

1.

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 07 February 2023 17:15
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Subject: Urgent support for Sistema Scotland

Dear Penelope

I hope you are well, and I am so sorry to be writing under such difficult circumstances.

As you may have seen today, Benny Higgins and I have written the permanent secretary and the Deputy First Minister today asking for some urgent advice and support for the organisation.

I am afraid to say that even since we that letter was issued the situation has worsened, with a second local authority telling us today they have put to their elected members an option to withdraw all funding for Big Noise in their local authority.

These two authorities combined contribute over £1 million pounds of financial support for Sistema Scotland.

We are continuing to highlight the devastating impact this would have on children and young people in those communities, areas of multiple deprivation with many families falling into the six priority family groups.

I am writing to ask for your help in this matter.

I was hoping that you could support us with firstly, any acceleration possible to confirm our baseline funding from the culture department for our work. And secondly, support and energy from you and your team to make the case across other Scottish Government departments for the uplift in funding we have requested.

The independent evaluation of our work has consistently proven that Big Noise programmes deliver across multiple National Performance Framework Outcomes, our work is focused on preventative approaches, place based, targeted to support those most in need, and supporting the delivery of the child poverty action plan.

The children and young people will need us even more in the coming year, as services are decimated around them. We are asking for your help to ensure we can continue to provide that to those young people who need it most.

I look forward to hearing from you

Nicola

Nicola Killean OBE
CEO
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No: SC039119

2.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of
Permanent Secretary
Sent: 13 February 2023 11:50
To: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Letter from Benny Higgins & Nicola Killean, Sistema
Scotland

Hi Nicola and Benny

Many thanks for passing on this letter. The Deputy First Minister has agreed to reply on behalf of SG, and the Permanent Secretary has read the letter and understands the concerns raised. I can advise that a response will be issued to your letter shortly.

JP passes on his best wishes.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Private Secretary to The Permanent Secretary
The Scottish Government

PermanentSecretary@gov.scot

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

3.

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 15 February 2023 12:58
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>
Cc: bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

<CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW)
<Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>
Subject: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Good afternoon

Following on from the front page article about Big Noise Douglas published by the
Courier today, please find attached a copy of the press release issued by Sistema
Scotland.

Yours sincerely
Nicola

Nicola Killean OBE

CEO
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No: SC039119

4.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 February 2023 08:21
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] gov.scot>;
Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland funding analysis

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],
Many thanks for sending this so promptly.
It will be most helpful in allowing us to provide a more complete picture.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

5.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 09 February 2023 19:03
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Nicola.killeen@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema Scotland funding analysis

Dear Penelope

Following your meeting with Nicola this morning, please find attached analysis of Sistema Scotland's funding portfolio. The attached spreadsheet includes details of our last full financial year (2021/22) with a summary of expenditure and income split by the different Big Noise programmes, together with similar information for the current and next years based on budget expenditure and funding committed to date.

In headline terms, our funding strategy has always been to build long-term partnerships of public and private sector funding to match the generational nature of the Big Noise programmes, and you will see from the attachment that each year we secure significant private sector investment.

I hope the information is clear but of course I would welcome any queries or feedback from you or your colleagues.

Best wishes,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Head of Fundraising & Governance
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>

Scottish Charity No: SC039119

6.

Income & Expenditure by Big Noise Centre 2021/22

[illegible]

ANNEX A

Total Expenditure 2021-22	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Funded By:							
Scottish Government	1100	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Local Authority Partners	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Other Public Sector	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Trusts, Foundations & Lotteries	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Corporates	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Individuals, Legacies & Other income	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Funding	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

**Funding shown as % of
Expenditure:**

Scottish Government	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Local Authority Partners	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Other Public Sector	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Trusts, Foundations & Lotteries	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Corporates	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Individuals, Legacies & Other income	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Funding		100%

Notes:

1. Sistema Scotland's financial year runs from 1st Jul - 30th Jun
2. The analysis above excludes Gifts in Kind
3. The figures above will differ from those shown in the Statutory Annual Accounts due to Gifts in Kind and adjustments for Restricted Funds either brought forward from prior years or carried forward for use against future years.

Income & Expenditure Projections 2022-23 & 2023-24

[illegible]

ANNEX A

			[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Governance Costs								
			[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Total Expenditure Forecast 2022-23								
Committed Funding To Date								
				[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Scottish Government		1100						
			[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Local Authority Partners								
			[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Other Public Sector								
			[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Trusts, Foundations & Lotteries								
			[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Corporates								

ANNEX A

Individuals, Legacies & Other income	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	
Committed Funding							
Net adjustment for restricted funds*		287					
Current Funding Gap		[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]					
Expenditure Budget 2023-24		Big Noise Centre					
	Total 2023/24	Central Team	Raploch & Fallin	Govanhill	Torry	Douglas	Wester Hailes
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staff & Freelance Costs	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Direct Programme Costs							

	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Fundraising, Marketing & Evaluation						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Development & Training						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Other Overheads						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Governance Costs						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Total Expenditure Budget 2023-24						
Committed Funding To Date						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Scottish Government						

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Local Authority Partners	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Other Public Sector	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Trusts, Foundations & Lotteries	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Corporates	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Individuals, Legacies & Other income	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Committed Funding	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]					
Net adjustment for restricted funds*						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]					
Current Funding Gap						
Potential Income						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Scottish Government						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Local Authority Partners						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Other Public Sector						
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Trusts, Foundations & Lotteries						

ANNEX A

Corporates	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Individuals, Legacies & Other income	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Total Potential Income	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Participant Projections 2023-24	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

2023/24 Notes:

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

3. Potential income reflects applications already submitted/invited and includes limited commitments from local authority partners even where commitments have been made

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

* This is a net adjustment for Restricted Funds either brought forward from prior years or carried forward for use against future years

7.

From: Nicola Killean
Sent: 07 February 2023 13:24
To: DFMCSOCR@gov.scot <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>
Cc: bernardfranklinhiggins <bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com>;
CabSecCEAC@gov.scot <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot
<cabsecSJHLG@gov.scot>; CabSecES@gov.scot <CabSecES@gov.scot>;
MinisterCEID@gov.scot <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; PermanentSecretary@gov.scot
<PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
@gov.scot <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
@gov.scot>; Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot
<Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>
Subject: URGENT: Letter from Benny Higgins & Nicola Killean, Sistema Scotland

Dear Deputy First Minister

I attach a letter following on from our earlier correspondence on the funding position
for Sistema Scotland 2023- 24.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Nicola

Nicola Killean OBE
CEO
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No: SC039119

8.

27th February 2023
John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Your Reference: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Our Reference: Sistema Scotland

Dear Deputy First Minister

Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

We are writing to follow up our letter of 8th February, following the passing of the Scottish Budget last week and Dundee City Council's decision on its budget. Following our last letter, the funding situation at local authority level has become catastrophic for the programme and for the children and families in some of the most deprived communities in Scotland.

On 23rd February, Dundee City Council voted to cut all of our funding and we are deeply concerned about Aberdeen following a similar route. We are simply unable to operate without central and local funding support, and we are appealing to you to find additional funding to allow us to keep our doors open to children and their families in SIMD1 areas in Dundee and Aberdeen.

We noted with enthusiasm the commitment you made to the Scottish Parliament last week that your budget was anchored in your determination to end child poverty and to deliver for the people in the most need. Sistema Scotland is a key partner in this ambition and have previously shared how our programme is aligned to the Scottish Government's child poverty priorities and how we are delivering for priority groups. We also noted the additional £125m made available to the Scottish Government last week, and that you have committed £100m of that to local authority budgets, as well as a £6.6m uplift to Creative Scotland. Your comments about the positive impact the arts have on wellbeing are welcome.

As you know, our work exists to tackle child poverty, support hard-pressed communities and close the poverty-related attainment gap. Although we use music as a vehicle, our objective is to support the six priority family groups identified by the Scottish Government's child poverty action plan. Our programmes, in Raploch and Fallin, Govanhill, Torry and Douglas and Wester Hailes, assist those in the greatest need through the power of music, mentoring and teamwork for children, supporting parents with free childcare and free healthy snacks and meals.

We would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to comments from [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], chair of Education, Inclusion and Life Transitions the University of Dundee, which were published in The Courier last week. She said Big Noise had an important impact in the most disadvantaged areas; lays the foundations for educational attainment by improving children and young people's confidence, emotional wellbeing, and social skills; and increases community cohesion.

Thank you for your letter dated 23rd of February which expressed how highly valued the work is, and explained that officials in Scottish Government are working cross-portfolio to explain how our work delivers on a number of high-priority Scottish Government priorities.

The perilous situation now facing Sistema at local authority level is the worst possible news at the worst possible time. In Dundee, our funding has been

withdrawn, leaving the community, who made a heartfelt deputation to the budget meeting, in significant distress and uncertainty.

We have providing respectful and empowering support to children and their families in Douglas, Torry and beyond for many years– improving their confidence and mental health and wellbeing, and helping young people reach their full potential. It is essential this work is maintained long term for the full benefit to be realised for the communities.

We are still waiting for confirmation that our core, baseline funding will be met by the culture budget, but we continue to appeal to you and relevant Ministers to look with urgency across the portfolios to see whether additional funding can be found which can meet our request and help tackle the significant cuts we are facing at a local level?

We have enclosed further information which we have sent to the Culture Director about the reduction in our funding, our funding ask to the Scottish Government and how an uplift in central funding would enable the programme to continue at this critical time for children facing some of the most challenging circumstances in the cost of living crisis.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Benny Higgins Nicola Killean OBE
Chair Chief Executive Officer
Sistema Scotland Sistema Scotland

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

9.

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Sent: 27 February 2023 11:33

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gmail.com>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW)
<Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>
Subject: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Dear Deputy First Minister

Please find attached urgent correspondence following on from the passing of the Scottish Budget last week and Dundee City Council's decision on its budget. I also enclose further detailed information which was provided to officials on 16 February, before Dundee City Council's decision to end funding.

Yours sincerely
Nicola Killean

Nicola Killean OBE CEO
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>

Scottish Charity No: SC039119

10.

7th February 2023
JP Marks
Permanent Secretary
Scottish Government
St Andrews House, Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Dear Permanent Secretary

Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

We are writing urgently to discuss the future funding of Big Noise, Sistema Scotland's flagship programmes to tackle child poverty and support attainment in communities with the greatest need.

Sistema Scotland has had excellent correspondence with the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary. We were looking forward to seeing you and your team recently but understand that plans needed to change at the last minute, we do hope we can facilitate another visit soon.

Regarding the budget, we have grown increasingly concerned that our central funding request from Scottish Government is not going to be met. This, coupled with

major cuts in funding at local authority level, could have catastrophic consequences for the Big Noise programmes, leaving communities we support deeply concerned about the impact this will have on priority families at this extraordinarily difficult time. As you may be aware, Big Noise exists to help children in some of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. Our programmes, in Raploch and Fallin, Govanhill, Torry and Douglas and Wester Hailes, support those in the greatest need, including the six priority family groups identified in the child poverty action plan, through the power of music, mentoring and teamwork for children, supporting parents with free childcare and free healthy snacks and meals.

Our work has been rigorously evaluated to show the life changing impact on participants, helping to close the attainment gap, tackle deprivation and inequality of opportunity, and to remove the barriers parents face in seeking work and training. Now, more than ever, we need to be there for our communities who rely on us for support.

Sistema Scotland has been a partner in the work the Scottish Government is undertaking to eliminate child poverty. We understand that the Scottish Government is acutely aware of the extraordinary external pressures on families and are committed to protect the most vulnerable.

We also recognise the considerable financial and budgetary pressures facing both the Scottish Government and local authorities. However, we do know that Sistema Scotland's delivery of services to target groups is essential at this time, both for the families who rely on us, and to assist the Scottish Government to meet its child poverty targets.

Having listened carefully to feedback from ministers and officials, we believe we could operate on the basis that the Scottish Government provided us with £2.3 million towards an anticipated budget of £5.9 million. We understand that our previous core funding from Scottish Government of £1.1 million has come from the culture department, therefore respectfully requested the Scottish Government to consider whether some additional funding would be available from child poverty funding, the education and wider community and family impact portfolios. We know the evaluation evidence is clear that Sistema Scotland delivers across multiple national performance outcomes, and key priorities for the Scottish Government. As we face increasing pressure from local authorities reducing their support for the organisation, a positive response from Scottish Government would allow us to steady the organisation, and minimise the anxiety and worry in communities that there is a risk to this vital service. We would appreciate further conversations around this, and are available to support with any additional information required. We are writing separately to the Deputy First Minister and relevant Ministers and will ensure you have sight of these.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Benny Higgins Nicola Killeen OBE

Chair Chief Executive Officer
Sistema Scotland Sistema Scotland
Cc: Penelope Cooper

11.

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 07 February 2023 13:12
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; bernardfranklinhiggins
<bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com>
Subject: URGENT: Letter from Benny Higgins & Nicola Killean, Sistema Scotland

Dear Permanent Secretary

I attach a letter regarding our concerns for the future funding position of the Big Noise programmes.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Nicola

Nicola Killean OBE
CEO
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No: SC039119

12.

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 27 February 2023 11:33
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>
Cc: bernardfranklinhiggins <bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com>; Cabinet Secretary
for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet
Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
<CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW)
<Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>
Subject: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Dear Deputy First Minister

Please find attached urgent correspondence following on from the passing of the Scottish Budget last week and Dundee City Council's decision on its budget. I also enclose further detailed information which was provided to officials on 16 February, before Dundee City Council's decision to end funding.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Killean

Nicola Killean OBE

CEO

Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>

<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>

Scottish Charity No: SC039119

13.

John Swinney MSP

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Dear Deputy First Minister

Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Thank you for your letter of 8 December 2022 regarding Scottish Government funding for Sistema Scotland for 2023/2024.

We welcome your support for the programme both in your letter and in subsequent communication. However, as matters have developed nationally and locally on the budget process, we are seeking further assurances and help from you about Sistema Scotland's funding position.

We have grown increasingly concerned that our central funding request from Scottish Government may not be met. This, coupled with major cuts in funding at local authority level, could have catastrophic consequences for the Big Noise

programmes, and for the support we provide to the most vulnerable children and communities in Scotland.

Our work exists to tackle child poverty, support hard-pressed communities and close the poverty-related attainment gap. We noted your comments about our work to widen access to culture, and although we use music as a vehicle, our objective is to guarantee support the six priority family groups identified by the Scottish Government's child poverty action plan. We would welcome your support to ensure this message is clear across the Scottish Government.

Our programmes, in Raploch and Fallin, Govanhill, Torry and Douglas and Wester Hailes, assist those in the greatest need through the power of music, mentoring and teamwork for children, supporting parents with free childcare and free healthy snacks and meals.

Rigorous evaluation shows we are making a marked impact in improving outcomes in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. This includes helping to close the attainment gap, tackle deprivation and inequality of opportunity, and to remove the barriers parents face in seeking work and training. Now, more than ever, we need to be there for our communities who rely on us for support.

As an example, Big Noise musicians are trained in a range of approaches that support the wider needs of the child and young person, including positive behaviour management, trauma informed practice, adverse childhood experiences, attachment theory and parental engagement.

While we understand the huge financial pressures facing the Scottish Government and local authorities, we wanted to ensure it is clear we are facing an unprecedented crisis as all local authority areas look to reduce their funding support for Sistema Scotland. One local authority is considering a complete withdrawal of investment due to budgetary challenges, despite the evidence that this work is making a positive impact on children, family and community outcomes.

We are waiting for confirmation that our core, baseline funding will be met by the culture budget (still to be confirmed), but we appeal to you and relevant Ministers to look across the portfolios (including child poverty, attainment and mental health) to see whether additional funding can be found which can meet our request and help tackle the significant cuts we are facing at a local level.

As we face increasing pressure from local authorities reducing their investment in the organisation, a positive response from Scottish Government would allow us to steady the organisation, and minimise the anxiety and worry in communities that there is a risk to this vital service.

As a reminder, we have respectfully requested £2.3 million pounds from Scottish Government, and we would continue to use this to leverage in an additional £3.6 million pounds of investment from private and public sources, it would sustain 177 jobs, 50 volunteering opportunities and most importantly allow us to support 3800 children and young people in some of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely

Benny Higgins Nicola Killean OBE

Chair Chief Executive Officer Sistema Scotland Sistema Scotland

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Permanent Secretary, Scottish Government

Director of Culture and Major Events (Penelope Cooper)

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Deputy Director, Tackling Child Poverty & Financial Wellbeing (Julie Humphries)

14.

Benny Higgins, Chair

Nicola Killean, Chief Executive Officer

Sistema Scotland

bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com

nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk

Your ref: Scottish Budget

Our ref: 202300345057

3 March 2023

Dear Benny and Nicola,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February, highlighting the challenges presented by cuts at local authority level. In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand local authorities have had to make difficult choices to balance their budgets. The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema do; providing opportunities to children and families across Scotland and recognises the severity of your situation. I have been deeply concerned about the ongoing challenges you are facing, and so, I write to confirm that the First Minister and I will ensure that you get the funding you need, which I understand is around £1.5million. Culture Officials will work closely with you to agree the details. Thank you for all of the work you continue to do across Scotland and best assured of our ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN SWINNEY

15.

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 07 February 2023 13:24
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gmail.com>; Cabinet Secretary for
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet
Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
<CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW)
<Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>
Subject: URGENT: Letter from [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Sistema
Scotland

Dear Deputy First Minister

I attach a letter following on from our earlier correspondence on the funding position
for Sistema Scotland 2023- 24.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Nicola

Nicola Killean OBE
CEO
Sistema Scotland
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>
<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No: SC039119

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk

16.

Our Reference: 202300342614
Your Reference: Sistema Scotland

23 February 2023

Dear Benny & Nicola,

Thank you for your emails of 7 February to myself and colleagues, seeking assurances for future Scottish Government funding for Sistema Scotland, in light of proposed cuts at local authority level.

Firstly, I wish to extend my thanks to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] for a helpful conversation last week, which outlined the severity of the situation. I know you have subsequently also met with my officials.

We understand and are deeply concerned by the challenges you are currently facing. As you will know, we are not currently in a position to confirm Sistema Scotland's budget allocation for 2023/24, as individual budget lines have not yet been agreed, but we are working at pace to confirm this, and my officials will keep in close contact with you as this progresses.

The work you are doing in local authorities across Scotland is highly valued, and I want to reassure you that Culture officials are working to make connections across other Scottish Government portfolios, to highlight your ability to deliver on a range of high-priority government objectives. In parallel, I am sure you will work with my officials to provide any additional information they require in order to progress these discussions.

I will ensure that I am kept updated with progress.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN SWINNEY

17.

From Nicola Killean nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk
To [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Julie Humphreys
Cc [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@quantumcommunications.co.uk>
1 March 2023

Dear Julie and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I hope you are both well.

I am sure you will have heard the devastating news that the worst has now happened.

Today Aberdeen withdrew its support for our work completely.
We are still processing what happened today.

We will be issuing a briefing paper in the coming days to ensure that the facts regarding the rigorous independent evaluation that is in place, and where we are at in that process for each centre is clear.

We want to keep our promise to Douglas and Torry, two of Scotland's poorest communities, however we will be looking to Scottish Government with urgency now to support us with this.

Can we meet in the coming days?

Many thanks

Nicola

18.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: 03 February 2023 11:53

To: Nicola Killean <Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Subject: Quick follow up - contact details

Hi Nicola,

Thanks for your time this morning.

I'll be in touch as soon as I can with the timeline for confirming 2023-24 budget lines so you have a date to work with. I've asked finance colleagues for urgent advice.

In the meantime, I wanted to be sure you have the latest contact details for our Director (Penelope Cooper) and the various Ministerial offices we mentioned – you may have these already, but if not, hopefully this will help speed up the process:

- Director of Culture and Major Events Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot;
- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery DFMCSCR@gov.scot;
- Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture CabSecCEAC@gov.scot;
- Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine MinisterCEID@gov.scot;
- Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills CabSecES@gov.scot

These go direct to Ministerial Private Offices and if you flag as urgent, will be treated as such.

Thanks again,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture & Historic Environment Division, Scottish Government

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |

Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

19.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 22 February 2023 17:32
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Nicola Killean <Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Sistema Scotland funding analysis

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for your email. Just coming back on your two questions:

Jobs

Just to note firstly that the organisation supports 177 jobs by headcount (I think there was just a typo in your email which stated 117) and this equates to 113 FTE roles. As you suggest, the staffing roles are primarily the inspirational musicians who deliver the Big Noise programmes, working with the children and young people each day. Of the 113 FTE roles, 70 FTE roles are musicians (Senior Musicians, Curriculum Leaders, Musicians and Support Musicians). A further 25 FTE roles relate directly to the delivery of the Big Noise programmes including Support Workers (who provide additional support in the Big Noise sessions ensuring they are fully inclusive), Operations Managers and Administrators (who ensure the safe and effective running of the programmes) and Heads of Centre (who lead each of the Big Noise programmes and are also professional musicians by background). The balance of roles are the support functions including the Chief Executive and Director of Music, HR, Finance, Communications, Evaluation and Fundraising.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are recruited from a diverse range of places which includes the local community, universities, schools, and third sector organisations such as Forth Valley Welcome. Volunteers are a positive role model for children and young people and someone they look forward to spending time with. In line with the ethos of the Big Noise programme which is built on relationships, the volunteers befriend and form strong relationships with the young people. Volunteers also help with a wide range of activities which include collecting children from school in our walking lines, getting ready and distributing snacks, set-up and tidy up of rooms, and helping the children and young people to participate in the sessions. Through their experience of volunteering, volunteers have found employment both with external organisation and with Sistema Scotland (as Support Musicians, Musicians, and Administrators). Volunteers also benefit from their volunteering by gaining the skills and experience necessary to be accepted onto courses such as teaching. Volunteering has supported people with their mental health and with feeling more integrated within their community. We have provided a few quotes from our volunteers below:

"It's thanks to Big Noise that I am pursuing a career in teaching!"

"It's amazing to have got through the application process, and it's shown me just how far I've come. I was able to talk about my experience of Big Noise on my interview."

“Volunteering at Big Noise has helped improved my English. I can talk to the students, musicians and other staff and it’s made my English improve. One thing more important than my English is that I now don’t feel different.”

“Being able to talk about Big Noise at job interviews, I could give examples of what I’d done...it was definitely a good help.”

Just to give one example, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] was a participant in Big Noise Raploch in the initial years of the programme, returned more recently as a volunteer and is now working for the organisation as Administrator in Big Noise Raploch. [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please just let me know if you have any further questions, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Head of Fundraising & Governance
Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>

<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>

Scottish Charity No: SC039119

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: 21 February 2023 16:54

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot Nicola Killean

<Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland funding analysis

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Sistema Scotland. Please exercise caution when responding, opening attachments and clicking links.

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thank you very much for this.

Can I just quickly check two points of detail:

1. Do you have a sentence on the make-up of the 117 / 113 FTE jobs – e.g. are they mostly teaching posts?
2. A little more background on the 50 volunteers would be helpful – e.g. are there any examples of these volunteering opportunities helping people progress to paid posts?

Just a sentence on each is fine – for our own understanding internally.

Thank you very much in advance and let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Sent: 16 February 2023 19:06

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; Nicola Killean <Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Subject: Re: Sistema Scotland funding analysis

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks again to you and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

for your time on Tuesday. Please find attached a document in which we have tried to answer your questions.

I'm aware things are moving quickly so was keen to get this to you as soon as possible. I think I have structured it along the lines we discussed. Please do offer any feedback if you feel there are areas that could be clearer or if you have any queries.

Thanks and best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

]Head of Fundraising & Governance

Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>

<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>

Scottish Charity No: SC039119

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 February 2023 16:07

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Nicola Killean <Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland funding analysis

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Sistema Scotland. Please exercise caution when responding, opening attachments and clicking links.

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Many thanks for submitting this information, and for the very useful discussion last week. I know [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] our Director, really appreciated getting the chance to have a conversation with [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] as well.

I know you flagged some challenges in breaking down your budget lines in more detail, so I'd be happy to discuss any of the following with you.

Essentially, it would be really helpful to have a bit more information specifically relating to the requested uplift from the Scottish Government – you have previously asked for your allocation to be increased from 2022-23 levels (£1.1m) to £2.3m. In order for us to carry out a robust assessment of this, we need to know more details on how the additional £1.2m would be spent. For example, what would the split of the funding be, how would it be distributed across programmes and core costs, and what main objectives would the uplift achieve?

As we have previously set out, the financial picture across Government remains extremely challenging, but any additional information you can give us will allow us to continue exploring options and pre-empt questions from other policy areas and Ministers.

Welcome this information this week if possible, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

20.

Sistema Scotland
Scottish Government Supplementary Information 2023/24



Executive Summary

- Sistema Scotland has requested increased Scottish Government investment of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] in 2023/24 (up from £1.1m in the current year) towards a total organisational budget of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)].
- Sistema Scotland's Big Noise programmes are facing a catastrophic loss of investment [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]
- Increased Scottish Government investment is essential to sustain the Big Noise programmes in Torry and Douglas.
- Scottish Government investment of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] will support 3,800 children and young people living in six of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities to benefit from Big Noise, sustain 177 highly-skilled jobs and leverage [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] in additional investment from other funders.
- The Big Noise programmes have been subject to extensive independent evaluation, are evidence-based and support key Scottish Government priorities including the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan (working with the six priority family groups) and closing the poverty-related education attainment gap by working in targeted areas of greatest deprivation.
- This paper sets out how the additional Scottish Government funding would be allocated and is supported by a detailed breakdown of Sistema Scotland budgets and programme expenditure which has been provided previously.

Context

In autumn 2019, Sistema Scotland submitted to the Scottish Government an investment proposal for a new four-year partnership from 2020/21 to 2023/24. This proposed increased Scottish Government investment in the Big Noise programmes of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] per year (the request at that time for 2023/24 being [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]) and over successive years we have worked with colleagues across Scottish Government [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]. In making this request, we recognised the significant contribution the Big Noise programmes make to the National Performance Framework, national policies such as tackling child poverty and other key government priorities. We were also seeking to rebalance the level of local authority investment (mindful of the risks to council finance) while still leveraging significant funding from the private sector each year.

In that four-year partnership proposal (which was refreshed in 2021) we set out plans to sustain and continue to [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]. Through the pandemic-hit years since early 2020, we continued vital support to the Big Noise

children, families and communities, and we are delivering on all of the plans we set out.

We are extremely grateful that Scottish Government investment in the Big Noise programmes increased to £1.1m from 2021/22. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)] We have delivered on our plans thanks to this Scottish Government investment and because we have managed, over these years, to sustain local authority investment at the levels committed and also secure substantial private sector funding.

We are increasingly concerned that 2023/24 will be the year in which extreme budgetary pressure leads several of our local authority partners significantly to reduce or even withdraw their investment with catastrophic consequences for the Big Noise communities.

Scottish Government Proposal 2023/24

Recognising the extremely challenging financial picture across Scottish Government, we have requested investment of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] in 2023/24 ([redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] lower than originally requested for this year).

In summary, this level of investment would enable us to:

- Increase the number of children and young people who benefit from Big Noise to 3,800 across six of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities and sustain their immersive engagement of up to eight hours weekly.
- Sustain 177 (113 FTE) highly-skilled jobs and around 50 volunteering opportunities.
- Leverage a further [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] of additional investment from other funders to sustain the work of the organisation.

This investment will also enable us to deliver on key Scottish Government priority areas including the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan (working with the six priority family groups) and closing the poverty-related education attainment gap through making a life-changing impact on children, families and communities in targeted areas of greatest deprivation including:

- Delivering improved outcomes on post-school destinations for Big Noise participants as evidenced by the most recent independent evaluation.
- Providing more than 5,500 healthy snacks and meals to children and young people in our most disadvantaged communities each month during school term and the school holidays.
- Providing fun and inspiring activities that promote wellbeing, protect against stress in other environments and provide a positive diversion away from health damaging and anti-social behaviours.
- Providing additional after-school care in the communities, which has been shown to provide support for adults seeking work or training, and respite for carers.

The requested investment of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] represents an increase of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] on the current year grant of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)] [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]. The budget is also subject to **significant inflationary pressure** – for example, the budget is currently based on a cost of living salary increase of 4% (5.5% for staff on lower salary scales) which is significantly below the rate of inflation. Taken together, these factors would require us to secure additional funding of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

Scenario 1 – Full Local Authority reductions

We currently do not know the outcome of budget decisions to be made by our local authority partners. [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

In this scenario, the proposed increase in Scottish Government investment in 2023/24 would be used primarily to support Big Noise Torry and Big Noise Douglas (together with a smaller increase in contribution towards Big Noise Raploch and Fallin). [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)] and it would be necessary to review the service provision, identify savings and secure additional funding from other sources.

Allocating the additional funding in this way would:

Big Noise Torry

- Support 750 children and young people in the Torry community.
- Continue to offer enhanced support for identified priority children and families in the Torry community, including care experienced children and young people.
- Support 33 highly-skilled jobs and 8 volunteering opportunities in Torry (and Aberdeen).
- Provide more than 900 healthy snacks and meals to children and young people in Torry each month.

Big Noise Douglas

- Support 550 children and young people in the Douglas community.
- Continue to offer enhanced support for identified priority children and families in the Douglas community, including deaf children and care experienced children and young people.
- Support 21 jobs and 8 volunteering opportunities in Douglas (and Dundee)
- Provide more than 550 healthy snacks and meals to children and young people in Douglas each month.

In both cases, the investment would provide additional after-school care in the communities, which has been shown to provide support for adults seeking work or training, and respite for carers. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)].

Scenario 2 – Partial Local Authority reductions

This scenario is based on a potential best case outcome with local authority partners and continues to demonstrate the urgent need for increased Scottish Government investment. [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

In this scenario, the proposed increase in Scottish Government investment in 2023/24 would again provide significant additional support for Big Noise Torry and Big Noise Douglas (in this case, weighted towards Big Noise Douglas), contributing to the outcomes listed in the first scenario above.

In addition, the increased investment in 2023/24 would also support delivery of plans across the growing organisation. These are reflected in the projected budget increases of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] in the coming year and are also subject to **significant inflationary pressures**. These plans include:

- Increasing the number of children and young people benefiting from Big Noise by around 10% to 3,800 across six of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.
- Further developing the Big Noise programmes:
 - Big Noise Raploch will continue to deliver the full programme pathway from birth to adulthood, focusing on additional leadership strands for the oldest participants which have now been shown by independent evaluation to increase the likelihood of young people achieving a positive post-school destination.
 - Big Noise Govanhill's oldest participants will reach Secondary 6 age and our second Big Noise programme will have completed the full programme model.
 - Big Noise Torry will welcome a new year-group of children and the oldest participants will be of Secondary 4 age as the programme relocates into its new home in Torry Community Hub.
 - Big Noise Douglas will support a second year-group of young people to make the important transition to secondary school and will continue its pioneering work with Deaf children from across Dundee.
 - Big Noise Torry and Big Noise Douglas will prepare to introduce woodwind and brass strands to the programmes, completing the range of instruments and engaging new children in the benefits of Big Noise.
 - Our innovative brass-based programme Big Noise Fallin will support the oldest participants to transition to secondary school while remaining engaged with Big Noise, and the programme will work with children from Primary 5 to Secondary 1 age.
 - Big Noise Wester Hailes will mark its second full year, working with children from babies and toddlers, nursery children, the initial years of primary school during the daytime and children of Primary 3-4 age in the after-school and school holiday clubs.
- Developing and strengthening our approach to youth and community voice, embodying the principles set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Providing more than 5,500 healthy snacks and meals to children and young people in our most disadvantaged communities each month during school term and the school holidays.
- Providing fun and inspiring activities that promote wellbeing, protect against stress in other environments and provide a positive diversion away from health damaging and anti-social behaviours.
- Providing additional after-school care in the communities, which has been shown to provide support for adults seeking work or training, and respite for carers.

- Continuing to develop partnerships to share learning and maximise the impact of the organisation.
- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Contribution to Scottish Government Outcomes

In our investment application for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (submitted in October 2021) we provided detailed analysis and evidence of how investment in Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise programmes supports key Scottish Government outcomes including:

- National Performance Framework
- Programme for Government
- Covid Recovery Strategy
- Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan
- Culture Strategy for Scotland

We are happy to provide full details of this again if helpful.

In summary, independent evaluation demonstrates that our Big Noise programmes support children, young people and families in some of our most disadvantaged communities to achieve a broad range of positive outcomes which are aligned with these national policy priorities.

We are playing an important role in helping to build the new future to which the Scottish Government aspires; equipping our young people with the skills, resilience, creativity and aspiration to thrive in a changed labour market; channelling kindness and compassion as we work to promote the wellbeing of young people and families and to strengthen communities; and acting as a beacon of innovation and flexibility to inform reform across the public and third sectors.

Long-term, longitudinal evaluation being led independently by Glasgow Centre for Population Health shows that Big Noise significantly enhances participants' lives, prospects, health and wellbeing through a variety of identified pathways in the long term:

- increased confidence, discipline, pride and aspiration;
- improved team-working, communication and leadership;
- enhanced academic skills including listening, concentration and creativity;
- increased resilience, happiness, sense of belonging and fulfilment, supporting emotional wellbeing;
- strong musical skills development;
- uptake of physical activity and healthy eating, avoidance of damaging behaviours;
- development of positive social groups, peer relationships and cultural engagement; and
- respite and protection for vulnerable participants.

Big Noise is grounded in relationship-based practice, with our staff musicians developing long-term trusting relationships with the children and young people, acting as educators and inspirational role models and mentors.

The latest evaluation report was published by Glasgow Centre for Population Health in November 2022. This is the first report in the quantitative phase of the evaluation and was a statistical analysis of educational outcomes for Big Noise Raploch participants, comparing a cohort of the oldest Big Noise participants against a control group. The analysis found that participation in Big Noise has a positive impact on educational outcomes and that Big Noise participants have an increased likelihood of achieving a positive post-school destination. **Almost all (98%) young people in the Big Noise group achieved a positive destination compared with 84% in the control group.** This was a statistically significant finding and provides further evidence of the positive outcomes achieved by children and young people through participation in Big Noise.

16.2.23

21.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Sent: 30 January 2023 12:17

To: 'Nicola Killean' <Nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Meeting to discuss SG funding for 2023 onwards

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Happy 2023. I hope you had a lovely festive break.

That's perfect timing as I was going to get in touch with [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] to set up a catch-up with me, and my colleague [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], for w/b 6 February.

At this stage, individual funding lines have not yet been set. We are hoping to know more, and to be in a position to provide an update on the indicative budget allocation for 2023/23, by the time we meet, but we will let you know as soon as possible.

Would you be able to indicate any times that work for you all from Tue-Fri w/c 6 February?

Additionally, we are aware the Permanent Secretary is really looking forward to visiting Big Noise Raploch on Friday. [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] will join him for official support, and we wanted to check in with you to see if you would find it beneficial to meet up with [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] before or after the visit for **an in person catch-up**.

Thank you very much for sending through all the relevant paperwork and evaluation - they highlight all the amazing work that you do. We hope you found the roundtables

a helpful platform to discuss the current issues the sector is facing with the Cabinet Secretary. Thank you for taking part and sharing your views.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Sent: 25 January 2023 12:33

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Meeting to discuss SG funding for 2023 onwards

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I hope you are well and had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

I am getting in touch to request a meeting within the next fortnight to discuss with you budget allocation towards Sistema Scotland for the coming year.

As you will know we have submitted our request via your team over the past few years for continued and uplifted financial support for the organisation.

We also wrote to the Deputy First Minister in December, copying in the Cabinet Secretary.

We would be most grateful if we can set a date and time as soon as possible to understand where this process has reached?

As pressures are increasing regarding our local government public sector funding, we are hoping that we can understand how best Scottish Government can support us as we continue to reach the most disadvantaged communities, children and young people across Scotland.

As you hopefully have seen we have continued to share and promote the very positive Glasgow Centre for Population Health Evaluation report, and I was able to take part in the Cabinet Secretaries round table for the culture sector in November.

I look forward to hearing from you

Best wishes

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

22.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Sent: 05 March 2023 12:00

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: Thank you!

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I'm on leave this coming week but wanted to drop you a quick note to thank you SO much for the wonderful support you give us. It's been a really tough couple of weeks but the news yesterday from Scottish Government and the statement from Mr Gray and the First Minister has given us such a boost, and I know that you will have been doing a power of work to ensure that everyone has the information they need to make these decisions. We really appreciate it, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - thank you!

All best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

<http://www.sistemascotland.org.uk>

<http://www.makeabignoise.org.uk>

Scottish Charity No: SC039119

23.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Sent: 10 March 2023 10:30

To: 'Nicola Killean' <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>

Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Thank you!!

Dear Nicola,

Thanks very much for your message, and I'm sorry for my delayed response – I am back from a few days of leave and catching up. I'm very glad to hear last week's developments were well received, and that we were able to provide you with some good news.

We're just working through the details of the funding and will be in touch as soon as possible to get it finalised.

In light of the increased SG investment, I wanted to share that we're also discussing Sistema's work and measures of long-term impact with Prof. Linda Bauld, who I think you've met previously. It would be good to arrange a follow-up conversation on evaluation and reporting in due course – this speaks to your point below about the importance of evidence, and I think will be a really positive step. I know [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] have also talked about elements of this already.

Also happy to have a fuller discussion on your question about recurring funding, but you'll be aware that we're not in a position to make commitments beyond financial year 2023-24. We see the additional SG funding for the year ahead as an opportunity to support Sistema Scotland to achieve a sustainable financial position, and we're keen to work closely with you on that.

I hope to be able to provide a further update for you next week, but please let me know if there's anything I can help with in the meantime.

Best wishes,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Cultural Access and Organisations Division, Scottish Government
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Nicola Killean <nicola.killean@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 06 March 2023 14:03
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>
Subject: Thank you!!

Dear Julie and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I just wanted to write and say thank you so much , from everyone at Sistema Scotland.

We were so delighted, and relieved to hear the news of the additional funding over the weekend.

It has been a turbulent few months, to say the least, but finally we have gotten to a place that gives us increased stability for the year ahead.

I am so grateful to you both for the advice to me, but also the connections and discussions I know you have been having behind the scenes to make the case for our work cross-portfolio.

I am sure there has been a huge effort by you and others to make this possible.

I was increasingly concerned over the past few weeks, not just at the funding cuts with the local councils, but the undermining of the evidence, and ultimately the concern that community members who stood up for something they loved and wanted, were not being listened to.

It is such an incredible feeling to be able to go back and let them know that the work they did mattered, and that the Scottish Government was listening to them!

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]I saw a note in a letter from the Deputy First Minister that someone from the culture team will be in touch to confirm all the details.

We are of the understanding that the funding being committed for 2023-24 is our baseline commitment of £1.1 million and the additional funding of £1.5 million.

So it gives us the core organisational commitment, and the additional to supplement what we lost from the local governments over the past few weeks.

So a total commitment from Scottish Government of £2.6 million for the year ahead.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], we can discuss in time whether there is any clarity as to whether this is recurring funding?

But for now, we will celebrate and be incredibly grateful!

Thank you again

Nicola

24.

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 March 2023 09:27

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Sistema (Big Noise) long-term attainment measures

For info

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: 07742066288

– currently working from home

email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 March 2023 09:18

To: Bauld L (Linda) <Linda.Bauld@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema (Big Noise) long-term attainment measures

Hi Linda,

I hope all is well with you?

I've just had a quick chat with Paul about how we might measure the long-term attainment success of the Big Noise programme (more info here [Big Noise Programmes \(makeabignoise.org.uk\)](https://www.bignoise.org.uk)).

We agreed it would be a good idea for you and I to speak so that I can give you a bit of background to this, and get some advice from you on how to approach this.

If you agree I will ask [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] to set us up a meeting. I look forward to catching up with you.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

25.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 March 2023 16:45

To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Conservative Statement Requests: Teacher Pay & Orchestra Funding

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for making us aware of this.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

In terms of a few short lines that can be used publicly, we'd draw on the lines issued over the weekend and recommend saying:

We know what an important contribution culture makes to the wellbeing of the country. The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do, providing opportunities to children and families across Scotland by playing a crucial role in supporting thousands of young people in disadvantaged communities who rely on their service. Additionally, they provide valuable employment opportunities and cultural engagement in the communities they serve across Scotland.

That is why we will ensure that Sistema gets the funding they need in 2023-24, which we expect to be around £1.5million, to continue this important work. We are working closely with Sistema, and will be able to provide further details on this shortly.

Many thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Sent: 07 March 2023 15:06

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Conservative Statement Requests: Teacher Pay & Orchestra Funding

Good Afternoon,

Can we please have a couple of lines in answer to the question below from Parly Business.

Apologies for the short turnaround but to make their deadline tomorrow could you send us something by 5pm today so Mr Gray can clear in time.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 07 March 2023 15:03

To: Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; David Livey <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Conservative Statement Requests: Teacher Pay & Orchestra Funding

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

We will come back to you on Teachers' Pay but copying in Mr Robertson's and Mr Gray's office re funding for Sistema orchestra.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Parliamentary Business

Sent: 07 March 2023 14:44

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; David Livey <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business <MinisterPB@gov.scot>

Subject: Conservative Statement Requests: Teacher Pay & Orchestra Funding

Importance: High

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

The Conservatives have requested two statements:

- teachers' pay, again – asking where the budget for the pay offer is stemming from; and
- children's orchestra funding – asking what led to the change over the weekend.

Can you please consider and come back to us with some lines to take by tomorrow at 12pm please? It's possible we'll have to respond to amendments to the business motion at Decision Time tomorrow.

Thank you!

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business
 T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]E: MinisterPB@gov.scot
 The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

26.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Director of Culture and Major Events

Sent: 07 March 2023 16:30

To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Neill S (Sean) <Sean.Neill@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Leaver E (Ellen) <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>

Subject: Urgent Submission - Update on Sistema Scotland 2023/24 funding position, 7 March

Importance: High

FAO: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Please see attached an urgent submission for the Minister's consideration regarding an update on the funding for Sistema Scotland 2023/24.

eRDM link for reference: Submission - Sistema Scotland - Funding 2023/24 - 7 March 2023 (A42789821)

Regards,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Executive Assistant [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] to Director for Culture and Major Events, Penelope Cooper
Email: DirectorofCultureandMajorEvents@gov.scot
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

27.

From: Penelope Cooper
Director, Culture and Major Events
7 March 2023

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, and Minister with Special Responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Update on Sistema Scotland 2023/24 funding position

Priority and Purpose

1. Priority: Urgent
2. Purpose: To seek agreement that Sistema Scotland receive additional Scottish Government funding of around £1.5m for 2023-24.

Recommendation

3. Recommends that you: agree to the funding uplift for Sistema Scotland, note the financial implications and risks, and provide any feedback on proposed next steps.

Context

4. In February 2023, Sistema Scotland outlined the financial challenges they will face in financial year 2023-24, due to proposals by Aberdeen City Council and Dundee City Council that Sistema funding is cut, and proposals from Stirling Council to reduce Sistema funding.

5. Sistema reached out to Scottish Government; in writing to the Deputy First Minister and officials; and in a meeting between the Chair, Benny Higgins, and the Deputy First Minister, to ask whether Scottish Government could cover the shortfall brought about by local authority cuts, estimated to be £1.5m.
6. In budget announcements on 27 February and 01 March respectively, it was confirmed that Dundee City Council and Aberdeen City Council will stop funding Sistema next financial year. Stirling Council confirmed they would reduce Sistema funding by around 20%.
7. In response, the Deputy First Minister confirmed in writing to Sistema on Friday 3 March that Scottish Government would step in and provide the funding that Sistema require, understood to be around £1.5m.
8. The Minister for Culture has also written to the leaders of both Aberdeen City and Dundee City councils to make them aware of the uplift.
9. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Financial implications

10. All [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
11. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
12. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
13. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]. As part of this, Culture officials will engage with the Sistema reference group which includes officials across Scottish Government who have a policy interest in the work of Sistema Scotland. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
14. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)].
15. There are social and economic benefits to the Sistema Scotland Big Noise programme. Evaluation demonstrates that for every £1 spent on Big Noise delivery, around £9 of social benefit is generated. In order to inform future funding decisions, and to support Sistema to make further philanthropic investment requests, officials will work with Sistema to understand how the benefits of the programme can be better demonstrated. As it has been running for 20 years, it should be possible to demonstrate long-term attainment benefits in an accessible way. We will involve the Chief Social Policy Advisor, Linda Bauld, with this work.
16. In addition to the above, Culture officials will also work in collaboration with Education, Communities and Local Authority colleagues [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Risks/ Sensitivities

17. The decision to announce the additional support of around £1.5m for Sistema Scotland is based on the well-evidenced benefit of its programmes towards Scottish Government priorities. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Options Considered and Advice

18. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)].

19. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)] [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Assessment of Options

20. Officials' assessment is that the uplift of £1.5m to Sistema Scotland for 2023-24 will allow the organisation to continue to deliver on the high priority outcome of reducing inequality for children and families across Scotland, in particular in high SIMD areas. Officials' note the financial risks and will work across portfolios to put mitigating factors in place.

Bute House Agreement Implications

21. N/A

Financial and Legal Considerations

22. Paragraphs 10-16 outline in detail the financial risks associated with these decisions.

Conclusions and next Steps

23. You are asked to: agree to the uplift in budget and provide any feedback on the information provided.

Penelope Cooper,
Director of Culture and Major Events

Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List	For Action	For Information Portfolio interest	For Information Constituency interest	For Information General awareness
First Minister		X		
Deputy First Minister		X		
Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture		X		

Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List	For Action	For Information Portfolio interest	For Information Constituency interest	For Information General awareness
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine	X			
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills		X		
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government		X		

Officials Copy List

Permanent Secretary
 Ken Thomson, Director General
 Paul Johnston, DG Communities
 Penelope Cooper
 Sean Neill
 Rachael McKechnie
 Lisa Baird
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Catriona Matheson, SpAd
 Callum McCaig, SpAd
 Jennie Gollan, SpAd
 Colin McAllister, SpAd
 Communications Constitution and Culture

28.

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 March 2023 10:26
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

We will do.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)] Penelope is speaking to Paul and Sean and separately to Ken about this.

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 March 2023 10:22
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland
Importance: High

Lisa, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Ellen Leaver has brought me up to speed about the additional funding being provided to Sistema and asked that I reflect it in our FMQ brief. I would be grateful if you could send me on your FMQ brief if you have one or the most appropriate lines that I can include.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Team Leader – Revenue and Capital
Local Government Finance
The Scottish Government
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 March 2023 09:24

To: Leaver E (Ellen) <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; Johnston P (Paul) <Paul.Johnston@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Thanks Ellen,

You make good points. I am very happy to have a chat with you around the background here if helpful.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Paul and Penelope are meeting to discuss Sistema on Tuesday which is a good opportunity to discuss these issues and how we might work together.

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: Leaver E (Ellen) <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 March 2023 16:53
To: Johnston P (Paul) <Paul.Johnston@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Thanks Paul for sighting me.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Ellen

Ellen Leaver | Deputy Director, Local Government and Analytical Services | Scottish Government | LL: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Johnston P (Paul) <Paul.Johnston@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 March 2023 16:46
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>; Leaver E (Ellen) <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Thank you for the update Lisa. I am adding Sean and Ellen.

ET is going to Dundee next week – helpful if ET members can be sighted on latest with this.

Best wishes

Paul

Paul Johnston
Director General Communities
Scottish Government

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 March 2023 14:53
To: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Dear Paul,

I wanted to make sure you were sighted on this development: FM has promised that we will provide further funding of around £1.5m to Sistema 23/24 to remedy the LA cuts. DFM is writing to Sistema today to confirm this and Mr Gray is responding to a letter received by MSPs yesterday.

In addition, Spads have asked that we write to the leaders of both Aberdeen City and Dundee councils to make them aware of this. Penelope told me that they had been

in contact with you following her email so I wanted to ensure you are sighted on the letters. We will copy you when they go up for issue.

Kind Regards,

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: Baird L (Lisa)
Sent: 03 March 2023 11:49
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; McKechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Widened copy list.

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: Baird L (Lisa)
Sent: 03 March 2023 11:45

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Public Engagement Unit
<CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International
Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum)
<Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;
Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie)
<Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael)
<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending
<Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38
(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

As DFM is aware, the First Minister has instructed that we ensure that Sistema gets
the funding it needs (C £1.5m). [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

We made Sistema aware of this yesterday and we will provide a response for you
shortly to confirm this in writing. A response to yesterday's letter from MSPs will also
issue today from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and
Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine.

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted
under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy
First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 27 February 2023 16:20
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture,
Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for
Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>;
McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;
Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie)
<Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael)

<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending
<Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

With regards the attached, DFM is keen for Mr Gray and Culture Officials to do as much as they can to try to address this situation please.

DFM would like to know what is being proposed in relation to Sistema. Grateful for an update when available.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 27 February 2023 11:58
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Good morning,

Please see attached letter from Sistema Scotland.

PEU – please can this be added to MiCase as a fast track MR?

With thanks.

Kind Regards,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Assistant Private Secretary | Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet
Secretary for Covid Recovery | John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Email:
DFMCSCR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

29.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy
First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 06 March 2023 08:02
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs
<DGSEA@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona)
<Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Note of DFM meeting with Benny Higgins - 01 February 2023

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please see attached read out of the meeting DFM had with Benny Higgins, Chair of Sistema Scotland, on 1 February.

Please save in eRDM then send us the link once added.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCS@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

30.

Meeting with Benny Higgins, Sistema Scotland – Wednesday 01 February 2023

Attendees

- John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister
- Benny Higgins, Chair, Sistema Scotland
- [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Financial support for Sistema Scotland

Benny Higgins asked for a meeting with DFM to highlight the challenging financial situation that Sistema Scotland is currently facing.

Mr Higgins provided some background detail regarding Sistema including some information about the good work they are involved in.

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)] Mr Higgins is keen for there to be a move away from LA funding to more Government support. LA budgets are being squeezed hard due to inflation and the cost of living. It is likely that some LAs will either reduce or cease their funding to Sistema. Mr Higgins made reference to both Glasgow and Dundee LAs.

Mr Higgins made a plea for DFM to look favourably upon the Culture Sector.

DFM referenced putting on the record in Parliament recently his response to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee about the relationship between the amount of money that is spent on cultural investment and the disproportionate impact that that has on our society and wellbeing. If DFM can support the Culture Sector, he will. DFM is aware of the need to get that investment correct.

Mr Higgins then offered to be involved, as he has been previously with the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery, in any future SG initiatives to support the Culture industry.

DFM said he would pass that offer on to the relevant policy area.

31.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 March 2023 12:06
To: DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Cc: Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) <Ken.Thomson@gov.scot>; Chief
Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>;
Director for Local Government and Housing
<DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: YMI funding, AO template update

Good afternoon Ken,

A couple of budget updates for your meeting with the Perm Sec.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Sistema 2024/5

The additional £1.5m committed to by Ministers last week [redacted under FOISA
Section 30(b)(i)]

Moneys for 2022/3 have already been disbursed, the last of these was paid on 1st
March 2023.

The decision to announce the support for Sistema, based on the well-evidenced
benefit of its programmes towards SG priorities [redacted under FOISA Section
30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]We can then advise Ministers accordingly. In
addition, we will build on existing work with Sistema [redacted under FOISA Section
30(b)(i)]

If there is any other information you need for your update with the Perm Sec, please
let me know.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

32.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Sent: 03 March 2023 16:49

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - letters to MSPs and Council leaders and communications to clear

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Yes he is, thanks.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 March 2023 16:48

To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - letters to MSPs and Council leaders and communications to clear

Private Office

Grateful to know if the Minister is content with the statement, below, to send to PA once DFM has issued a letter to Sistema Scotland.

Best wishes

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Sent: 03 March 2023 16:40

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - letters to MSPs and Council leaders and communications to clear

Good Afternoon [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for this.

Mr Gray has asked if we can change the wording of the letter to local Government please. The MSP ones are fine, but LG leaders needs changed to reflect the fact they have taken decisions based on their own circumstances. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Once you send back these updated letters I will issue all of them at the same time.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 March 2023 14:54

To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>;

Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin)

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: Sistema Scotland - letters to MSPs and Council leaders and communications to clear

Good afternoon Minister/PS

Please find attached two set of letters relating to Sistema Scotland. Four are to be issued to MSPs in response to their letter of 02 March; which I have attached for reference. The remainder to be issued to Council leads in Dundee and Aberdeen.

Separately, please see below statement, also to clear please. Communications colleagues, copied, will issue to Press Association today once cleared.

Statement for PA

The Scottish Government has assured music charity Sistema Scotland that they will receive funding next year to deliver their Big Noise projects in Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The project currently helps over 2,000 young people in disadvantaged communities.

Culture Minister Neil Gray said:

“Sistema Scotland’s Big Noise programme plays a hugely valuable role by supporting over 2,000 young people in disadvantaged communities who rely on this service.

"Despite the ongoing budget pressures facing the Scottish Government as a result of raging UK inflation, the impact of more than a decade of austerity and Barnett funding down 5% in real terms since 2021-22, we want to ensure Sistema Scotland can continue to fund these projects. That is why the Scottish Government has written to Sistema Scotland today to provide written assurance that they will provide Sistema with the additional funding required for next year. This is expected to be around £1.5m, to ensure young people continue to benefit from the Big Noise projects in Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

“We value the importance of cultural organisations and their contribution to the wellbeing of the country to promote the arts, provide employment and engage with communities across Scotland. We will continue to work with the culture sector to do everything within our powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges as well as urge the UK Government to ensure sufficient support is made available for Scotland’s culture sector.”

Background

The Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, wrote to Sistema Scotland this afternoon to assure the charity they will receive funding next year.

Sistema Scotland is a youth orchestra programme that aims to raise attainment and tackle inequality in disadvantaged communities.

The Scottish Government currently fund the charity which provides opportunities for young people to get involved in ‘Big Noise’ orchestra projects in Raploch, Govanhill, Torry and Douglas, alongside a satellite Big Noise in Fallin and a Big Noise project in Wester Hailes.

Evidence is clear that the current impacts of Big Noise act upon important determinants of health and wellbeing in adulthood, including reducing health inequalities in later life.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture & Historic Environment Division, Scottish Government

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |

Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

33.

Good Afternoon [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for this.

I've now sent the letters and attached for reference.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 March 2023 17:16

To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted

under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Communications Constitution & Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA

Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>;

Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin)

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - letters to MSPs and Council leaders and communications to clear

Good Afternoon [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please see attached updated letters for Council Leaders to reflect comments from the Minister.

Best Wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]Team | Culture and Historic Environment
Division
Directorate for Culture Tourism and Major Events | Scottish Government
Area 2G South| Victoria Quay| Edinburgh| EH6 6QQ

34.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special
responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Councillor Alex Nicoll

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

anicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk

03 March 2023

Dear Alex,

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand the difficult decisions you have had to make in order to balance your budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do; providing opportunities to children and families across Scotland. We recognise the challenging decisions Local Government partners have had to make which leaves a funding gap for Sistema's Big Noise projects, and I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister has asked the Scottish Government to directly support Sistema to ensure they get the funding they need to continue their work.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely,

NEIL GRAY

35.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special
responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Councillor Ian Yuill

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
iyuill@aberdeencity.gov.uk

03 March 2023

Dear Ian,

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand the difficult decisions you have had to make in order to balance your budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do; providing opportunities to children and families across Scotland. We recognise the challenging decisions Local Government partners have had to make which leaves a funding gap for Sistema's Big Noise projects, and I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister has asked the Scottish Government to directly support Sistema to ensure they get the funding they need to continue their work.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely,

NEIL GRAY

36.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Councillor John Alexander

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

John.alexander@dundeecity.gov.uk

03 March 2023

Dear John,

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand the difficult decisions you have had to make in order to balance your budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do; providing opportunities to children and families across Scotland. We recognise the challenging decisions Local Government partners have had to make which leaves a funding gap for Sistema's Big Noise projects, and I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister

has asked the Scottish Government to directly support Sistema to ensure they get the funding they need to continue their work.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely,

NEIL GRAY

37.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Joe FitzPatrick MSP

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Joe.Fitzpatrick.msp@parliament.scot

03 March 2023

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your letter of 02 March highlighting the challenges presented by cuts at local authority level.

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand local authorities have had to make difficult choices to balance their budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do and recognise the important role the Big Noise programme in supporting over 2,000 young people in disadvantaged communities who rely on this service.

I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister has asked the Scottish Government to step in to ensure that Sistema Scotland get the funding they need, which we understand is around £1.5million.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely

NEIL GRAY

38.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP
T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Shona Robison MSP
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
dundee@shona.robison.scot

03 March 2023

Dear Shona,

Thank you for your letter of 02 March highlighting the challenges presented by cuts at local authority level.

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand local authorities have had to make difficult choices to balance their budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do and recognise the important role the Big Noise programme in supporting over 2,000 young people in disadvantaged communities who rely on this service.

I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister has asked the Scottish Government to step in to ensure that Sistema Scotland get the funding they need, which we understand is around £1.5million.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely

NEIL GRAY

39.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP
T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Evelyn Tweed MSP
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
evelyn.tweed.msp@parliament.scot

03 March 2023

Dear Evelyn,

Thank you for your letter of 02 March highlighting the challenges presented by cuts at local authority level.

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand local authorities have had to make difficult choices to balance their budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do and recognise the important role the Big Noise programme in supporting over 2,000 young people in disadvantaged communities who rely on this service.

I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister has asked the Scottish Government to step in to ensure that Sistema Scotland get the funding they need, which we understand is around £1.5million.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely

NEIL GRAY

40.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Audrey Nicoll MSP

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Audrey.Nicoll.msp@parliament.scot

03 March 2023

Dear Audrey,

Thank you for your letter of 02 March highlighting the challenges presented by cuts at local authority level.

In such a challenging economic climate, against a backdrop of spiking inflation and the cost of living crisis, I understand local authorities have had to make difficult choices to balance their budgets.

The Scottish Government values the great work that Sistema Scotland do and recognise the important role the Big Noise programme in supporting over 2,000 young people in disadvantaged communities who rely on this service.

I am pleased to confirm that the First Minister has asked the Scottish Government to step in to ensure that Sistema Scotland get the funding they need, which we understand is around £1.5million.

Culture Officials will work closely with Sistema at pace to agree the details.

Yours Sincerely

NEIL GRAY

41.

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 March 2023 13:55

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: sistema

Thanks again.

I have agreed with P:

- She is meeting Paul J on Tuesday – subject to his approval she will write to the Directors who sit above group with the group CCd asking for a meeting to discuss the potential for financial support. [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – can you please start me a note off for that purpose?
- I will reply to DFM after Penelope's meeting with Paul, [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
- The response to Sistema should follow once this is confirmed and highlight we are meeting but not make any assurances.

Happy to chat tomorrow or Friday [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 March 2023 09:12

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: sistema

Morning both,

Lisa, I think your approach sounds sensible, if Penelope is happy to go ahead.

Just to note my DD contact in Tackling Child Poverty is Julie Humphreys (who really gets the value of Sistema's work). I've not been in touch with Shirley.

In the meantime, are you content with a holding response for DFM – essentially, we're working on it, will update you when we have more info.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 March 2023 09:05
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: sistema

Thanks Lisa,

I will let [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] come in on this.

I mentioned that when we approached the Child Poverty Unit (email attached now!), they signposted to the Social Justice Delivery Unit who are part of the reference group.

I forgot to note though that during February, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] liaised directly with the relevant DD (Shirley Laing) and has highlighted that in her Sistema Scotland note to DFM

Sistema Scotland - Funding 2023/24 - Submission - DFM - Sistema Scotland funding update - DFM Content (A42655623)

Best wishes,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government
2G South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 March 2023 08:53
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: sistema

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – this is an excellent summary and I had forgotten about Penelope's letter.

What I will do is share this note with her and suggest that she use it as the basis for her conversation with Paul J, [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 March 2023 08:47
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: sistema

Good morning Lisa,

Thank you for your email.

Bit of a long email follows below.

After a series of 3 workshops we facilitated with Sistema Scotland presenting to various SG teams cross-portfolio, we decided to create a light-touch Sistema Scotland Reference Group facilitated by us, including other policy teams, to have a standard, recurring platform to develop links between Sistema Scotland and other areas, which broadly aligns with the strategic areas identified in the Cabinet Paper, as part of a longer-term plan for the sector's Covid recovery – particularly education and skills and health and wellbeing.

The group met officially last summer for the first time and since then we have had some targeted engagement with other teams, but not at group level. The main aim of the group is to keep colleagues updated and also help Sistema Scotland understand where their work aligns with our priorities, and opportunities for working together, sharing learning or best practices, whilst ensuring that the objectives of the group align with Scottish Government related commitments and priorities. The Reference Group is part of a systematic effort to align Sistema Scotland's work with current priorities including the Cabinet Paper, the upcoming refresh of the Culture Strategy Action Plan, and the work of the National Partnership for Culture.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

With that in mind, we urged our previous directors to have convos at their level with other seniors. My timeline becomes a bit vague here but since that time we changed

Minister/ Seniors etc. so post the first Reference Group last summer, we drafted an email to go from Penelope go to Perm Sec, Paul Johnston, Shirley Laing (DD Child Poverty). No follow up when I last checked with Penelope before Christmas. Sistema Scotland - Tackling Child Poverty - Email from Culture Director - Penelope Cooper - To Paul Johnston - Perm Sec - Shirley Laing - 01 July 2022 (A38983262)

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Appreciate this is a long email, but wanted to give you the background and context of the group, to highlight that it's not been used to date primarily to raise funding potential.

I am happy to progress as you and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] see fit, so I will let her come in with her thoughts.

The list of teams involved in the reference group since then is below.

- List of Sistema reference group members (SG policy contacts): [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Scottish Attainment Challenge	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Fair Health Team	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Curriculum Unit	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Social Justice Delivery Unit	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
GIRFEC	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Child Placement and Secure Care	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Public Service Reform	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Mental Health	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
School Age Childcare Delivery	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Child Health and Wellbeing	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
For Info (To be sent info only)	
Empowered Children and Young People	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Public Service Reform	[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government

2G South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 March 2023 08:25

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: sistema

Morning both ☺

Ok – my brain has offered this overnight...

When does the cross Sg ref group next meet, who are the members and what's it's remit?

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Do we facilitate it?

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Baird

Deputy Director for Culture and Historic Environments
Scottish Government

Phone: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

42.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 08 February 2023 10:11

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; McKechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT: Letter from Benny Higgins & Nicola Killeen, Sistema Scotland

Importance: High

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Regarding the attached, DFM would like a note explaining our plans for future SG funding of Sistema please. Grateful if this could be sent to us by 4pm tomorrow, Thursday 9 February, when the box closes for recess.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

43.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Sent: 09 February 2023 13:33
 To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
 Cc: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>
 Subject: RE: URGENT: Letter from Benny Higgins & Nicola Killean, Sistema Scotland

PS / DFM,

Please find attached an urgent submission for DFM's attention, in response to the request below regarding the funding of Sistema Scotland.

I have also copied the offices of all Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and senior officials who received the correspondence in question from Sistema Scotland, for ongoing awareness.

For speed, a suggested response from DFM is included at Annex A for consideration (we are currently waiting for the letter to be added to MiCase).

The submission can also be found here:
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk/documents/A42483312/details>

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

44.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Culture and Historic Environment
9 February 2023

Deputy First Minister

Update on Sistema Scotland – funding position

Priority and Purpose

1. Urgent: the Deputy First Minister has directly requested this note, which explains plans for the future funding of Sistema Scotland.

Recommendation

2. Recommends that you: note this information, provide any further comments on proposed next steps, and approve the response to Sistema Scotland included at **Annex A**.

Context and Issues

3. Sistema Scotland have written to the DFM to outline the financial challenges they are currently facing. This relates to the reduction or removal of funding from the Local Authorities they work in. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
4. This correspondence was also sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine; and the Permanent Secretary.
5. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)] [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]
6. Culture officials are awaiting further information from Sistema on the breakdown of the uplift request, [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)] in order to carry out a robust value for money assessment, and work with relevant policy areas on an options appraisal.
7. Officials met today (9 February) with Benny Higgins (Chair) and Nicola Killean (CEO), who outlined the scale of the challenge. Sistema are prepared to work with Local Authorities to live within reduced allocations, but advise that the cuts proposed are not manageable. Officials will explore options to support these discussions – set out below.

8. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

9. Mr Higgins and Ms Killean also discussed the long-term benefit Sistema provides in high-SIMD communities: outcomes in attainment, wellbeing, and tackling child poverty are evidenced in their published evaluation. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Options Considered and Advice

10. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

11. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Assessment of Options

12. Officials advise that the options above represent the most realistic route forward, taking into account current budget constraints. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Bute House Agreement Implications

13. N/A

Financial and Legal Considerations

14. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Sensitivities

15. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Quality Assurance

16. This Submission has been approved by Penelope Cooper, Director of Culture and Major Events.

Conclusions and next Steps

17. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)] We will provide Ministers with further information as this progresses.

18. A proposed response to Sistema's recent communication to the DFM is also included for approval at **Annex A**.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List	For Action	For Information Portfolio interest	For Information Constituency interest	For Information General awareness
Deputy First Minister	X			
Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture		X		
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills		X		
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government		X		
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine		X		

Officials Copy List
Permanent Secretary Ken Thomson, Director General Penelope Cooper Rachael McKechnie Lisa Baird [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Catriona Matheson, SpAd Callum McCaig, SpAd Jennie Gollan, SpAd Communications Constitution and Culture

ANNEX A – proposed response from DFM to Sistema Scotland

Dear Nicola and Benny,

Thank you for your emails of 7 February to myself and colleagues, seeking assurances for future Scottish Government funding for Sistema Scotland, in light of proposed cuts at local authority level.

Firstly, I wish to extend my thanks to Benny for a helpful conversation last week, which outlined the severity of the situation. I know you have subsequently also met with my officials.

We understand and are deeply concerned by the challenges you are currently facing. As you will know, we are not currently in a position to confirm Sistema Scotland's budget allocation for 2023/24, as individual budget lines have not yet been agreed, but we are working at pace to confirm this, and my officials will keep in close contact with you as this progresses.

The work you are doing in local authorities across Scotland is highly valued, and I want to reassure you that Culture officials are working to make connections across other Scottish Government portfolios, to highlight your ability to deliver on a range of high-priority government objectives. In parallel, I am sure you will work with my officials to provide any additional information they require in order to progress these discussions.

I will ensure that I am kept updated with progress.

[Signed...]

45.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 February 2023 10:44

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael)
<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I have just had a conversation with Jennie Gollan wrt the Sistema funding.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 February 2023 08:35
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Many thanks for this Lisa,

We will wait for further advice from you and Penelope following her discussions.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 February 2023 08:04
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for this.

Penelope is in discussion with DG Communities, the Director for local Government and others about Sistema and a meeting is planned for them to discuss further. Penelope had also been sharing correspondence and I expect will have forwarded this note from DFM. We should have a steer on the next steps following that meeting/ how to reply to DFM.

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 February 2023 07:28

To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Urgent: Funding for Sistema Scotland

Dear Lisa and Penelope,

I hope this email finds you well.

You will be aware of the recent steps we have collectively taken to address the urgent issues around Sistema Scotland. They include setting up meetings between Sistema Scotland and the DFM, Senior Culture Officials, as well ongoing communication with the regular policy leads.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

We are currently doing all we can about Sistema Scotland in terms of the levers we hold. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

We'd be grateful for your views on handling with DFM – for example, how we can make this position clear.

Many thanks in advance.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

46.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 February 2023 10:06
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Proactive FMQ - DD

Thanks Lisa, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
I am content that the information on my calls is factual, and that this can be sent on.
Many thanks for your work on this [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 February 2023 10:03
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Proactive FMQ - DD

Smashing – thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Penelope – you may wish to have a quick look as we mention your calls.

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environments | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 February 2023 07:57
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Proactive FMQ - DD

Dear Lisa,

With many thanks to colleagues for clearing, please find attached the proactive FMQ on funding cuts to Sistema Scotland at Local Authority level.

Sistema Scotland - FMQ brief - 27 February 2023 (A42683106)

We stand ready to update and provide this if required.

Do let us know if you have any comments on it.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2023 09:02
To: Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema
Importance: High

Dundee City Council axes funding for Sistema children's orchestra - BBC News

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] can you cover this in the OPQ please.

We may want an FMQ template completed for next week.

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Baird
Deputy Director for Culture and Historic Environments
Scottish Government

Phone: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

47.

24 Feb: *The BBC published an article reporting Dundee Council's decision to cut Local Authority funding (£300,000) to Sistema Scotland's Big Noise Douglas programme in Dundee.*

Issue

- Sistema Scotland Chair Benny Higgins said that Sistema Scotland reduced their funding request to Dundee Council by more than 50%, after the Council's assurances they would continue providing substantial funding. He stated "Not only did they deny us the funding, but also they hid behind excuses that it was just a musical contribution to the community."
- Initially Sistema Scotland had highlighted Aberdeen and Dundee as the major areas of risk of removing or reducing funding, but this is now also extended to Stirling.
- The Director for Culture and Major Events has written to relevant Council Chief Executives, and met with the Chief Exec of Stirling Council on 24 Feb. They agreed to work together to help adapt to future budgetary challenges.
- DFM met with Sistema Scotland on 1 Feb to understand their position. Senior Culture officials are also in regular contact with Sistema Scotland.

TOP LINES

We are aware of concerns around cuts to Sistema Scotland at local authority level and recognize the challenges the organization is facing.

- We appreciate how difficult this is for the Sistema Scotland staff, the young people and families they work with, and the communities they serve.
- Local authorities are in the process or have already set their budgets for the year ahead. They have to consider various options, many of which are unpalatable.
- This is part of broader challenges in the economic landscape, caused by a range of factors, a number of which are outwith our control.
- We are not in a position to confirm Sistema Scotland's allocation for 2023-24 yet, as individual budget lines are in the process of being agreed.

- We are working at pace to finalise this, and Culture officials are in regular contact with representatives from Sistema Scotland.
- Local authorities are accountable to the public who elect them, and have the financial freedom to operate independently, taking account of local needs.
- Officials also stand ready to provide the evidence we hold on the significant impact of Sistema's excellent work, should council leaders wish to discuss this issue in more detail.
- Any decision around funding cuts to such valuable programmes, must be considered extremely carefully.

We are proud to have supported Sistema Scotland with annual funding since 2012, contributing to the Government-wide priority of tackling child poverty.

- In 2021-22 we increased Sistema's funding to £1.1m, which we maintained in 2022-23.
- Funding from the Culture budget has supported existing Big Noise projects in Raploch, Govanhill, Torry and Douglas, alongside a satellite Big Noise in Fallin and a Big Noise project in Wester Hailes.
- We have established a cross-portfolio reference group for Sistema Scotland, which demonstrates areas where the organization's excellent work aligns with priorities across Scottish Government portfolios. It will next meet in spring.
- Sistema Scotland's work is independently evaluated by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, which shows that for every £1 spent on Big Noise delivery, around £9 of social benefit is generated.
- Evidence is clear that the current impacts of Big Noise act upon important determinants of health and wellbeing in adulthood, including reducing health inequalities in later life.

LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING/BUDGET SETTING

We recognise the crucial role councils and their employees play in communities across Scotland and the challenging financial circumstances they face.

- In the most challenging budget settlement since devolution, we are providing nearly £13.5bn in the 2023-24 Local Government Settlement.
- We are increasing the resources available to Local Government by over £793 million, this includes the additional £100 million for non-teaching pay in 2023-24 and £123 million towards the teachers' pay negotiation announced at Stage 3 of the Budget Bill announced by the DFM on 21 February.
- It is accepted that reserves can only be spent once and many councils will have earmarked reserves for local priorities, but I am sure they are all looking at how they can also be used to meet these cost of living pressures that none of us could have anticipated.
- While specific ring-fenced funding is for increased investment in services like education and early learning and childcare, local authorities will have autonomy to allocate over 93% or £12.5bn of the funding we will be providing in 2023-24
- Local authorities also have powers to raise income and spend it locally – we are committed to exploring with local government how to enhance these powers, as well as enable more flexible funding and expenditure.

- In 2023-24, Dundee City Council will receive £357.1 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £19.1 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 5.7% compared to 2022-23.
- I understand that the individual local authority funding figures are set to be discussed in parliament 1 March, during the 2023 Local Government Finance Order debate.

48.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2023 13:52
To: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

All
(Paul and Ken in copy for awareness)

To update, I had a good conversation with Carol Beattie, CE Stirling Council, and I now have a better understanding of their position with Sistema.

We agreed that where we co-fund organisations it was helpful to share our approaches and work together to help organisations such as Sistema adapt to future budgetary challenges.

I hope to have similarly constructive conversations with the other CE we have contacted.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Carol Beattie <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2023 13:01
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Yes, if you send across the invitation, I will manage that time.

Thanks and regards
Carol

Carol Beattie, Chief Executive
Chief Executive Office | Stirling Council | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] E: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk | W: stirling.gov.uk

From: Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2023 12:58
To: Carol Beattie <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>
Cc: Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Subject: [External] RE: Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

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Thanks Carol,
I appreciate your offer. Are you available at 13.30 today for a teams call?

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Carol Beattie <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2023 12:55
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Dear Penelope

Thanks for clarifying.

I am happy to have a confidential conversation with you, bearing in mind that Council sits on Thursday and any final decisions will not be clear until that point. I can tell you the officers advice, however, and the backdrop to how we have reached our recommendations.

I have some time this afternoon, if that is convenient.

Regards
Carol

Carol Beattie, Chief Executive
Chief Executive Office | Stirling Council | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] E: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk | W: stirling.gov.uk

From: Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2023 12:47
To: Carol Beattie <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>
Cc: Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Subject: [External] RE: Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

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Dear Carol,

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

If more acceptable to yourself, I would be grateful for a more general conversation along these lines. Please let me know if this is of interest and we will arrange something.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Carol Beattie <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2023 12:41
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Dear Penelope

Thank you for your email. Council is the body responsible and with the reserved powers to set the revenue and capital budgets for the local authority in terms of the law. Council has responsibilities in terms of legislation which in effect require them to set a balanced budget at a time when local government funding is under severe pressure combined with rates of inflation we have not seen in decades.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Kind Regards

Regards
Carol

Carol Beattie, Chief Executive
Chief Executive Office | Stirling Council | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
T: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] E: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk | W: stirling.gov.uk

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Sent: 24 February 2023 11:03
To: Carol Beattie <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>
Cc: Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Subject: [External] Sistema Scotland - Stirling - Scottish Government - Meeting Request
Importance: High

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Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you in light of the 2023/24 proposed funding cuts to Sistema Scotland from your respective local authority, Stirling. I would welcome a conversation with the relevant lead officials within your organisation to better understand the rationale behind any such decisions and get an accurate picture of your current position.

I would be very grateful if you could please cascade my email to the appropriate colleagues or alternatively provide me with the names and contact details for the relevant colleagues.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government

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49.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 February 2023 12:40

To: O'Donnell, Annemarie (CED) <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@glasgow.gov.uk>

Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Glasgow- Scottish Government - Meeting Request (OFFICIAL)

Dear Annemarie,

Many thanks for your swift, and encouraging reply.

I appreciate we may not need to meet to discuss Sistema specifically, and I would still welcome the opportunity to meet so that I can get a better understanding of the pressures you find yourself under.

If you feel this would be helpful, please let me know and we will arrange something with your office.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: O'Donnell, Annemarie (CED) <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@glasgow.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2023 12:32
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Glasgow- Scottish Government - Meeting Request (OFFICIAL)

OFFICIAL

Penelope

We have not planned any cuts to the funding to Sistema for 2023/4. This remains at [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

If we do so in the future the rationale will be based on the delivery of statutory services.

You will be familiar with the massive financial pressures on local authorities and the difficult decisions having to be made.

What Sistema provides is highly valued and impactful as are many other services provided by other organisations.

They collectively add great value to our communities and directly contribute to better outcomes. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Regards
Annemarie

Annemarie O'Donnell
Chief Executive

Glasgow City Council

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Sent: 24 February 2023 11:03
To: O'Donnell, Annemarie (CED) <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@glasgow.gov.uk>
Cc: Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Subject: Sistema Scotland - Glasgow- Scottish Government - Meeting Request
Importance: High

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you in light of the 2023/24 proposed funding cuts to Sistema Scotland from your respective local authority, Glasgow. I would welcome a conversation with the relevant lead officials within your organisation to better understand the rationale behind any such decisions and get an accurate picture of your current position.

I would be very grateful if you could please cascade my email to the appropriate colleagues or alternatively provide me with the names and contact details for the relevant colleagues.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government

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50.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2023 13:17
To: Gregory Colgan <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Johnston P (Paul) <Paul.Johnston@gov.scot>; Neill S (Sean) <Sean.Neill@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Dundee - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Thanks Greg,
I've copied my opposite number, Sean, in so that he is aware and we can catch up on it.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Gregory Colgan <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2023 13:11
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Johnston P (Paul) <Paul.Johnston@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Dundee - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Hi Penelope

Thanks for your email I am happy to arrange a short meeting via Teams. I will ask my PA to speak with your office.

I have also copied Paul Johnston into this email as it might be helpful for your team to speak with the SG Local Government Team to understand the financial pressures that Council's are facing in terms of inflation, pay pressures, energy pressures and cost of living crisis.

Kind Regards,
Greg

Gregory Colgan

Chief Executive

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Email: gregory.colgan@dundeecity.gov.uk

Senior Executive Assistant : [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Email: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2023 12:43
To: Gregory Colgan <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>
Cc: Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Dundee - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Dear Greg

Many thanks for your swift reply, although I am saddened by its content.
I appreciate that a meeting to discuss this particular issue is now redundant. Despite this, I would very much like to meet to understand the pressures you find yourself under as we plan for the next budget round.
If you feel that would be mutually beneficial, please let me know and we will arrange something.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Gregory Colgan <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2023 11:31
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema Scotland - Dundee - Scottish Government - Meeting Request

Dear Penelope

Thanks for your email, Dundee City Council's budget was agreed yesterday, and part of that budget included that no further financial support would be provided for

Big Noise Douglas. The budget approved yesterday resulted in savings/reductions of £18.1m being agreed to allow the Council to set a balanced budget.

Given Dundee City Council's budget has now been agreed it would be helpful to understand the purpose of any meeting.

Kind Regards,
Greg

Gregory Colgan
Chief Executive

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Email: gregory.colgan@dundeecity.gov.uk

Senior Executive Assistant : [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Email: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Sent: 24 February 2023 11:02
To: Gregory Colgan <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>
Cc: Lisa.Baird@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot
Subject: Sistema Scotland - Dundee - Scottish Government - Meeting Request
Importance: High

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you in light of the 2023/24 proposed funding cuts to Sistema Scotland from your respective local authority, Dundee. I would welcome a conversation with the relevant lead officials within your organisation to better understand the rationale behind any such decisions and get an accurate picture of your current position.

I would be very grateful if you could please cascade my email to the appropriate colleagues or alternatively provide me with the names and contact details for the relevant colleagues.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government

51.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Director of Culture and Major Events
Sent: 24 February 2023 11:03
To: anscott@aberdeencity.gov.uk; chief.executive@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Cc: Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema Scotland - Aberdeen - Scottish Government - Meeting Request
Importance: High

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you in light of the 2023/24 proposed funding cuts to Sistema Scotland from your respective local authority, Aberdeen. I would welcome a conversation with the relevant lead officials within your organisation to better understand the rationale behind any such decisions and get an accurate picture of your current position.

I would be very grateful if you could please cascade my email to the appropriate colleagues or alternatively provide me with the names and contact details for the relevant colleagues.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government

52.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 February 2023 09:40
To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;

Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For awareness: Official's response to Urgent request for support for Sistema Scotland

Good morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
My apologies for not being clearer in our earlier response.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

For ease I have attached this paper, with the relevant section highlighted.

If the Minister would like more detail I stand ready to provide it.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Sent: 20 February 2023 14:10

To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;

Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For awareness: Official's response to Urgent request for support for Sistema Scotland

Good Afternoon Penelope,

Apologies if I have missed this, did we get a read out of your call?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

All emails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Office do not keep official records of such emails or attachments.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
 Sent: 09 February 2023 08:29
 To: Director of Culture and Major Events
 <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary
 <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
 Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
 <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Subject: RE: For awareness: Official's response to Urgent request for support for Sistema Scotland

Thanks Penelope.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
 The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

All emails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Office do not keep official records of such emails or attachments.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
 <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
 Sent: 09 February 2023 08:26
 To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
 Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
 <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Subject: RE: For awareness: Official's response to Urgent request for support for Sistema Scotland

Good morning

My interpretation of the letter is that Aberdeen and Dundee have now confirmed and are the two mentioned.

However, I will use my call with them this morning to confirm that.

I will update you on the outcome of that call.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Sent: 09 February 2023 08:23

To: Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;

Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)

<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For awareness: Official's response to Urgent request for support for Sistema Scotland

Good Morning Penelope,

Thanks for copying us into this.

Mr Gray is aware of both Dundee and Aberdeen considering cuts, he has asked if there is another?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

All emails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or

a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Office do not keep official records of such emails or attachments.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 February 2023 12:50
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International
Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>;
Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: For awareness: Official's response to Urgent request for support for Sistema
Scotland

Deputy First Minister, Permanent Secretary,
(copy as envelope)

I am aware that you have both received letters regarding Sistema Scotland recently, and also that the DFM recently met with Mr Benny Higgins to discuss their funding situation.

We are currently responding to DFM's request for a response to this communication, and will deliver this within the timeframe.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

In response to this email I have contacted Benny Higgins and offered to meet with them to discuss these new circumstances and their impact.

He has accepted, and our offices are in the process of setting that up. I will reflect this in my response to their email.

We will also refer to this in the response we are preparing for you to issue to them.

I will keep you informed of any further developments.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

53.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Sent: 15 February 2023 14:20
 To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)] However, worth noting we do also fund Sistema from the Culture portfolio too (£1.1m in 2022-23) but we don't have budget lines confirmed yet for 2023-24 so can't give any indications of future funding just now. Here are some lines from a recent OPQ answer and supplementaries that may help:

- I am proud to support Sistema Scotland, who are a brilliant example of a cultural programme that contributes to many policy outcomes: in particular, our ambitions to tackle child poverty.
- In 2021-22 we increased Sistema's funding to £1.1m, which we maintained in 2022-23.
- Given the difficult public expenditure environment and the ongoing economic challenges arising from COVID-19 at the start of the 2022-23 budget year, there are extreme pressures on funding. Despite this, we are still providing significant support to the culture and heritage sectors, and working hard to protect key areas of spend. The excellent work Sistema Scotland does will be taken into account in ongoing budget discussions.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Sent: 15 February 2023 14:15
 To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Thanks – is there anything for us to say over and above the lines we have on local authority funding given this looks like it was a cut made by the LA?

Do we provide any additional funding via other means?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

News | Senior Media Manager
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Portfolio media enquiries:
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

www.gov.scot/news

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 February 2023 14:13
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Sorry, should have added that in my last message. Here it is.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 February 2023 14:12
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – do you have the press release that you can send on to us please?

Gerard Klein
News | Senior Media Manager
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Portfolio media enquiries:
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

www.gov.scot/news

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 February 2023 13:52
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution & Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionandCulture@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Thanks very much [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], that's great.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]– I assume we keep a watching brief and see if we are approached for lines, or do you want something worked up and ready to go?

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 February 2023 13:50
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I've added LG Finance lines below for consideration. I can also provide individual local authority funding figures if required.

The Scottish Government recognises the crucial role councils and their employees play in our communities across Scotland and the challenging financial circumstances they face.

The Scottish Government's settlements from the UK Government have suffered a decade of austerity with average real terms cuts of over 5%, equating to a loss of £18 billion.

Despite this, we have listened to councils and are increasing the resources available to local government by over £570 million, a real terms increase of £160.6m or 1.3%.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]- Local Government Finance - [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Victoria Quay
Do you have new or amended funding for Local Government? Guidance is saved here.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 February 2023 13:42
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
<CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local

Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinanceandEconomy@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

Thank you, [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Confirming we will work with Comms and Local Government Finance colleagues (adding to copylist) on this to produce lines as needed. Also adding our DD Lisa Baird for awareness.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 15 February 2023 13:38
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (TCPFW) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinanceandEconomy@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Update: Press Release- Sistema Scotland

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

See attached press release – please consider drafting reactive lines.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

54.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Sent: 08 February 2023 09:50
 To: Director of Culture and Major Events
 <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
 Cc: Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
 <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>;
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA
 Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
 Subject: RE: Urgent support for Sistema Scotland

Hi Penelope,

This is consistent with what Nicola told me last Friday, with the addition of one further local authority.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Sistema will be aware we have set up a cross-Government reference group, with membership as follows. This was designed to raise awareness of the work Sistema does and the cross-Government outcomes they contribute to. Nicola has presented at one of the group's meetings.

Scottish Attainment Challenge [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Fair Health Team [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Curriculum Unit [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Social Justice Delivery Unit [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 GIRFEC [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Child Placement and Secure Care [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Public Service Reform [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Mental Health [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 School Age Childcare Delivery [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Megan Rawcliffe [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
 Empowered Children and Young People Ann-Marie O'Neil, [redacted under FOISA
 Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]. I understand Paul and Julie subsequently visited Sistema, and Perm Sec was also due to go last week (delayed from the summer), though we didn't receive direct follow up to your e-mail.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Benny and DFM had a call ten days ago. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

I hope this is helpful but happy to speak if there's anything you'd like more detail on.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 February 2023 09:16

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa)
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Urgent support for Sistema Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

As you can see the situation for Sistema is worsening.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Before I reply to this letter, I'd be grateful if you (or those in copy) could outline some of the work we have done while I have been away to raise awareness across government, and outline what we have planned.

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Given the nature of the request, I'd be grateful for any input, however brief, this morning please.

I will let Mr Gray know we have received this and that we will respond.

Incidentally, has Benny met DFM yet?

Kind regards,

Penelope

Penelope Cooper | Director of Culture and Major Events | The Scottish Government
Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

55.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 February 2023 15:22
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema - update and next steps

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] for separately sending AO material – I will work on that).

Penelope, Rachael, any further views on the handling of this issue [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)] more generally are welcome – in the meantime I'll continue as set out below and be ready to advise Ministers.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 February 2023 12:23
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema - update and next steps

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 February 2023 12:03
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema - update and next steps

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks very much for this advice. Yes, I can do an AO template, so if you could send over what you have [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], that would be very helpful. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 February 2023 12:00
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema - update and next steps

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

If helpful I've actually almost completed the first draft of the mammoth AO template and so have lots of stuff on sistema which could feasibly be lifted and dropped into a separate AO template?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Sponsorship and Historic Environment | Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 February 2023 11:58
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema - update and next steps

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Are you ok to take forward an AO template?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 February 2023 11:45

To: Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael)

<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Baird L

(Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: Sistema - update and next steps

Hi all,

I am just off the phone with Nicola Killeen, Sistema Scotland's CEO, and wanted to give you a quick update:

- As we thought, Sistema are facing the reduction or removal of local authority funding in Dundee or Aberdeen. I understand this would leave a funding gap of around £1m and would disproportionately affect disadvantaged children and young people in particularly high SIMD areas.
- Confirmation of SG funding for 2023-24 will help Sistema to leverage other funding sources.
- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

I have advised Nicola that setting out the current position formally in writing (e.g. known risk to delivery, consequent impact on children and young people) to us and Ministers will be an important next step and allow us to keep Ministers informed, so we should expect to hear from her soon – Penelope, I understand she plans to write to you, plus the Ministerial offices she already has contact with (DFM, Ms Robison, Mr Robertson, Mr Gray). Once these letters arrive, I suggest we work with Julie Humphreys' team to convene an urgent meeting of officials with a policy interest to discuss options and ensure consistent handling across POs.

In the meantime, can I ask when we are likely to be able to give Sistema an indication of their 2023-4 funding? [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]
Grateful for any further views on our course of action here.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Culture Strategy & Engagement
Culture & Historic Environment Division, Scottish Government
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

56.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 27 January 2023 17:09

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and copied,

The meeting did not end up taking place today as Mr Higgins had IT issues whilst in London. We have rescheduled for Wednesday 1 February at 18:00 instead.

For awareness, Mr Higgins approached DFM and asked for this call.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 January 2023 18:05

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD

Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please find attached an updated note as requested.

I have actioned each of your points below, and have explained one element of the data that is not for SG to hold. I have also added some further information we have been made aware of with regards to a similar situation in Dundee.

If official support is required tomorrow, please contact Rachael McKechnie and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (both cc'd) in the first instance, as I am on annual leave and travelling.

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Culture Strategy & Engagement
Culture & Historic Environment Division, Scottish Government
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 26 January 2023 16:26
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for the attached [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]
- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]
- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Grateful if this could be sent to us as soon as possible or by 10:00 tomorrow, Friday 27 January, at the latest. A meeting has been arranged to speak with Mr Higgins at 15:00 tomorrow. We will advise if official support is required.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 January 2023 14:36
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

Adding [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]for cover if needed tomorrow when a number of team members are on leave.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Sent: 26 January 2023 14:30

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture,
Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for
Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum)
<Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD
Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development
<DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and
External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

PS / Deputy First Minister,
PS / Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development,

Please find attached a short note on known funding issues in relation to Sistema
Scotland. This includes an overview and suggested lines to take ahead of the DFM's
call with Benny Higgins. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] does DFM require official support?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] this also fulfils your earlier request for
advice for Mr Gray in response to the Aberdeen issue.

We will revert to both POs with further advice as required once we know the
outcome of DFM's call with Mr Higgins.

The eRDM version of the attached note can be found here: Sistema Scotland -
Funding - 2023/24 - Briefing Note - DFM and Minister - 26 January 2023 details -
Objective ECM EXPANDED BELOW

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Culture Strategy & Engagement
Culture & Historic Environment Division, Scottish Government
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Sent: 26 January 2023 11:06
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture,

Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for the update – this is very helpful.

We are continuing to work on the briefing and will have it with you by 4pm.

I am copying in Mr Gray's office who had separately asked for briefing on a specific funding issue. We will do one briefing note and provide to both POs ahead of the DFM's call.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 26 January 2023 11:01
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

As discussed, Mr Higgins is not available at the time we had offered this morning. We are still in the process of arranging but DFM has limited availability this afternoon. It would be helpful if briefing could be with us by 16:00 today.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 January 2023 10:24
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Mckechnie R (Rachael) <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Confirming we are picking this up and note your 11:30 deadline for a short overview of current funding issues. Is the call likely to be this afternoon?

Many thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Culture Strategy & Engagement
Culture & Historic Environment Division, Scottish Government
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Landline: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (currently diverted to mobile) |
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 26 January 2023 10:18
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Baird L (Lisa) <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

We are in the process of arranging a call with Benny Higgins, Chair of Sistema Scotland.

DFM would also like a short note on any current issues regarding Sistema funding please – grateful if this can be sent as soon as possible and by 11:30 at the latest.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSOCR@gov.scot

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From: McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 January 2023 10:10
To: Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; DGE - Directorate Business Managers <DLCPDGEBM@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema
Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

I believe [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] is who you'd be looking for in terms of briefing.

And in terms of email - bernardfranklinhiggins@gmail.com

Thanks,
Callum

Callum McCaig
Special Adviser to the First Minister
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for information

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Director of Economic Development
Sent: 26 January 2023 09:47
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Cc: Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; DGE - Directorate Business Managers <DLCPDGEBM@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Benny Higgins believes passionately in the transformative power of the arts and music. Benny has held a number of senior executive roles in the banking sector, including with Standard Life, RBS, HBOS, and becoming Chief Executive of Tesco Bank in 2008. Under his leadership, Tesco Bank grew to serve more than 6 million customers with over 4,000 staff in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle. Benny was also Group Strategy Director for Tesco plc. He retired from Tesco in February 2018. In June 2018, Benny was appointed by the Scottish Government as strategic adviser for the establishment of the Scottish National Investment Bank. He is also Chairman of the National Galleries of Scotland, Chairman of Kyckr Ltd, a non-executive director of Glasgow Life, trustee of Burrell Renaissance, non-executive director of the Buccleuch Group and and non-executive director of Arabian Centres. He is a visiting professor at Strathclyde University and the Edinburgh Business School based in Heriot-Watt University. Benny is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Thanks,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Directorate for Economic Development
Scottish Government
M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
E: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
Sent: 26 January 2023 08:14
To: DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; EPCD Mailbox <BESTCovidHub@gov.scot>; Director of Economic Development <DirectorDED@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Matheson C (Catriona) <Catriona.Matheson@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Benny Higgins - Sistema

Importance: High

Colleagues,

DFM would like PO to arrange a call with Benny Higgins from Sistema today – can you please send us his email contact details by return so we can arrange.

DFM would also like a short note on any current issues regarding Sistema funding please – grateful if this can be sent as soon as possible and by 11:00 at the latest.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Mob: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Email: DFMCSR@gov.scot

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57.

Briefing note – Sistema Scotland – 26 January 2023

Overview – SG funding for Sistema Scotland

Recent years SG funding:

• 2016-17	• £415,000
• 2017-18	• £455,000
• 2018-19	• £780,000
• 2019-20	• £850,000
• 2020-21	• £943,000
• 2021-22	• £1,100,000
• 2022-23	• £1,100,000

SG funding for Sistema Scotland contributes to: sustaining, supporting and expanding the existing five Big Noise programmes, which are primarily run in partnership with local authorities; core costs such as organisational staffing; and capacity building to increase overall impact.

In 2022-23 Sistema's total income was broken down as follows:

Scottish Government	£1,100,000
[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]
Total	[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

SG does not hold information on the level of funding individual local authorities provide to support Sistema Scotland's projects. This is a matter for the relevant local authorities and the organisation.

Sensitivities:

- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)].
- [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Issue – Aberdeen City Council funding

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Issue – Dundee City Council funding

[redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]. For 2023-24 this would be [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)], with total programme costs of [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]. [redacted under FOISA Section 33(1)(a)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

Impact of removal of funding

The following projects would stop or significantly reduce in scope:

- Big Noise Torry (Aberdeen) are currently working with more than 600 members, from babies to S2. By 2023/4, they aim to extend this from babies until S4.
- Big Noise Douglas (Dundee) are currently working with more than 500 pre-school and P1-P7 pupils, as well as afterschool projects with P3-P5 pupils. By 2023/24, they aim to extend this from babies to S2.

Next Steps – Options

Subject to the topic and outcome of DFM's upcoming discussion with Mr Higgins, options specific to the Aberdeen and Dundee funding issues include:

1. Meeting with relevant council leaders to emphasise the importance of the work Sistema does, particularly in relation to the Scottish Government's strategic priority on tackling child poverty, and to seek greater understanding of the rationale for their recommendation to remove funding. This could be undertaken by DFM, the Minister, or at official level.
2. Issuing a letter to relevant council leaders along the same lines as the option above.
3. [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(i)]

We will provide further advice in due course, taking into account any feedback from DFM and the Minister.

DFM call with Benny Higgins – lines to take

[redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)]

Sistema

- I am proud to support Sistema Scotland, who are a brilliant example of a cultural programme that contributes to many policy outcomes: in particular, our ambitions to tackle child poverty.
- With regards to the culture budget, we will invest £278m in Scotland's, culture & heritage sector in 2023-24. Within this, we hope to protect and maintain spend to priority lines. Uplifts are not affordable.
- The details of individual budget lines will be confirmed shortly. Please be assured that the excellent evidence in Sistema's recently published evaluation is being taken into account by officials.

Local Authority funding

- The Scottish Government's policy towards local authorities' spending is to allow local authorities the financial freedom to operate independently.
- Ahead of local authorities setting their budgets for the year ahead, they have to consider various options, many of which are unpalatable. This does not mean that all of these proposals will be agreed to.

- Councils are however autonomous and it is their responsibility to agree their annual budgets taking into account their statutory duties and national and local priorities.
- We have listened to councils and are increasing the resources available to Local Government by over £570 million compared with the 2022-23 budget, a real terms increase of nearly £161 million, as part of the 2023-24 budget.
- In 2023-24, Aberdeen City Council will receive £432.1 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £41.5 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 10.6 per cent compared to 2022-23.
- In 2023-24, Dundee City Council will receive £357.1 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £19.1 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 5.7% compared to 2022-23.
- Local authorities also have a range of revenue raising powers that are not available to other public services, including newly devolved powers over empty property rates relief.

58.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Sent: 26 January 2023 09:15

To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Sistema

Good Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thanks for coming back to me so quickly.

I will try and find that information out but given the timescales I would appreciate if you could start pulling together advice/information meantime.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 January 2023 09:01
To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Thank you very much for sending this.

Confirming that we are picking this up and that we noted the deadline of 3pm tomorrow.

Grateful if you can let us know of the context of this [redacted under FOISA Section 30(b)(ii)] as it will help us tailor our advice.

Many thanks in advance.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
t: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
e: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]gov.scot> On Behalf Of Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine
Sent: 25 January 2023 19:33
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema

Good Evening [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Mr Gray was sent this document about potential for Aberdeen and Dundee City Councils to cut funding to Sistema and their Big Noise projects, which would be devastating.

Can we please get urgent advice on this incredibly serious situation.

Apologies for the tight turnaround but I would be grateful if we can get this by 3pm on Friday.

Copying in Cab Sec for info after agreeing Mr Gray will take Sistema forward from now on.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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