

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

27 November 2019  
D Hopkins



Janet Finch-Saunders, AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders,

### **Petition P-05-880 Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage**

You wrote to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) in June 2019, on this matter, and I apologise sincerely on behalf of the WLGA for the delay in responding in good time.

The WLGA agrees that the music industry, through live performances and recording, by individual artists and national and local organisations is important to the economy of Wales.

A healthy and thriving music sector which enables all children and young people to have access to tuition on instruments is an important contributor to learning and the development of an interest in music and can have long term benefits for the individual and communities. Making such opportunities widely available is important.

However, the WLGA's position on dedicated funding for any service is well documented: Local democratic accountability needs to be accompanied by the principle that decisions on how best to spend resources should be taken locally, so the concept of dedicated central funding is not in line with the WLGA view on how decisions on funding are best taken.

That said, the WLGA has in the past agreed that specific grants as a means of enabling the introduction of new national policies is acceptable, provided that those grants are eventually placed within the Revenue Support Grant once a policy is embedded.

In summary, the WLGA sees great value in the work that music services can do but does not support dedicated national funding as a way forward.

**Yn gywir / Yours sincerely**

**Pennaeth Addysg dros dro  
Interim Head of Education**

Dr Chris Llewelyn  
Prif Weithredwr  
Chief Executive

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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.**