

PE1694/F

North Ayrshire Council submission of 9 October 2018

North Ayrshire Council submission of 9 October 2-18

North Ayrshire Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Public Petitions Committee regarding Petition PE1694, *“Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to change the law to ensure that musical instrument tuition is available as of right to all children attending state schools in Scotland who wish it, free of charge.”*

The drop - out rate of children having instrumental music tuition in the past 2 years.

In North Ayrshire:

In years 16/17 the drop - out rate was 21%. This was for a variety of reasons but not as a result of charges as we did not have an increase in charges that year.

In years 17/18 the drop – out rate was 14%. Again for a variety of reasons but not as a result of charges as again we did not have an increase in charges.

The projected drop – out rate for this year if charges for instrumental music tuition continue to increase as they have done in recent years.

North Ayrshire increased charges from £180 to £198 for individual children. For siblings the rate is £99 per child. In S4 –S6 all pupils undertaking music at SQA certificate level receive tuition free of charge as do all pupils on FME.

Taking this into account and the drop – out rate in the past 2 years we would predict a rate of 17% of young people to drop – out of tuition. North Ayrshire Council works closely with families to ensure that any increases in charges do not impact on the young people receiving tuition.

Is there a particular reason that instrumental music tuition is not being regarded as a core subject?

Music is taught in all our schools as a core subject. Instrumental music tuition is a very valued addition to our core music and supports young people to develop their skills to the highest level.

The Council hopes the above information is of assistance to the Committee.