

**Dyddiad /Date:**  
**Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:**  
**Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:**  
**Ebost/Email:**

17 October 2018  
Dr Chris Llewelyn  
029 2046 8614  
chris.llewelyn@wlga.gov.uk

Mrs Bethan Sayed AM  
Chair  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA



Dear Bethan,

## **Hitting the Right Note: Inquiry into Funding for and Access to Music Education**

I understand that the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's report "Hitting the Right Note Inquiry into Funding for and Access to Music Education" and the Welsh Government's response are being discussed at a plenary debate on 24<sup>th</sup> October. I thought it might be useful therefore if I were to provide some further thoughts on music education, your Committee's Report and the Welsh Government response in advance of the debate.

It is clear that we all share a commitment to music education in Wales and the aspiration that all learners in Wales should have fair and affordable access to music services, regardless of where they live or their circumstances. My colleagues in local government and I would share many of the ideas and proposals set out in your Report but believe strongly that music services should be delivered within a democratic framework of local accountability.

The main challenge to the provision and sustainability of music services in Wales arises from the sustained period of austerity over the last 10 years and cuts in local government budgets. Local authorities and their schools are facing further cuts to their budgets in 2018-19 and that is by far the biggest threat to the provision of music services in Wales. Creating unelected quango is not the solution to the problem. No amount of tinkering with structure and processes, or the constant review of service provision, can overcome the impact of 9 successive years of funding cuts. The WLGA is therefore opposed to the creation of another arms-length national body to deliver what is a valued local service and urges the Welsh Government to reconsider its proposed cuts to education.

As ever, the WLGA is more than happy to work creatively and constructively with your Committee, the Welsh government and other partners in exploring the range of ideas set out by your report but if the sustained cuts to local government services continue, then the

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**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.  
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.  
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.

damage to services such as these as well as other important local services will be irreversible.

**Yours sincerely**



**Councillor Debbie Wilcox  
Leader of WLGA**

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