

Lynne Neagle MS
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government

17 July 2024

Closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your **letter** (dated 10 July 2024). We are grateful to you for a swift response to our initial letter, which we discussed at our meeting on 17 July 2024. We were disappointed that we weren't able to meet you today, as we had hoped to explore this issue further – we do, however, understand why the scrutiny session could not go ahead.

In your letter, you said that you had met the Principal of the College. We would welcome an outline of this discussion and any actions arising from the meeting. We would also like to know:

- What assessment has the Welsh Government made about the impact of the closure of Young RWMCD on the higher-level provision of music and drama training available to learners in Wales? We would be grateful if this could include how the College is considering how to align activity with the National Plan for Music Education, and whether this would deliver access to the higher level of training and education that young people currently access at the College.
- Why Wales does not have a grant scheme in place to support young people to attend junior music college or a youth conservatoire, like the Music and Dance Scheme in England.
- What is the geographical distribution of students who attend the programme at the College?



- What discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council (or Medr) to allocate funding to support a junior conservatoire or similar programme?
- What discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council (or Medr) to provide a form of bridging loan, or a time-limited grant to the College while it considers how to make the youth programme sustainable in the long term?

Given how quickly this matter is progressing, I would be grateful for a swift response to our questions.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.