



Education Committee

From the Chair
Helen Hayes MP

Susan Acland-Hood

Permanent Secretary, Department for Education
(*Sent via email*)

29 April 2025

Dear Susan,

Education Select Committee's Evidence Session on Music Hubs

Thank you for your letter dated 10 March 2025 in response to the predecessor Committee's letter regarding Music Hubs following its session in May 2024.

We are grateful for the updates regarding the Music Hubs programme and the Teachers' Pension Scheme and look forward to seeing the results of the Music Hubs evaluation once complete.

One key area of concern heard by the previous Committee was the lack of flexibility regarding the £25 million capital funding for musical instruments. In particular, witnesses highlighted the problems caused by being unable to use the funding for repairs and servicing or to adapt instruments for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

While the fund is very welcome and we understand that there are restrictions around how capital funding may be used, it is essential that government funding can be used in a way that is genuinely helpful and responds to local authorities' needs without resulting in unnecessary spending. We would therefore be grateful if you could set out the reasons as to why this funding is restricted in this way, and what steps you intend to take to explore how the Department could alter the conditions of the fund to allow it to be used for ongoing maintenance as well as buying instruments.

The Committee looks forward to a response.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Hayes MP
Chair, Education Committee