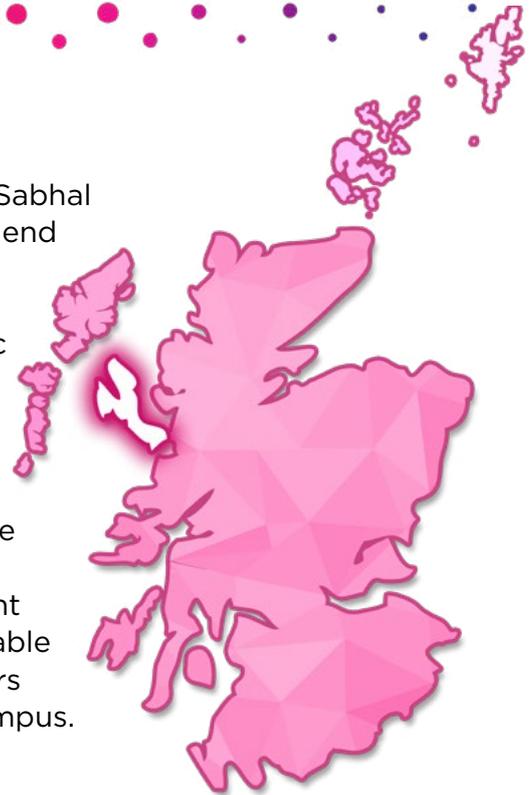


## **Case study - Catriona, Isle of Skye**

Catriona is a young woman who was studying Gaelic at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on the Isle of Skye until August 2020. At the end of her studies she decided to take a gap year and had no plans for the summer and had planned to move to Glasgow. However because of the Coronavirus Pandemic and to stay local for her partner, Catriona decided to stay on Skye. In exchange for accommodation and food, Catriona currently volunteers with a Trust on the Island where she looks after gardens and grows food. She may go back to college and further her studies in the future. Catriona's female partner is also a student at the college and lives in student accommodation. Due to current lockdown restrictions in Scotland, Catriona hasn't been able to spend much time with her partner apart from outdoors because she's not allowed to visit her on the student campus.



Whilst at college Catriona had very good access to internet and digital technology, however, since leaving this has been limited. Some barriers and challenges faced by Catriona during the pandemic include:

- Feeling Isolated since moving out of college accommodation in August and not being allowed to visit her partner who also lives there is having an effect on both of their mental health and causing a lot of stress.
- Not being able to drive and limited access to public transport and feeling anxious about using public transport make it harder for Catriona to get about.
- Prior to lockdown, Catriona was able to get lifts from friends or hitch-hike but these are no longer possible due to government guidance on car sharing.
- Not being able to go home to see her Mum and friends has been quite hard for her.
- Not being able to get to Portree where the testing centre is for COVID should she need to get a test.
- Not able to get to a supermarket on the island and having to use local shop meaning there are a lot less options.
- A lot less access to local services including library to access books and gym for personal fitness especially since leaving college
- Catriona worries that if she isn't allowed to see her partner or spend time together soon that this will have an effect on both their relationship and also their personal mental health. She also worries about young people on the Island who have no support network.