

-----Original Message-----

From: \*\*\*\*\*

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 10:44 PM

To: Alexander W (Wendy), MSP

Subject: Music Instructor Cuts

Hi

I'm a music teacher working for Renfrewshire Council, so therefore can't express my opinion/protest/have my name mentioned regarding the appalling proposed cuts to the instrumental instructors - but I would like to offer my thanks to you for helping to bring this issue out into the open.

My colleagues and I have been warned not to speak out – or even mention to pupils – for fear of disciplinary action, and feel very frustrated that the excellent service provided is going to be decimated by short sighted budget cuts. Having seen the anger/astonishment and subsequent resolve of pupils/parents who have 'found out' what's happening, I believe that once people become aware of exactly what the council are trying to push through 'on the quiet', a great number will fully back you in campaigning for the proposals to be dropped.

Please do everything possible within your position to oppose these cuts.

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-----Original Message-----

From: intraspin.com

To: Alexander W (Wendy), MSP

Sent: Fri Feb 20 14:05:31 2009

Subject: Website Footer Form Submission

Message:

I work for Renfrewshire Instrumental music service and am alarmed at the news of the proposed cuts (which I found out through the media and union emails NOT the council itself).

The loss of 7 instructors would effectively decimate the service provided: one half hour's lesson per fortnight, which parents are already paying for, would signal the end of any meaningful instrumental provision in the authority. Many parents will feel obliged to seek private tuition - those who cannot afford this will yet again be marginalised and denied access to the undoubted benefits that music tuition can provide. I am a professional musician whose own pathway into a career came through a Local Authority instructor - my own family could not have afforded private tuition - and I am profoundly depressed that Renfrewshire council does not seem to attach any significant value to its own service.

From my own perspective, this is my major source of income which is under threat, and would be grateful for your continued raising of awareness of the actual impact of these proposals.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: intraspin.com

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 9:53 AM

To: Alexander W (Wendy), MSP

Subject: Website Footer Form Submission

Message:

Dear Wendy, I am not a constituent but I am contacting you regarding the cuts in music tuition that will affect the whole of Renfrewshire.

In the paper Derek Mackay claims there will be no compulsory redundancies but that is not the information going around schools or being passed on via the music instructors themselves. My daughter has been told that these tutors will effectively be sacked as they do not have the same conditions as teaching staff. I believe 7 out of 16 tutors are to go. Clearly this will result in the weekly lessons being cut and consequently the children having little chance to progress.

I'd be very grateful if you could find out if these facts are true and if you feel it's appropriate that you help fight these cuts. I am a teacher within Renfrewshire so would be grateful if you do not pass my name on.

Many thanks.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** \*\*\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2009 2:45 PM

**To:** Alexander W (Wendy), MSP

**Subject:** Cuts to school music tuition.

Hi

I have just read the proposed cuts to music tuition in the Paisley Express. I received music tuition from primary 5 right through to 6th year in high school. I am now 22 and currently in the process of joining the army as a musician. When I was at school there would have been no possibility of my parents paying for private lessons as both my brother and myself played a number of instruments.

The music lessons do not only provide excellent music tuition but develop confidence through playing with other students and in concerts. They also give students focus and determination to improve. Cutting lessons to once a fortnight will reduce the standards of many students playing especially in the early years when you set the routine for practice.

Just to let you know that there are a good few ex-students out there who have benefited from the lessons and that they will support you 100% on this.

Thanks