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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Ms Bridget Whyte, CEO
Mr James Dickinson, Chair
Music Mark
By email: bridget.whyte@musicmark.org.uk

26 November 2020

Dear Ms Whyte and Mr Dickinson,

Thank you for your letter of 29 July, also sent to the Secretary of State, regarding the proposed pay increase for public sector workers and its impact for Music Education Hubs.

I recognise the challenges Music Education Hubs have faced recently. I have been encouraged by the resourceful response of our educators, and I would like to thank hub leaders and their dedicated staff for all they have done to respond and innovate since March in supporting schools and families.

I am not in a position to respond specifically on the matter of pay, but I understand that officials from the Department are continuing to work with our national delivery partner, Arts Council England, on this and other related matters. We are currently considering how best to support Hubs in these challenging times.

As you know, Music Education Hubs can and should be resuming their work with schools this term. They have a vital role to play not only in core school music, but also ensuring children have access to all the benefits of a wider musical education through instrumental lessons and ensembles. We have recently updated the full opening guidance for schools to provide the latest advice on teaching music safely this term, and we are grateful to you and your colleagues at Music Mark for your constructive engagement with the Department on this.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,