

**From: G McKinlay**  
**Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 4:37 PM**  
**To: W Alexander**  
**Subject: Re: Proposed Reduction in Music Tuition**

I am sorry for taking so long to respond to you. It has been one of those weeks!

Regarding your points for clarification I would say the following. Clearly staff have a right to have a view on any issues that relate to their employment. There are proper channels through which employees have access to through which they can express these views in a private and considered context. As employees there is an expectation that there will be a sense of professional propriety in how views are expressed outwith such channels. In the case of music instructors and teachers, opportunities have been given for staff to express views and indeed to suggest approaches to the savings in music instruction which they feel would be useful. We have received a number of ideas from staff already. Given that this is a developing situation it would be injudicious of any member of staff to make a public statement which might be inaccurate or subsequently misleading in the context of the ongoing process of efficiency review.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation.

Regards,

Gordon McKinlay

Education Manager (Learning and Teaching)  
Renfrewshire Council

**- Original Message -**

Dear Mr McKinlay

Thank you for your letter dated 30th March 2009 in response to two letters sent to John Rooney regarding the proposed reduction in music tuition which was very helpful.

I would however welcome some clarity over the meaning of the following sentence: "representatives of professional organisations have been very clear with their members that media is part of their role." Does this mean that any teacher or instrument instructor is at liberty to comment publicly on their views in their wisdom or will that be regarded as a breach of contract? As I am sure you will appreciate, it is extremely important to have absolute clarity on this issue.

Kind regards

Wendy Alexander MSP