

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Siân

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2018-19

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2017, following up on the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's considerations on the Welsh Government draft budget proposals for 2018-19.

You raised a number of points regarding provision for the arts, and particularly music, in education. I set out a response to each of these points below:

Creative Learning through the Arts

The Committee welcomes the recognition of the importance of the wider benefits of arts and music in children's education and that funding continues to be made available through the Creative Learning Through the Arts programme. You mentioned in particular the 'Go and See' element of the programme and offered to supply a breakdown of the numbers of schools and children that have participated by local authority area.

Response

Information on take-up of the *Go and See* grant to date is provided below.

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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.

Authority	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils
Anglesey	3	184
Blaenau Gwent	4	252
Bridgend	13	869
Caerphilly	7	392
Cardiff	29	2182
Carmarthenshire	15	510
Ceredigion	11	985
Conwy	6	221
Denbighshire	9	368
Flintshire	11	755
Gwynedd	22	1747
Merthyr Tydfil	5	315
Monmouthshire	3	209
Neath-Port Talbot	6	385
Newport	8	547
Pembrokeshire	6	293
Powys	37	2175
Rhondda Cynon Taf	16	1311
Swansea	26	2074
Torfaen	2	60
Vale of Glamorgan	12	1056
Wrexham	11	553

Music in Schools Initiative

The Committee also welcomes the additional funding of £1m in each year for the next two years for music initiatives in schools. We noted that you are currently still considering how this funding might be used and that you hope to draw on evidence from the Committee's inquiry report in this area. While this is welcome, it would be reassuring to know whether the Government has itself in mind any specific use of this funding? The Committee would also be grateful to know whether you intend to consult further with stakeholders on potential uses of the funding and would commend that approach if so.

Response

I am considering a range of options on the best approaches to maximise use of the additional funding resources, linked in with the recommendations of the Music Services Task and Finish Group. As a key part of this process, my officials are engaging with the WLGA.

Database of Musical Instruments

The Committee notes that the Music Task and Finish Group recommended that a database of musical instruments should be established. We have since received evidence from the WLGA that the aims of a database could be met through more modest investment. The WLGA told us that there would be 'considerable set-up costs and significant ongoing resource to maintain' and that 'there are established communication channels between authorities which enable music services to ask for assistance in accessing musical instruments from another local authority area'.

They suggested that the additional funding might be more profitably channelled toward other uses than new instruments that might provide a longer legacy benefit. This might

include maintaining instruments already in stock. You explained that these concerns had not been raised with you in discussions with the WLGA. However, the Committee would value any further thoughts you may have in this area.

Response

The Welsh Government provided £220,000 to local authorities for the purchase of musical instruments in 2016-17. A condition of that funding was that local authorities would explore the establishment of a national database to ensure instruments were shared across Local Authorities. The WLGA have since advised that they are looking at migrating all local authorities to the same inventory management software to create this database. In relation to maintenance of instruments I would like to update you on the Musical Instruments Amnesty pilot held in July – the many instruments kindly donated by AMs and staff are presently being repaired by students at the Royal College of Music and Drama – once repaired we will ensure these instruments are distributed to Local Authorities for use by young people.

Fundraising – NYAW and the Endowment Fund

Members raised the potential for confusion between fundraising opportunities for National Youth Arts Wales and the National Endowment for Music. You announced the Endowment earlier this year with funding of £1million and which you told us will be launched formally with the Arts Council in January. However, given these concerns, the Committee would be grateful if you could reflect further on this issue and how any possibility for confusion might be addressed.

Response

Great care is being taken to ensure that there is no confusion and that fundraising for Music Fund Wales (the Endowment) does not impact on or compete with fundraising activities for existing arts organisations, including National Youth Arts Wales (NYAW).

The Music Fund Wales is a new and innovative approach which I am sure will capture the public imagination. We are working closely with the Arts Council of Wales in developing a clear communication strategy, with a focus on long-term funding activities and creating a brand that will appeal to both potential supporters and to young people.

The fundraising strategy for the Fund is significantly different from other activities in the arts sponsorship field. One of the most positive factors of the Fund is that it will target different sources of support than those that arts organisations regularly seek for particular projects or productions; such as a voluntary ticket levy.

The Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government have looked at an ambitious, innovative strategy to build and capitalise the Fund. It is reliant on a layered approach with many strands to its financing strategy, building on the seed funding the Welsh Government is making in this start-up phase.

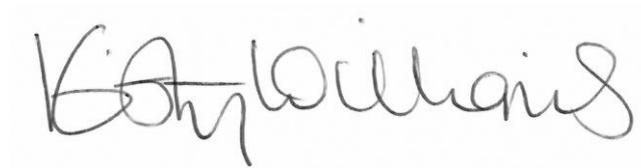
NYAW is putting in place a tailored approach to building support for its activities and tapping into sources of support donations and sponsorship. As now constituted, it is in a better position to be able to address this than it has been in the past.

NYAW will continue to receive funding from the Arts Council of Wales while we are working to ensure that local authorities also continue to support the organisation which provides so

many benefits to their constituents. A key approach for NYAW will be to generate funding from sponsorship, and I understand they are already exploring this option with the Arts Council of Wales and potential sponsors.

Finally, the Music Fund Wales, once established, rather than competing with NYAW, could be accessed by NYAW to support it in its funding structure. The remit for the Fund will be informed by discussions with the sector, including NYAW, and will also look for opportunities to collaborate and work in partnership.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

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