



2015-0036513POGibb

Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for Schools

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Mr William Powell AC/AM
Chair, Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales
By email: SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Mr Powell

27 August 2015

Thank you for your letter of 5 August, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the future of youth music in Wales. I am replying as the Minister of State for Schools.

As you may be aware, in November 2011 the Government published the National Plan for Music Education following an independent review by Mr Darren Henley. The Plan announced a new network of 123 music education hubs to take forward the work of local authority music services. You can view the Plan at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-importance-of-music-a-national-plan-for-music-education>.

Music education hubs ensure that every child aged 5 to 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, with opportunities for pupils to play in ensembles and perform from an early stage.

Central ring-fenced funding for music education hubs over the last few years has been approximately £75 million for 2012-13 (including £25 million for the music services before the hubs took on their role in September 2012), £63 million for 2013-14, £58 million for 2014-15 and £75 million for 2015-16. Funding is allocated between the 123 music education hubs according to a formula which reflects the number of children in each hub area, with a weighting for disadvantaged pupils. In addition to ring-fenced funding, schools also receive an element of funding in their overall budgets to support the teaching of all curriculum subjects, including music.

If the Committee has any further queries on music funding in England, please contact Ms Jenny Curtis by email at: jenny.curtis@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone on: 0203408142.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP