P-05-880 Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage, Correspondence - Petitioner to Committee, 15.06.20

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## Senior Consultant: Dinah Pye AGSM, Dip. Ed, CFPS Welsh Woman of the Year Winner

**Dear Petitions Committee** 

15.6.20

Petition:P-05-880

Thank you again for the recent update and the communications between Janet Finch-Saunders and the Chair of the Culture Committee regarding the Music Services Feasibility Report.

I am aware that the Education Minister and her staff have responded orally to the disappointment of the report but as yet I am unaware that a written response has been produced and made public. Although there are other extreme circumstances that may be taking priority I am concerned, due to the cost and delays of the feasibility report, that there has been sufficient time since Jan 12th for the Minister to have made written responses to the Culture Committee, the Welsh Government and the public.

Following the meeting of the Stakeholders on 29th Jan there appears to have been no progress even though the Covid 19 lockdown was not in force until the end of March. I am aware that a National Plan with appropriate funding for front line music services, as requested in my petition, has been recognised as a way forward with the possibility of it becoming part of the New Education Curriculum for Wales. This is welcome progress but there does not appear to be any debate or decision taken at Government level regarding any future developments for the NP's inclusion, role or status.

This could not be a worse time to be considering the role of music in the wellbeing of our nation but with schools preparing for some reopening, the possibility of the further roll out of the new curriculum in the not too distant future, I remain very concerned that there has been no virtual meetings of the stakeholders to consider the complexities involved.

Music has played an incredible vital role in keeping all nations uplifted during these unprecedented times and with a plethora of coverage showing the importance of music in society I remain disappointed that again the Welsh Government is dragging its feet in realising that music will be important in the New Normal Society.

Yours sincerely

Dinah Pye

Smarring.

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