

Kirsty Williams AM
Minister for Education
Welsh Government

11 February 2020

Dear Kirsty,

Funding for music services

I would be grateful if you could provide the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee with an update on the funding for music services which was announced in December 2018.

Please can you let me know how the first tranche of £1.5 million was spent? Can you provide details on the balance between spending on each of these activities:

- Purchasing new and endangered instruments
- Ensuring all pupils have access to lessons, exams and courses
- Covering costs of attendance at orchestras, choirs and bands
- Initiating a 'rock and pop' ensemble
- Supporting music co-operative arrangements?

Please can you let me know the date by which local authorities will receive the second tranche of £1.5 million?

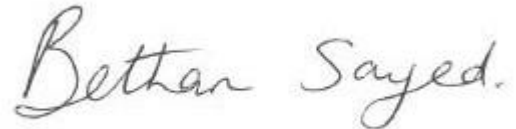
I know you are committed to ensuring all young people are able to develop their musical talent and reach their full potential and that you are keen to reverse the decline in music education funding. I support this approach and would like to report back to the Committee on this additional funding. In

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu

National Assembly for Wales
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

order to inform our work, please can you provide this information by 9 March?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bethan Sayed." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee



Ein cyf/Our ref
Bethan Sayad AM
Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 March 2020

Dear Bethan

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2020, regarding funding for music services. We do not have information on the specific activities you have requested.

In 2018-19, £1.5 million was provided to local authorities and they determined deployment of their allocation in accordance with local needs to deliver any one, or a combination of the following options; whilst showing that they are using the monies in an innovative and creative way:

- **FSM support**
Ensuring that there is access for those in receipt of FSM by establishing an appropriate fund specifically for use on lessons, exams, courses, resources.
- **Ensemble access**
Where introducing charges for attending local, regional and national orchestras/choirs/ bands have been introduced, funding should be allocated to increase attendance and regularity of provision.
- **Instruments**
After first consulting through CAGAC to identify any surplus stock currently being held centrally as a result of dwindling pupil numbers, allocate funding to the purchase of musical instruments, or money used towards endangered instruments.
- **Access and Inclusion**
In order to reinvigorate numbers in key stage 2, in areas where no whole class provision has been developed, funding should be allocated in order to allow as many children as possible to experience playing or singing with a view to taking up further lessons.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- **Progression and achievement**
Where charges for lessons have resulted in students being forced to share lessons in inappropriate groups leading to a decline in achievement, funding should be allocated to ensure adequate provision is restored. In particular, where gaps in range of provision (minority instruments, and numbers of instrumentalists) have been identified.
- **GCSE & A level music support**
Where schools as a result of budget cuts, have been forced to pass on charges for provision to students, funding should be allocated to ensure that students opting to take music at GCSE and A level have an appropriate lesson duration in order to achieve the best possible result in the practical element of their qualification.
- **Rock and Pop Ensemble**
To initiate an ensemble of this nature, so as to give students a musical opportunity that they may otherwise not have had.
- **Master classes**
Option for music services to organise master classes in their desired context with key individuals or groups of musicians that they feel are appropriate for pupils in the given area.
- **Co-operative arrangements**
In those local authorities where music services have been cut and co-operative arrangements have been established, funding could be allocated to support these arrangements.

Local authorities have reported on those activities that have been supported as a consequence of this investment and covers a range of activities such as subsidising group tuition, music ensemble costs, instrument loan costs, subsidies provided to schools to target free provision for FSM learners increasing the number of pupils receiving individual and group support, access to various schools of music, choirs and bands and whole class initiatives.

In 2019-20, in addition to the procurement of a feasibility study to identify and assess options for delivery of music services, £1.4 million has been allocated to local authorities to use according to the same criteria used in 2018-19, via the WLGA. The grant letter was issued on 21 November 2019, with the same method of allocation

In addition, in 2018-19 I provided £100,000 to National Youth Arts Wales to support the music services they provide, in particular the following elements;

- Continuing to subsidise the cost of each of the National Ensembles to ensure cost is not a barrier to participation.
- Continuing a pan Wales offer to ensure services meet student needs in a range of locations
- To increase access to the national ensembles from a more diverse range of young people across Wales

In 2019-20, a further £190,000 has been provided to National Youth Arts Wales to support this important work. The additional £190,000 was provided for a funding shortfall.

As you are aware, my officials are working with stakeholders following the music service feasibility report to consider how we continue to support music education services in the future.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'W'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education