complex genitive structures that do not contain a definite article. As noted above, the Faclair explains that when the definite article is used in a complex genitive structure no genitive marking occurs before the definite article. At some points in the Faclair, however, ‘double genitive’ forms appear in complex genitive structures where the definite article is not used, e.g. *Comainn Teaghlaichean Shaighdearan, Sheòltairean agus Luchd-adhair* as the genitive of *Comann Teaghlaichean Shaighdearan, Sheòltairean agus Luchd-adhair* ‘Soldiers’, Sailors’ and Airmens’ Families Association’ (315:2). Clear principles should be set out and implemented in this context.

Clearly stated and consistently applied principles on all these points would be extremely useful.

Recommendation: these entries should be re-examined and re-edited carefully to ensure consistency, and the principles governing the morphology of the genitive case of feminine

⁶⁶Compare the lenited genitive forms *Phàislig a Deas* ‘Paisley South’ and *Phàislig a Tuath* ‘Paisley North’ (264:3).

⁶⁷In that *slàinte* is feminine, the form *Ùghdarras Shlàinte a’ Phobaill* may be best explained as a typographical error.

nouns should be reviewed. The treatment of complex definite noun phrases should be examined more closely and clear and comprehensive principles should be set out.

3. Gender uncertainty

For historical reasons, a number of nouns, many of them originally neuter, vary in gender according to dialect. The Faclair generally notes that such nouns can be either masculine or feminine, although in some cases well-established variants are excluded. In most cases, however, one gender or the other is then chosen for oblique case forms or for compounds based on the word in question.

Although it might be argued that a single gender should be chosen for standardisation purposes, the approach taken in the Faclair comports with the general view that reasonable flexibility is appropriate in matters of dialectal divergence.

A more problematic practice in the Faclair is the giving of both genders for certain modern loan-words. Here, it would seem appropriate to choose a single gender and apply that form consistently.

It may be that the indication of gender variability in some of these recent loan-words is actually intended to indicate that the word in question, like certain other loan-words like *fòn* ‘telephone’ (see 329:1), is not to be treated according to normal Gaelic morphological principles. For example, the term *euro* ‘euro’ is given as being both masculine and feminine; it may simply be intended that the same form be used in all singular positions, i.e. *an euro* in both the nominative and the genitive, rather than *an t-euro* > *an euro* (as if masculine) or *an euro* > *na h-euro* (as if feminine). If this is the thinking here, it should be made explicit.

- The much-used word *buidheann* ‘group’, ‘body’ is twice given as being feminine only (21:1, 205:1) and twice given as being either masculine or feminine (163:1, 262:1). Fifty-seven compounds in the Gaelic-English section treat it as feminine only (21:1-22:3), but the form *buidhnean dùbhlanaich* ‘opposing factions’ is given as masculine only. *Buidheann Malairt na Cruinne* ‘World Trade Organisation’ and *Buidheann Slàinte na Cruinne* ‘World Health Organisation’ are given as feminine in the Gaelic-English section (21:3, 22:1) but as either masculine or feminine in the English-Gaelic section (348:2). Similar gender variability also occurs with other compounds based on *buidheann*.
- The notoriously problematic word for ‘language’ is given as both *cànan* (m.) and *cànain* (f.) in the English-Gaelic section (236:3), but only *cànan* is given in the Gaelic-English section (25:2) and only *cànan* is used in compounds. Note also that the form *cànainean* is given as the plural of *cànan* (236:3) though *cànain* seems to be offered in modern dictionaries (Cox 1991, Watson 2001).
- The loan-word *companaidh* ‘company’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (42:3, 172:3)

- The recent borrowing *eaconamaidh* ‘economy’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (62:3, 194:1)
- The recent borrowing *euro* ‘euro’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (62:3, 194:1)
- The loan-word *foirm* ‘form’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (71:1, 210:3)
- *ionnsaigh* ‘charge’, ‘attack’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (82:3, 168:1), and illustrative examples vary in their treatment of this word’s gender (e.g. *b’e an luchd-dùbhlain a bha air cùl an ionnsaigh* ‘the opposition led the charge’ (82:3, 168:1) and *thug iad ionnsaigh dìoghrasach air a’ phoileasaidh* ‘they unleashed a determined onslaught on the policy’ (82:3, 260:2); but *ionnsaigh dhalma* ‘a blatant attack’ (162:3) and *thug iad ionnsaigh dhaingeann* ‘they made a determined assault’ (188:1)).
- The recent borrowing *lobaidh* ‘lobby’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (89:2, 242:1)
- *modh* ‘procedure’, ‘process’ is given as being both masculine and feminine (97:1); fifteen compounds with *modh* are given as being feminine (97:1-2), but *modh-labhairt* ‘expression (verbal)’ is given as being masculine.
- the recent borrowing *sgeama* ‘scheme’ is given as masculine only in the Gaelic-English section (127:1), but as both masculine and feminine in the English-Gaelic section (304:2); the masculine form is used in all compounds (127:1-3).
- *teacsa* ‘text’ is given as being feminine only (140:3, 330:2; but note that the form given in Thomson 1996 for ‘text’ is *teacs* (masculine)); but *tele-theacsa* ‘teletext’ is given as being masculine (142:1, 329:2).
- The word for ‘source’, ‘well’ is given as *tobair* and shown as feminine (144:1); the established alternative *tobar* (m.) is not shown.

IV. ORTHOGRAPHICAL MATTERS

The spelling of Gaelic has long been a matter of controversy and has attracted substantial and arguably disproportionate attention over the years. It is both predictable and depressing that orthographical questions — rather than terminological matters or the underlying political issue of expanding the use of Gaelic in Scottish public life — have been the focus of most public comment concerning the Faclair, both in the course of its preparation and following its publication.

The Faclair endeavours to comply with GOC (Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board 1981) while taking on board certain modifications that have come into widespread use in more recent years.⁶⁸ The foreword to the Faclair identifies some of the more noteworthy features (xii-xiv); perhaps the most valuable modification is the consistent use of accents on capital letters as well as lower-case letters.

1. The use of hyphens in compound words

The most significant orthographic deficiency of the Faclair relates to its use of hyphenation in compound words, which are especially common in this register. This has long been a problem area in Gaelic orthography.

The foreword explains that hyphenation will be used in ‘closely bound compounds’ but not in ‘non-closely bound compounds’ (xvii). The use of hyphenation will then have morphological consequences: in the former case, ‘a noun in the genitive qualifying (modifying) another noun will be lenited or not as a qualifying adjective would be in the same position’, but in the latter ‘the qualifying genitive noun will not be lenited’ (xvii). Two compounds involving the feminine noun *buidheann* ‘group’ (here treated as feminine in gender) are given as examples: *buidheann-ghnìomha* ‘action group’, with lenition, and *buidheann comhairleachaidh* ‘an advisory body’, without lenition.

Unfortunately, usage in the Faclair reveals that this principle has not been put into practice in an effective manner; it may not be possible to distinguish in a clear and predictable manner between ‘closely bound compounds’ and ‘non-closely bound compounds’. On a number of occasions the same word is spelled differently at different points in the Faclair, sometimes with a hyphen and sometimes without; while in others, highly similar compounds vary unpredictably in the use of hyphenation. This variability is clearly unacceptable; a re-examination of this key area is crucial.

- *brath-naidheachd* ‘news item’ (13:3, 196:2) (s.v. *bacadh*); but *brath naidheachd* ‘press statement’ (19:1, 278:2)

⁶⁸There are occasional minor deviations from GOC that should be addressed: e.g. *tha adhbhar agam a chreidsinn gum bheil e fìor* ‘I have reason to believe that it is true’ (290:2) (*gu bheil* according to GOC); *troimhe-chèile* ‘upset’ (53:3, 339:3) (*troimh-chèile* according to GOC); *freasdal-lann* (72:1, 325:3) (*frestal-lann* according to GOC).

- *buidheann-ghnìomha* ‘action group’, ‘agency’ (22:2, 153:2, 155:1); but *buidheann ghnìomha* ‘task force’ (21:3, 328:1)
- *buidheann-stiùiridh* ‘directorate’ (22:3, 189:3); but *buidheann stiùiridh* ‘management group’, ‘steering group’ (22:2, 321:2)
- *còir-bhòtaidh* ‘suffrage’, ‘franchise’ (36:2, 324:1); but *còir bhòtaidh* ‘voting right’ (36:1, 211:2, 343:3)
- *cùis-lagha* ‘legal action’ (50:3, 238:3); but *cùis lagha* ‘a court hearing’ (218:3)
- *iomairt-taghaidh* ‘campaign trail’ (80:3, 165:1) (s.v. *iomairt*); but *iomairt taghaidh* ‘election campaign’, ‘hustings’ (81:1, 195:1)
- *ionad-obrach* ‘job centre’ (82:1, 233:3); but *ionad obrach* ‘labour exchange’ (82:1, 236:2)
- *ionad-òigridh* ‘youth centre’ (82:1); but *ionad òigridh* (82:1, 349:3)
- *làrach-lìn* ‘website’ (345:2); but *làrach lìn* (85:2)
- *oifigear-taghaidh* ‘electoral officer’ (105:3, 195:2); but *oifigear taghaidh* ‘returning officer’ (105:3, 299:2)
- *òrdugh-cùirte* ‘injunction’ (108:1, 227:3); but *òrdugh cùirte* ‘court order’ (108:1, 180:3)
- There is inconsistency in the forms used for ‘car park’: *pàirc chàraichean* (nominative singular), *pàirce chàraichean* (genitive singular), but *pàircean-chàraichean* (plural) (166:1)
- *prìomh-chlàrc* ‘chief clerk’ (168:2); but *prìomh chlàrc* (112:1)
- *roinn-cheartais* ‘judicature’, ‘judiciary’ (119:3, 234:3, 235:1); but *Roinn Ceartais* ‘Justice Department’ (118:1, 235:2)

More commonly, a hyphen is used in certain entries but not in closely related forms, and it seems impossible to discern any principled basis for the variability:

- *àithne-chùirte* ‘decree’ (6:2, 184:2); but *àithne britheimh* ‘interlocutor’ (6:2, 231:1)
- *ball-comhairle* ‘council member’ (14:3, 180:1); but *seòmar comhairle* ‘council chamber’ (126:2, 180:1) and *cìs comhairle* ‘council tax’ (29:3, 180:1)
- *buidheann-bheachdachaidh* ‘think tank’ (22:2, 330:3) and *buidheann-tagraidh* ‘pressure group’ (22:3, 278:2); but *buidheann brosnachaidh* ‘interest group’ (21:1, 230:3), *buidheann comhairleachaidh* ‘advisory body’ (21:1, 154:2), and *buidheann*

iomairt ‘interest group’ (21:3, 230:3). Note also the variability with *buidheann-ghnìomha* / *buidheann gnìomha* and *buidheann-stiùiridh* / *buidheann stiùiridh*, above.

- *cairt-aithneachaidh* ‘identity card’ (24:2, 222:2); but *cairt bhòtaidh* ‘polling card’ (24:2, 273:3)
- *ceàrn-taghaidh* ‘electoral region’ (28:2, 195:3) and *roinn-taghaidh* ‘electoral division’ (120:1, 195:2); but *sgìre taghaidh* ‘electoral district’ (128:2, 195:2)
- *cèis-fhaidhleachan* ‘filing cabinet’ (67:1, 207:1); but *clàrc fhaidhleachan* ‘filing clerk’ (67:1, 207:1); note also *clàrc-comataidh* ‘committee clerk’ (31:1, 172:1)
- *cìs-oighreachd* ‘inheritance tax’ and *cìs-seilbhe* ‘inheritance tax’ (30:1, 227:2);⁶⁹ but *cìs cosnaidh* ‘income tax’ (30:1, 225:1) and *cìs cusbainn* ‘customs duty’ (30:1, 182:3)
- *clàrc-comataidh* ‘committee clerk’ (31:1, 172:1); but *cathraiche comataidh* ‘committee chair’ (26:2, 172:1)
- *claon-bhreith* ‘prejudice’ (30:1, 276:3); but *lethbhreith* ‘discrimination’ (88:1, 190:2)
- *comataidh-sgrùdaidh* ‘inspection committee’ (40:1, 229:1); but *comataidh comhairleachaidh* ‘advisory committee’ (38:3, 154:3) and *comataidh stiùiridh* ‘management committee’ (40:1, 245:2)
- *còmhlán-gnìomha* ‘executive body’ (42:1, 203:1); but *còmhlán obrach* ‘working party’ (42:1, 348:1)
- *cùis-bhùirt* ‘object of ridicule’ (50:2) and *cùis-ghearain* ‘grievance’ (50:3, 216:1); but *cùis spàirne* ‘bone of contention’ (50:2, 163:1)
- Three different forms are given for ‘the ultimate deterrent’: *a’ chulaidh-bhacaidh dheireannach* (57:2); *an seòl bacaidh deireannach* (188:1), and *an seòl bhacadh deireannach* (126:2). Spelling, grammar and terminology should all be re-examined here.
- *dàimh cinnidh* ‘race relations’ (54:2, 288:2) and *dàimh poblach* ‘public relations’ (54:2, 286:1); but *dàimhean-obrach* ‘labour relations’ (54:2, 236:2)⁷⁰
- *droch-bheachdaichte* ‘ill-considered’ (61:2, 222:2) and *droch-comhairleach* ‘misguided’ (61:2, 250:1); but *droch stiùireadh* ‘mismanagement’ (250:1)
- *eas-onair* ‘dishonour’ (64:3, 190:3) and *eas-ùmhlachd* ‘contumacy’ (64:3, 178:2); but *easaonta* ‘disagreement’, ‘dissension’ (64:2, 190:1, 191:3)

⁶⁹As noted above, a single form should be chosen for ‘inheritance tax’.

⁷⁰The variation between the singular form *dàimh* and the plural *dàimhean* in these entries seems inexplicable.

- *ceist-èiginn* ‘emergency question’ (197:1), *coinneamh-èiginn* ‘emergency meeting’ (35:2, 196:3), *doras-èiginn* ‘emergency exit’ (60:2, 196:3), *òrdugh-èiginn* ‘emergency order’ (108:1, 197:1), *suidheachadh-èiginn* ‘emergency’ (136:1, 196:3), and *ùghdarras-èiginn* ‘emergency powers’ (148:3, 197:1); but *deasbad èiginn* ‘emergency debate’ (56:3, 196:3), *obair èiginn* ‘emergency work’ (104:2, 197:1), and *reachdas èiginn* ‘emergency legislation’ (115:2, 196:3)
- *geàrd-faire* ‘security guard’ (74:1, 390:2); but *oifigear faire* ‘security officer’ (105:2, 309:3)
- *grad-thaghadh* ‘snap election’ (77:2, 314:2); but *grad fhreagairt* ‘immediate response’ (77:2, 222:3) and *grad chronachadh* ‘swift rebuke’ (77:2)
- *lagh-taghaidh* ‘electoral law’ (83:3, 195:2); but *lagh cosnaidh* ‘employment law’ (83:3, 197:2) and *lagh cunnraidh* ‘contract law’ (83:3, 177:3)
- Fifteen entries are given with *làn-* (84:3-85:1); but *làn dheachdaire* is given for ‘absolute dictator’ (55:2, 189:1)
- *lèigh-lann* ‘surgery’ (87:3, 325:3); but *leabharlann* ‘library’ (85:3, 240:1)
- *modh-obrachaidh* ‘process’ (97:2, 280:3); but *modh gearain* ‘complaints procedure’ (97:2, 173:2) and *modh sgrùdaidh* ‘monitoring procedure’ (97:2, 251:1)
- *neach-dùbhlain* ‘opponent’ (100:2, 261:1); but *beingean dùbhlain* ‘opposition benches’ (116:2, 261:2)
- *obair-chlèireachd* ‘clerical work’ (104:3, 170:2, 308:2); but *obair rùnaireachd* ‘secretarial work’ (104:2)
- *rianachd-cheartais* ‘justiciary’ (117:2, 235:2); but *rianachd fiosrachaidh* ‘information management’ (117:1, 227:1) and *rianachd stòrais* ‘resource management’ (117:2, 298:1)
- *sàr-bharrantas* ‘copper-bottomed guarantee’ (123:1, 179:2); but *sàr chothrom* ‘golden opportunity’ (44:1)
- *seòmar-rannsachaidh* ‘study room’ (126:2, 322:3); but *seòmar deasbaid* ‘debating chamber’ (126:2, 183:3)
- *sgìre-àireamhachd* ‘enumeration district’ (128:2, 199:2); *sgìre-easbaig* ‘diocese’ (128:2, 189:2), and *sgìre-sgoile* ‘school catchment area’ (128:2, 166:3); but *sgìre bhòtaidh* ‘polling district’ (128:1, 274:1), *sgìre shlàinte* ‘health district’ (128:1, 218:1), *sgìre thaghaidh* ‘electoral district’ (128:2, 195:2), and *sgìre siubhal-gu-obair* ‘travel-to-work area’ (128:2, 334:1)⁷¹

⁷¹Note that the entries in the English-Gaelic section for ‘health district’ and ‘electoral district’ use the spellings *sgìre slàinte* (218:1) and *sgìre taghaidh* (195:2). This is the appropriate spelling according to the Faclair’s

- *siostam-rangachaidh* ‘hierarchy’ (130:3, 219:2); but *siostam bhòtaidh* ‘voting system’ (130:3, 344:1), *siostam fuaim* ‘sound system’ (130:3, 315:3), and *siostam urraim* ‘honours system’ (130:3, 220:3)
- *sochair-leasachaidh* ‘supplementary benefit’ (132:1, 325:1); but *sochair chloinne* ‘child benefit’ (131:3, 168:3) and *sochair shòisealta* ‘welfare’ (132:1, 345:2)
- *stiùiriche-roinne* ‘head of department’ (134:3, 217:2); but *stiùiriche fo-roinne* ‘head of division’ (134:3, 217:3)

In a few places, the use or non-use of hyphenation seems irregular or exceptional:

air-loidhne ‘on-line’ (5:2, 260:2)

air-teachdaireachd ‘on-message’ (5:2, 260:2)

bòrd-geal ‘white board’ (18:3, 346:1)

cuairtlitir ‘circular (letter)’ (46:2, 168:3)

dleastanas-sònraichte given for ‘assignment’ (59:2, 159:3)

With some entries, the use of lenition in compound words does not seem to follow the general principles guiding the Faclair:

ceist bheòil ‘oral question’ (261:3) (? *ceist beòil*)

fianais bheòil ‘oral evidence’ (261:3) (? *fianais beòil*)

freagairt bheòil ‘oral answer’ (261:3) (? *freagairt beòil*)

obair-cùise ‘casework’ (104:3, 166:2) (? *obair-chùise*)

obair-phàipeir (103:3) (? *obair-phàipeir*)

Recommendation: a fundamental re-evaluation is necessary in this key area. The clear and consistent rules adopted in Irish (Rannóg an Aistriúcháin 1958) should be considered within this assessment.

2. Miscellaneous orthographic inconsistencies

A number of miscellaneous orthographic inconsistencies occur at various points in the Faclair. Some of these inconsistencies are not truly orthographic in nature but instead involve dialectal differences or morphological matters; they are grouped here for ease of reference. For the avoidance of doubt, it would be helpful if a consistent approach were followed in these areas.

- The Faclair is inconsistent in its use of the forms of the preposition *bho* / *o* ‘from’ (compare 18:1, 55:1, 122:3, 203:2 (*o* used) with 52:1, 122:3, 203:2 (*bho* used)). *Bho* appears to be the preferred form according to GOC (Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board 1981: 16). While both forms are in vernacular use, a consistent approach would be helpful here.

operative rules; the lenition of the qualifying genitive nouns in the Gaelic-English section is incorrect. Note also that the hyphenation in *siubhal-gu-obair* is unusual.

- *clàs* is given as the base form for ‘clause’ (31:1); but all combining forms use *clàsa* (e.g. *clàsa leasachaidh* ‘rider (to a document)’ (31:1)).
- the three forms *comharr*, *comharra* and *comharradh* ‘mark’, ‘sign’ are all used (41:1)
- *dealbhadh baile agus dùthcha* is given for ‘town and country planning’; but *Achd Dealbhaidh Baile is Dùthcha* is given for ‘Town and Country Planning Act’, and *riaghailtean dealbhaidh baile is dùthcha* is given for ‘town and country planning regulations’ (332:1).
- The common phrase meaning ‘deliberately’ or ‘with intent’ is spelled both as *a dh’aon ghnothach* (77:1, 230:2) and as *a dh’aona ghnothaich* (185:2). The former form seems to be preferred (e.g. Cox 1991: 241; Watson 2001: 214).
- only the form *faclan* is given as the plural of *facal* ‘word’ (295:2); but the variant form *facail* is used in certain compounds, e.g. *facail shusbainteach* ‘operative words’ (66:2)
- the form *Pàipear Geal*, with capitalisation, is used for ‘White Paper’ (108:3, 346:1); but *pàipear uaine*, without capitalisation, is used for ‘green paper’ (108:3, 216:1). Capitalisation appears appropriate for both.
- *poileataigeach* ‘political’ is spelled with a *g* (and thereby shows the absence of preaspiration) but *poileataics* ‘politics’ is spelled with a *c* (a form that would trigger preaspiration according to traditional principles) (111:2-3, 273:2).
- the form given for ‘practical’ is puzzlingly but consistently spelled *pra(g)taigeach* (111:2, 275:3). A single form should be chosen; *pragtaigeach* seems preferable, as *prataigeach* would trigger preaspiration.
- both *planaichean baile* and *planaichean bhailtean* are given as plural forms of ‘town plans’ (332:1). The former seems more logical, as each plan relates to a single town.
- both *rathaidean* and *ròidean* are given as plural forms for *rathad* ‘road’, a variation that extended throughout the Faclair (e.g. 301:2-3).
- both *suidheachaidhean* and *suidhichidhean* are given as plural forms of *suidheachadh* ‘situation’ (313:3)
- both *tallachan baile* and *tallachan bhailtean* are given as plural forms of ‘town halls’ (332:1). As with *planaichean baile* above, the former seems more logical.

3. Unmarked elision: problems of ambiguity?

The Faclair follows conventional Gaelic orthographical practice and adopts a practice of omitting most vowels in written forms when these are elided in speech; although at the same time it states a preference for forms such as *balla àrd* ‘high wall’ and *duine òg* ‘young man’

to *ball' àrd* and *duin' òg* on the grounds that 'they represented the formal register and were therefore more suited to use in the context of the Parliament' (xiii).

This practice of omitting vowels was criticised in the CALG report (McLeod 1998: 24) as leading to confusion among learners of Gaelic; more problematic for purposes of public policy is the potential for ambiguity, particularly with regard to the potential disappearance of the possessive pronoun *a* 'his'. This problem is especially acute when the unwritten *a* is followed by a vowel or unlenitable consonant or consonant combination, as there is then no lenition of the following word to show the impact of the unwritten *a*. For example, the phrase *chail e eàrlas*, given at 186:3 to mean 'he lost his deposit', could equally well mean 'he lost a deposit'.

The normal justification for such forms is that context will explain what is meant. This may be a viable approach when participants in a conversation or reading are working in good faith towards mutual comprehension; in adversarial settings like the floor of Parliament or the courtroom, however, participants may strain to find ambiguities or plausible alternative readings or misreadings. Indeed, some politicians and lawyers are masters of this art. As Gaelic grows into formal settings, including formal, adversarial environments, orthographic practice must be as clear as possible.

An alternative practice is to use apostrophes to indicate elision and omitted letters: *chail e 'eàrlas*. Although logical and well-precedented in Gaelic writing of the past, this method may appear unattractive to some, and there appears to be a powerful antipathy to apostrophes among certain users of Gaelic, particularly among some in the educational sector.

Examples of unmarked elision abound in the Faclair. In the selected examples below, the missing vowel, not given in the Faclair's text, is marked in bold.

cumhachd a thoirt nas fhaisge air na daoine 'subsidiarity' (51:3); *chail e a eàrlas* 'he lost his deposit' (64:2); *cumhaichean a òrdachadh* 'to dictate terms'(107:2); *àite-fhuirich* (genitive form of *àite-fuirich* 'accommodation') (152:2); *tha e air a dhol air ais air a fhacal* 'he has gone back on his word' (163:2); *aithisg a ullachadh* 'to prepare a report' (176:2); *rinn iad fanaid air a òraid* 'they derided his speech' (187:2); *tha sin a' toirt air falbh bho a chliù* 'that detracts from his reputation' (188:2); *chaidh a aingidheachd a mhaitheadh dha* 'his iniquity was pardoned' (227:2); *an deasbad a fhosgladh* 'to open the debate' (260:2)⁷²

Recommendation: for clarity and the avoidance of doubt, all vowels should be written out in full.

⁷²Note that, in accordance with conventional practice, the Faclair writes out the particle *a* in infinitive constructions of this kind for verbs beginning with *f* + consonant rather than *f* + vowel: *ceist a fhreagairt* 'to answer a question' (157:2), *coinneamh a fhrithealadh* 'to attend a meeting' (160:2).

CONCLUSION

The analysis presented in this report demonstrates that the first edition of *Faclair na Pàrlamaid*, although an important step forward in the process of Gaelic development, is deficient in a number of important respects and that preparation of a revised edition must be an urgent priority.

In taking the *Faclair* project forward, care must be taken to avoid what might be described as ‘linguistic centralism’, the view that linguistic decisions or choices, once made, can never be revisited or revised. This stance has been widespread in the Gaelic community with regard to orthographic matters, and has meant that ill-considered decisions are rendered impossible to correct (cf. foreword at xi). With regard to the *Faclair*, the process of terminological and stylistic development must be organic; the language must continue to develop and evolve, and the choice of forms must ultimately rest with users of Gaelic, speaking and writing the language over time and in diverse contexts. It may be that specific forms offered in the first edition of the *Faclair* will not gain currency, or that new forms will be coined in the media or other environments that diverge from the ‘official’ term. Such a process is natural and healthy, and should be not only accepted but welcomed (Nic Eoin and Mac Mathúna 1997).

At the same time, revision and expansion of the *Faclair* only really makes sense if Gaelic is to be used on a meaningful and regular basis within Scotland’s national political institutions. The preparation of an improved *Faclair* must therefore be coupled with an intensified drive to ensure that Gaelic achieves official status and takes a significant role in Scottish public life.

APPENDIX

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS

Noted below are a number of typographical errors in the Faclair. Many of these merely involve layout, usually the use of Roman type where italics are appropriate according to the chosen presentation. Errors are generally marked in bold type, but italics are used when the error is simply the use of Roman type rather than italic. Where the same error occurs twice in the same column, it is noted twice here

- 6:1 accommodation
17:1 atharrachadh a bhòtadh **às**
25:3 **cùisean**
(airson eucoir an aghaidh **na** stàite)
(airson eucoir an aghaidh **na** stàite)⁷³
26:1 chaidh iarraidh oirre **a'** chathair a ghabhail
28:2 a bhith ceàrr
42:3 **fir / boir** (following *companaidh*)
concordait *boir*
concordat *n*
47:3 dèan cuilbheart
chaidh **cur** às
48:2 **comataidh** a chur air bhonn
cuir an aghaidh puing
cuir an aghaidh bhòtaidh
49:3 sully **someone's** reputation
60:2 irremediable **adj**
61:3 dùbhlán **cuideachail**
64:2 **fir / boir** (following *earraid*)
66:1 eucoir a dhèanamh
72:1 **by-law**
75:2 **Pollok**
81:1 multi-lateral (compare 'multi-cultural', 'multi-disciplinary', 'multi-party' 80:2, 81:1,
251:3, 252:1)
83:3 Scots law
94:1 on sufferance
113:2 Gaelic Arts **Agency**
115:2 reat leasachail
128:1 sgìre slàinte
128:2 sgìre **taghaidh**⁷⁴
130:2 **Aberdeenshire West**
137:3 taghadh *fir* Pàrlamaid

⁷³Alternatively, the form *an aghaidh an stàite* given in the Faclair can be seen as an inconsistency with regard to gender; *stàit* itself is identified as feminine (134:3, 319:3).

⁷⁴Since no hyphen is used, the rules given in the foreword to the Faclair suggest that lenition of nouns with adjectival function following a feminine noun should remain unlenited. This rule is observed at 195:2 where no lenition is given in three compounds with the feminine nouns *colaiste*, *sgìre*, and *foill*: *colaiste taghaidh*, *sgìre taghaidh*, and *foill taghaidh*. The same is true of *sgìre slàinte*: see 218:1.

- 143:3 tìodhlac
 145:1 tòisichidh a' choinneamh
 145:1 a' faireachdainn
 146:1 Medical Appeal Tribunal
 160:3 Comataidh (*boir*) Sgrùdaidh
 160:3 Comataidh Sgrùdaidh *gin*
 161:1 bun-**fhiosrachadh** *fir*
 163:2 *delete* Comataidh (*boir*)
 Comhairleachaidh air
 delete Comataidh (*boir*)
 Comhairleachaidh air⁷⁵
 163:2 chuir iad am poca **analach** air
 164:3 **by-law**
 165:3 buannachd **phoileataigeach**
 166:3 no comma following *suidheachadh-bàn sealach*
 166:3 no comma following *shealaich gin*
 169:1 baile (*fir*) mòr
 169:2 cathrach *gin*
 174:2 **concordat** *n*
 concordait *boir*
 concordait *gin*
 concordaitean *iol*
 176:2 to **prepare** a report⁷⁶
 180:3 Cùirt nan Còraichean Daonna *gin*
 185:1 teacs **dheimhinnte**⁷⁷
 194:1 **economics**
 194:1 **eaconamachd**
 194:2 Institiud (*boir*) Foghlaim
 194:2 Institiud Foghlaim
 197:2 **Employment Appeal Tribunal**
 Tribiunal-tagraidh (*fir*) Cosnaidh etc. (compare 146:1)
 198:2 gu sùrdail *cgr*
 198:2 gu lùthmhor *cgr*
 199:1 Comataidh (*boir*) na h-Iomairt
 200:3 **euros**
 201:1 Comataidh Eòrpach *gin*
 213:1 Gaelic Arts **Agency**
 213:2 a' faireachdainn
 214:3 **Pollok**
 217:1 an t-**saibheir**
 217:1 an t-**saibheir**
 218:2 fathann *fir*
 fathainn *gin*
 223:2 an aghaidh **na stàite**) *gr*

⁷⁵Note that the remarkable form *Spongiform Encephaloptheidh* should be revised to include the 'Bovine' element.

⁷⁶The form given is 'to **construct** a report', which seems peculiar.

⁷⁷Although the word *teacs* / *teacs*a can be variable in gender, the Faclair gives only the form *teacs*a and identifies it as feminine (330:2); as such, lenition is mandatory here.

- an aghaidh **na** stàite) *agr*
- 231:2 Ùghdarras (*fir*) Eadar-nàiseanta
Ùghdarras Eadar-nàiseanta a’
- 232:2 dèan agall**amh**
- 232:1 add: eadra-lìontan *iol*
- 235:2 Comataidh (*boir*) a’
- 236:3 **Lands Tribunal**
Tribiunal (*fir*) Fearainn etc. (compare 146:1)
- 237:3 mì-laghalachd
- 237:3 mì-laghalachd
- 244:3 prìomh phrògraman bailteil **iol**
- 247:1 **Medical Appeal Tribunal**
Tribiunal (*fir*) airson Ath-thagraidhean Meidigeach etc. (compare 146:1)
- 249:3 eugsamhail,
measgaichte *br*
- 251:1 Coimisean nan Lèir-shealbhachd is nan Coimeasg *gin*
- 252:1 multi-lateral (compare ‘multi-cultural’, ‘multi-disciplinary’, ‘multi-party’ 80:2, 81:1,
251:3, 252:1)
- 253:2 **National Lottery**
Crannchur Nàiseanta (compare 244:2)
- 254:3 **Atlantic**
- 260:3 companaidh (*fir/boir*) seilbhe
- 263:2 Buidheann-rianachd Leasachaidh Chèin *gin*
- 263:3 obrach taobh a-muigh **uairean**
àbhaisteach *gin*,
- 268:2 **buadh**mhòr
- 269:2 cuir ann an cunntas
- 277:2 tìodhlac
- 280:2 Comataidh (*boir*) nan
- 284:2 provisos *pl*
- 286:2 foillseachadh *agr*
- 290:1 add: rìoghachdan *iol*
- 294:1 Nursaichean Inntinneil
- 296:1 cuir às do lagh
- 303:2 Comataidh (*boir*) Leasachaidh
Dhùthchail
Comataidh Leasachaidh
Dhùthchail *gin*
- 304:3 sgoil le ceannsal soir-thoileach
- 308:2 secret *n*
rùn-dìomhair *fir*
- 309:2 tèarainteachd *boir*
tèarainteachd *gin*
- 310:3 Oifis an t-Seàirdeint *gin*
- 312:1 Sheriff *n* **Principal**
- 312:3 buill **air taobh** eile
an t-seòmair
- 316:1 cothachadh (*fir*) an
aghaidh **a** chèile

- cothachaidh an
 aghaidh **a** chèile *gin*
 318:1 luchd-obrach *gin* (s.v. ‘staff’)
 319:1 inbhe *boir*
 inbhe *gin*
 inbhean *iol*
 Comataidh (*boir*) Inbhean
 Comataidh Inbhean *gin*
 gnàth-chomataidh (**boir**)
 320:2 ann **an-dràsta**
 ann **an-dràsta** *gin*
 323:2 Comataidh (*boir*) an Fho-
 reachdais
 328:1 buidhne gnìomha *gin*⁷⁸
 328:3 Buidheann (*boir*) Trèanaidh
 Buidheann Trèanaidh
 330:3 add: cuipe trì-loidhne *gin*
 cuipean trì-loidhne *iol*⁷⁹
 331:3 add: bùird turasachd *iol*
 333:3 Comataidh (*boir*) na Còmhdhail
 339:2 of **a** statesman
 340:3 caochlaidh *gin*
 342:3 sealladh air na tha
 ri teachd
 343:1 sgoil (*boir*) le taic shaor-thoileach
 345:3 thàinig e / i a steach
 an deagh àm
 345:3 **Aberdeenshire West**
 347:1 taobh a-staigh (*roi le gin*)
 349:2 a bhith ceàrr
 350:1 oibriche-òigridh *fir*
 oibriche-òigridh *gin*
 oibrichean-òigridh *iol*
 350:2 an cron **as** lugha

⁷⁸Cf. the genitive forms *buidhne cothruim* and *buidhne iomairt* given for ‘access group’ (152:1) and ‘interest group’ (230:3).

⁷⁹Genitive singular and nominative plural forms are given for *cuip aon-loidhne* ‘one line whip’ (260:1) and *cuip dà-loidhne* ‘two-line whip’ (335:1).

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