

Recommendation CM/RecChL(2014)3 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the United Kingdom

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 January 2014 at the 1188th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the declarations submitted by the United Kingdom on 27 March 2001, 11 March 2003 and 22 April 2003;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by the United Kingdom;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by the United Kingdom in its fourth periodical report, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in the United Kingdom and the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit,

Having taken note of the comments made by the authorities of the United Kingdom on the contents of the Committee of Experts' report;

Recommends that the authorities of the United Kingdom take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

- 1. continue taking measures to strengthen Scottish Gaelic education, especially through the training of teachers and the production of teaching and learning materials;
- 2. adopt and implement a comprehensive Irish language policy, preferably through the adoption of legislation providing statutory rights for the Irish speakers;
- 3. take concrete steps to further increase the use of Welsh in health and social care;
- 4. strengthen its support for the work done by the Ulster Scots Agency and take measures to establish the teaching of Ulster Scots;
- 5. establish and maintain support from central government for the Cornish language;
- 6. ensure that the present cuts in public spending do not have a disproportionate effect on the protection and promotion of minority languages.

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