

GUIDE TO THE USE OF MANX ON ISLE OF MAN SIGNAGE



INTRODUCTION

This is the first guide of its type to lay out how to incorporate Manx into **new or replacement** public signage in the Isle of Man. Demand for its creation has come from Local Authorities and individuals who have been seeking support, guidance & direction.

Manx is protected under the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)**, with the Isle of Man government applying Part III of the Charter in 2021

A Tynwald resolution in 1985 established the opinion that “Manx Gaelic should be supported and encouraged by all agencies of Government and Boards of Tynwald so far as they are practically able”. It addressed the official and legal standing of Manx, stating that all official oaths could be made in either Manx or English, that Manx placenames should be protected and that bilingual place names in Manx and English should have equal standing.

In December 1995 the Department of Education produced a report on the Future Development of the Manx Language, which was received by Tynwald. It gave a commitment to support and promote the language, building upon previous resolutions and leading to more formal programs and educational institutions in the subsequent years.

The guidance clarifies that British Standard BS EN 17210:2021 ‘Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment’ applies to Manx wording as well as English wording.

It is pleasing to introduce the guide at the start of Blein ny Gaelgey — the Year of the Manx Language, which will feature a wide range of events, projects, and activities to promote and celebrate the language across the Isle of Man and internationally and provide a lasting legacy. This simple guide supports these aims.



Minister Daphne Caine MHK
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

GUIDANCE

Road & Place Names

1. If a Manx name is being used as the main place description, then **NO** English translation is required e.g. Ballabeg.
2. Where English is being used currently or being proposed then a Manx translation **should be included**, e.g. for [Birch Drive], the translation would be [Imman Beih].

Footpath Signage

PRoW footpaths with existing Manx names such as the Raad Ny Foillan and Bayr Ny Skeddan do not require a translation. Where there is an English name, the Manx should be included also. A QR code with a link to pronunciation and English meaning may be added.

Countryside Codes & Litter Codes/Campaigns

Both English & Manx **should be given**.

Brown Tourist Signs

Both English & Manx **should be given**.

Highway Signage

The use of Manx language at this stage is **not** being considered, but it is noted that bilingual highways signage is used frequently in other parts of the British Isles.

DESIGN & STYLE CONSIDERATIONS

Manx Positioning on Sign

Manx positioning to be decided by each local authority or public body. It is recommended that Manx should ideally be placed before the English.

Prominence

Typographic hierarchy organises text in a way that guides the reader's eye to what is most important. The prominence of both Manx and English can be achieved through appropriate and carefully considered choices of font, type size, leading, position, colour and tone without compromising legibility and consistency.

For ease of legibility, it is recommended that, due to functionality (navigation and safety considerations) English is read first – hence the use of upper case.

Font Style

A sans serif font such as Arial, Helvetica and Verdana should be used as they are easy to read.

Font Colour

Black for both languages has proven to be the most cost-effective choice whilst also creating an Island-wide visual consistency.

Case

Manx is to be in upper and lower case above English in upper case – both in the same font size. 'Welcome to' and other wording should use sentence case capitalisation only.

Braille

UEB is to be used for transcriptions from Manx.

SUPPORT

Translation Services

Culture Vannin
translations@culturevannin.im

Translation response times.
Culture Vannin's Translations Service suggest a lead-in time of two working weeks.

Quality Assurance

Manx Language Officer (MLO), DESC
Robert.Teare@sch.im

To advise on policy, offer guidance and perform final checks before signs are produced.

Guidance to Property Site Developers

Manx Language Officer (MLO), DESC
Robert.Teare@sch.im

To advise on potential place/street naming, taking cognisance of the local environment & heritage etc.

EXAMPLES

In other jurisdictions



Isle of Man

- Straid Mylvreeshey
BRIDSON STREET
- Reayrt ny Baie
BAY VIEW ROAD
- BALLABEG



VISUAL GUIDE FOR 'WELCOME TO ...' SIGNAGE

Manx Positioning on Sign

Manx positioning to be decided by each local authority or public body. It is recommended that Manx should ideally be placed before the English.

Prominence

Typographic hierarchy organises text in a way that guides the reader's eye to what is most important. The prominence of both Manx and English can be achieved through appropriate and carefully considered choices of font, type size, leading, position, colour and tone without compromising legibility and consistency.

For legibility, it is recommended that, due to functionality (navigation and safety considerations) English is read first – hence the use of upper case.

Font Style

A sans serif font such as Arial, Helvetica and Verdana should be used as they are easy to read.

Font Colour

English appears on street signage in black, whilst Manx is either in black, red, blue or green.

Case

Upper case lettering for placenames. 'Welcome to' and other wording should use sentence case capitalisation only.

Example

- ✓ The positioning of the Manx is at the discretion of the local authority.
- ✓ The Manx and English are given equal prominence through relative choices of colour, tone, size and position.
- ✓ For legibility, the font for both languages should be sans serif such as Arial, Helvetica and Verdana.
- ✓ The font colour of one language should not fade before the font of the other.
- ✓ Upper case lettering is used for placenames. 'Welcome to' and other wording uses sentence case capitalisation only.



