

Adam Vaughan
Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a
Chyfathrebu, Culture, Welsh Language and
Communication Committee
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Assembly for Wales



October 9th 2018

Dear Adam,

Music Services in Wales

I write following the Welsh Government's response to the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's report 'Hitting the Right Note: Inquiry into Funding for and Access to Music Education' and in advance of the debate scheduled for October 24th.

MEC welcomes the Welsh Government's acceptance of recommendations 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 and its acceptance in principle of recommendations 1, 13 and 14. In particular, MEC welcomes the Welsh Government's commitment to ensuring that access to music and a music education is available for all those learners who wish to participate, irrespective of location, social background or ability to pay.

MEC reiterates the essential and unique role played by music services as part of a high quality music education and wishes again to express its concerns about the future of these services in Wales in the immediate future. MEC welcomes the Government's response to Recommendation 4 to look with the Welsh Local Government Association at the demand and proposals for models of music service delivery. MEC hopes that the Welsh Government will encourage local authorities to take full account of this six month feasibility study to identify and assess options for delivery of music services when considering their local plans for 2019. The timing of this feasibility study with the full update of the Task and Finish Group's recommendations by December 2018 is welcomed. It is essential that decisions taken locally for the 2019/2020 financial year do not adversely impact on musical opportunities for young people and take full account of proposals for 2020 and beyond.

In this context, MEC particularly welcomes the Government's reference to a National Plan for Music Education, the responsibility for which should lie within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

Further to recommendation 9 MEC looks forward to the announcement on precisely how the £1 million per annum for 2018/29 and 2019/20 will be used. This is now extremely urgent as there is less than 6 months remaining in the current financial year. MEC would recommend that, in addition to the funding being used to purchase instruments, it should also be available for repair and maintenance of existing stock; for supporting access to lessons; for supporting beginner and intermediate ensemble provision locally and across local authorities for all of those learners who wish to continue to participate, irrespective of location, social background or ability to pay; and to encourage tuition on 'shortage' or 'endangered' instruments.

If MEC can assist further, please be assured we are ready and willing to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard J. Hallam', with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

Richard J Hallam MBE Chair MEC 2013 to 2019

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