

Cuts to Instrumental Music Services across Scotland

Examples of cuts and charges across Scotland:

We understand that:

- There are **nearly 250 fewer music instructors** working in schools now than there were in 2007 (the number has declined from 1043 to 795)¹
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, in current budget proposals, is considering redesigning the Instrumental Music Service to adopt a 'communities model', which would see drastic cuts to the service of over £1 million in a three year period
- West Lothian Council introduced charges (£354 per annum) in 2018/19 and in addition, has seen a reduction in staffing of 3.47FTE
- Falkirk Council has indicated that it will make savings of £29 million from the Education budget over the next five years, with proposals to cut 2 FTE from Instrumental Services
- Midlothian Council re-introduced charging in 2018/19 (now £215.34 per annum); cut funding for successful Thursday and Friday Night Music Projects; and made cuts through the non-renewal of temporary contracts or through reduction in teaching hours
- East Lothian Council has introduced charges for instrumental music in 2018/19 (£280 per annum)
- West Dunbartonshire introduced an instrument hire charge in 2018/19 and this is currently £100
- South Ayrshire Council introduced a charge of £200 per annum from August 2018 for children and young people who receive instruction from the IM service
- Highland Council transferred Instrumental Music Services to High Life Highland (an Arms Length External Body) with the aim of making an annual saving of £80,000, and an overall saving over five years of £670,000 – essentially a cut of nearly £700,000

Charging for Instrumental Music Teaching: 'who pays, plays'

Key facts:

- Ten local authorities increased fees in 2019/20, with increases in excess of inflation. Increases to the cost of a group lesson ranged from 2.6% (Inverclyde) to 30% (East Dunbartonshire)
- Among local authorities that charge for tuition, the average fee for group lessons in 2018/19, **£237 per pupil**, per year, increased by approximately 2.6% on 2017/18 fees; this follows an increase of 4.7% the previous year
- Four music services charge an additional fee (from **£30 to £100 per year**) for hiring an instrument
- Application of concessionary rates varies widely, from a low of 10% of pupils in Perth and Kinross, to 51% in South Lanarkshire. The average

¹ Teacher census: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/teachcensuppdata>

proportion of pupils receiving a concession is 32.4%. The criteria used vary substantially

- Since 2017/18, the number of pupils receiving instrumental music lessons has dropped by 2,830 or 5%. This is the second consecutive year of the survey in which a decrease in pupil numbers has been recorded
- Across Scotland, 18 local authorities reported a reduction in pupil numbers between 2017/18 and 2018/19. Local authorities highlighted increased charges and a reduction in teaching capacity due to financial constraints as a reason for this.²

² Improvement Service: https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/10715/ims-survey-report-2019.pdf