



2023-0024208NGPO

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df

Mr James Dickinson
Chair, The UK Association for Music Education – Music Mark
By email: bridget.whyte@musicmark.org.uk

24 July 2023

Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 3 July, addressed to the Secretary of State and myself, regarding Music Hubs. I am replying as the Minister for Schools.

The Government acknowledges the vital role that Music Hubs have in ensuring children and young people across the country can access high quality music education. We value the many achievements that the existing Music Hub network has made since 2012.

I understand the concerns you have raised regarding the Department's grant funding for Music Hubs in light of inflationary pressures. We have invested around £380 million of funding in Music Hubs between 2016 and 2021. As part of the National Plan for Music Education, the Department also announced £79 million of funding per year for the Music Hub programme, up to and including the 2024/25 academic year, to provide assurance and stability in music education. We are also providing £25 million of capital funding for musical instruments as part of the programme. We will consider future funding for the next spending review in due course.

As part of the competition of the Music Hubs programme, Arts Council England informed potential bidders on 15 June that Department funding would be made up of the revenue and capital grants only, and that there would not be additional ring-fenced funding to support teacher pensions from September 2024. This is consistent with the ending of the ring-fenced Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant to local authorities. Since 2021-22, local authorities all receive the Central School Services Block national funding formula.

The new structure of Music Hubs should see the 43 newly competed Hub Lead Organisations strategically leading the support for music education over larger geographical areas, with most working across a number of delivery partners. We understand that this will be an adjustment for music education organisations that have received top up funding in the past. This is why we have given both incumbent and potential new hub lead organisations over 12 months' notice of this intention, so that this can be carefully planned for in advance.

I welcome Music Mark's ongoing engagement with the Department and Arts Council England in supporting the improvements to music education set out in the National Plan for Music Education and Model Music Curriculum. Your contribution is an important element in improving the quality of music education for all children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gibb', written in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister for Schools**