

1.

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 11:32 AM
To: Director for Local Government and Housing
<DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>
Cc: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema

Hi Sean,
[redacted under FOISA Section(b)(ii)].
[redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]
Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

Penelope

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

(she/her)

From: Director for Local Government and Housing
<DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Director for Local Government and
Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>
Cc: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sistema

Hi Penelope

Happy to have a chat – [redacted under FOISA Section(b)(ii)]. [redacted under
FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]

Sorry to be bearer of bad news

Sean

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 2:57 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Sistema

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

For awareness around Sistema and Local Authority budgets.

Thanks,

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

2.

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

Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 4:13 PM

To: Lisa Baird <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: Sistema Scotland Investment Proposal

Hi Lisa and Penelope,

Draft reply to Vicky below.

Thanks,

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

Dear Vicky,

Thank you for your email and for sharing your proposals.

The Scottish Government decisions on spending for 2024/25 and future years are subject to the outcome of the Scottish Budget process and associated approval by the Scottish Parliament. As is normal practice, the draft budget will be published later this year and will be the subject of Parliamentary scrutiny in early 2024.

Due to this ongoing process, I'm afraid we're not in a position to provide budget confirmation at this stage. Colleagues will be in touch with you in due course, when we are able to share more information around the 2024/25 budget.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader – Culture Engagement and Participation

Access to Culture Unit

Cultural and Major Events Directorate, 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: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 3:31 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Sistema Scotland Investment Proposal

To see – can you please draft a quick holding reply for Penelope to send to Vicky acknowledging receipt and using standard lines about the budget.

Thanks

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – *currently working from home*
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: Director of Culture and Major Events
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Rachael Mckechnie
<Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Sistema Scotland Investment Proposal

This is asking for [redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)] so [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)]

(she/her)

From: Vicky Williams <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema Scotland Investment Proposal

From: Vicky Williams <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@sistemascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 07 November 2023 13:55
To: penelope.cooper@gov.scot <penelope.cooper@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; shirley.laing@gov.scot <shirley.laing@gov.scot>; directoroflearning@gov.scot <directoroflearning@gov.scot>; DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>
Subject: Sistema Scotland Investment Proposal

Dear All,

On behalf of Sistema Scotland, thank you for the Scottish Government's continued support for our transformational Big Noise programmes. Ahead of budget considerations please find attached the funding proposal sent to Ministers today. If you would like to speak further about this application we would be delighted to do this in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

Vicky Williams

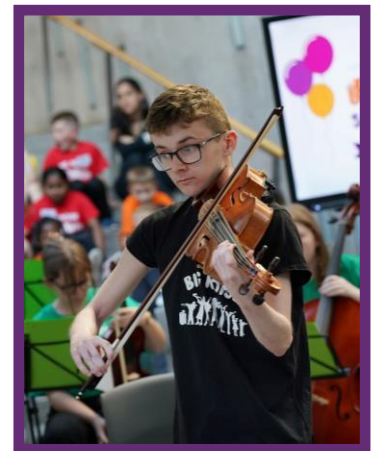
Vicky Williams (she/her)
Chief Executive Officer
Sistema Scotland

3.

Sistema Scotland
Scottish Government Investment Proposal
2024/25-2026/27



Big Noise: delivering on equality, opportunity and community



Contents

[Executive Summary](#)

[Sistema Scotland and Big Noise](#)

[The Big Noise model](#)

[Overview of current Big Noise Programmes](#)

[Delivering on Scottish Government Priorities: Equality, opportunity, community](#)

[Evidence of Impact](#)

[Strategic Aims 2024-27](#)

[Funding Model, Financial Projections and Investment Proposal](#)

[Appendix 1: Big Noise: Delivering across the National Performance Framework](#)

[Appendix 2: Income and expenditure projections](#)

Executive Summary

Our Big Noise programme: Scottish Government investment in Big Noise has ensured the delivery of a transformational social change programme that works intensively with children, young people and families within disadvantaged communities to tackle poverty. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Our impact: Big Noise has been independently evaluated by experts at the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) since 2013. A wide range of positive impacts have been evidenced. These evaluations show that Sistema Scotland’s respectful and enabling support has helped children reach their full potential, improved their confidence, mental health and wellbeing, and supported them into positive destinations after leaving school.

Our commitment to equality, opportunity, and community: Our programmes help to tackle the impacts of poverty and protect children and young people from harm. Of the children and young people who engage with the voluntary Big Noise after-school programmes, around 75% live in the most deprived quintile. Big Noise provides the opportunity for children and young people to realise their potential: the programme is an early intervention, supporting children and young people’s wellbeing and enabling them to achieve positive outcomes, avoiding becoming parents in poverty in the future. The Big Noise programmes are intensive, place-based and embedded in communities. They offer a model of how successfully to deliver person-centred services based on building long-term, trusting relationships.

Our investment proposal: [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. Public sector investment from the Scottish Government helps leverage significant private sector funding into our most disadvantaged communities. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. The Scottish Government’s investment of £2.6m in the current year 2023/24 will [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Sistema Scotland and Big Noise

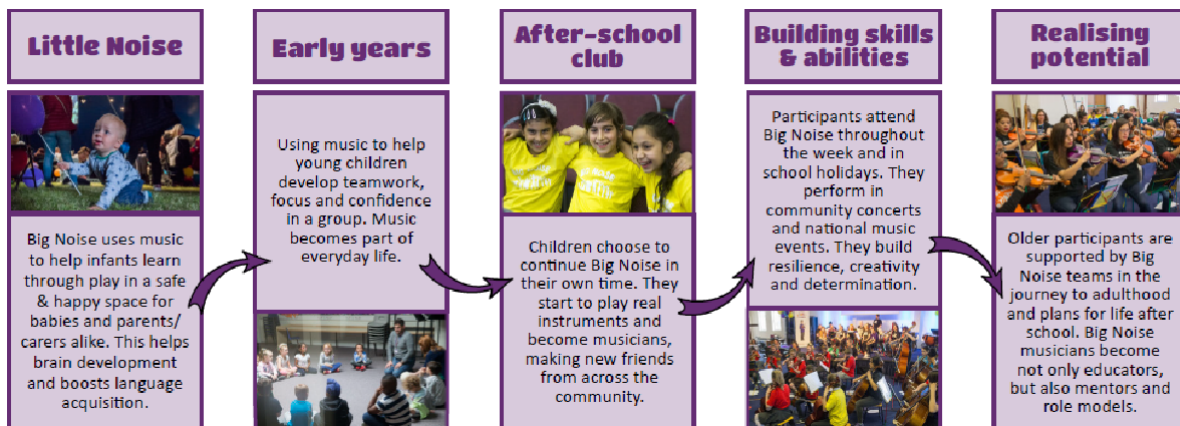
Sistema Scotland supports children, young people and families to realise their potential. Our work is place-based and purposefully located in some of Scotland’s most disadvantaged communities where our teams of inspirational musicians work over the long term to build trust and improve lives, supporting children and young people towards more positive futures.

Our Big Noise programmes are transformational social change and music education programmes, where the symphony orchestra becomes a community that supports children and young people to gain vital life skills such as confidence, resilience, teamwork, creativity, and aspiration. The programmes strengthen community cohesion and tackle inequalities, supporting families with free childcare and provision of healthy food.

“Big Noise to me means music and life. It doesn’t just improve your music skills, it improves your teamwork skills, your independence, your improvisation... Some people think Big Noise is just a music group, but it is so much more than that to the people that take part.”

Big Noise participant

The Big Noise Model



Big Noise is a long-term early-intervention programme, and our delivery follows a carefully developed curriculum, while also remaining flexible and responsive to celebrate the differences of our communities and incorporate the needs and views of our participants across our six centres. The programmes are place-based and all children and young people in the eligible age ranges are welcomed and actively encouraged to participate. Recognising the barriers that many of our children and families face, we target those who are in greatest need of support, working with local partners to identify these families and with the families themselves to design the appropriate support that will enable their children and young people to engage and thrive in the programme. We operate a non-exclusion policy and our staff are trained in positive behaviour techniques, elements of child development and psychology and trauma-informed practice. We are committed to being fully inclusive and work with a significant proportion of children in each community, so that Big Noise is fully embedded and participation becomes the norm.

Big Noise programmes are delivered entirely free of charge (including instruments, tuition, healthy snacks/meals, t-shirts, trips and residential). They provide essential support to parents and carers, who are able to take on additional employment or training in the knowledge that their children are being looked after in a safe, caring and fun environment.

The Big Noise journey comprises the following activities and support strands:

Little Noise/Baby Noise: weekly drop-in sessions for parents/carers and pre-nursery aged children, focused on promoting attachment and developing early communication and cooperation skills through musical play. This is a valuable opportunity for families to get to know Big Noise musicians and build trust and understanding of the many benefits of engaging with the programme, while also providing a safe social space for adults and combatting isolation.

Big Noise nursery and in-school sessions: All children who attend nursery and the early years of primary school (generally Primary 1, 2 and 3) in each of the local schools/nurseries across the six communities have Big Noise sessions as part of their school day up to twice weekly. These educational and age-appropriate sessions use singing and games to introduce basic musicianship concepts such as rhythm and pitch, and at around age 6 children are introduced to their orchestral string instruments.

Big Noise after-school sessions: From Primary 3 (children aged 7+), children are begin to attend our voluntary after-school programme, with the older young people attending up to four afternoons (or 8 hours) per week in term time, The programme is intensive and focused on collaborative orchestral learning, supporting children and young people to develop key life skills such as teamwork, confidence, leadership and resilience through group sessions in musicianship, choir, ensembles and leading up to a full symphony orchestra (with most also receiving one-to-one or paired lessons). We focus on the involvement of the children and young people as they progress through school, supporting their transition to secondary school and during their full education journey through to positive post-school destinations. In some of our programmes (see section 3) children aged around 10-11 have the opportunity to take up wind, brass and percussion instruments, providing an additional route to engagement with Big Noise for those who have not engaged well with string instruments. Participants also receive a healthy snack each day that they attend.

Big Noise holiday clubs: Open to all after-school club participants, our holiday clubs provide important continuity for the children, give them structure to their day, healthy snacks and meals and a safe and stimulating environment. Young people attend up to four days per week during the October and spring holidays and up to five weeks of the summer holidays. The holiday clubs involve children and young people taking part in musical sessions which often culminate in informal performances, as well as fun games, crafts and sports. A healthy meal is provided each day.

Performance opportunities: Participants have regular opportunities to develop performance skills, both within their communities and further afield. This includes yearly summer and winter concerts as well as a range of prestigious external opportunities. By way of example, recent performances have included the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, SNP Autumn Conference, Save the Children tackling poverty event, Stirling University, Scottish Youth Justice Conference, Community Psychology Festival and many local performances such as at community care homes and with local choirs and community social groups).

Young leaders: In our longer-established programmes in Raploch, Govanhill and Torry, participants take part in 'Young Leaders' sessions, which support them to understand, articulate and develop transferable skills gained by their participation in the afterschool programme. They are encouraged to reflect on their strengths and areas for personal development, set themselves goals and gain accreditation (e.g.

Dynamic Youth Awards) through the experience of planning and delivering their own Big Noise sessions for younger children with support from staff. Sessions also include external visitors and speakers to help young people learn more about different career options, and practical help with CVs and applications. The sessions will continue to develop according to the needs and wishes of the young people taking part; we will also introduce these strands in Douglas, Wester Hailes and Fallin as young people reach this stage.

Alongside the programme outlined above, a key element of our work with children and young people is to offer tailored additional and flexible support where needed. Based on participants' needs and targeted at the most vulnerable children and young people, we provide additional bespoke support including individual/small group support programmes, Nurture clubs providing a quieter and more child-led space for participants who struggle to engage in larger groups, and regular contact with families e.g. through phone calls and home visits to check in on wellbeing and support needs. We are careful to ensure this targeted support does not reinforce stigmas or existing barriers to taking part, instead ensuring that young people and families feel supported, valued and can engage in Big Noise in a way that works for them. Alongside the supportive relationships between Big Noise staff and participants we work with local partners (e.g. schools, social services) to help identify those in need of additional support, including those who fall into the six 'priority family' groups, families at higher risk of poverty, where we are aware of challenging family circumstances, difficulty engaging with education or services and for whom we work to overcome any identified barriers to taking part.

We also have specific targeted strands in partnership with local schools working with children with additional support needs. For example, in [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] our musicians use Makaton and music technology to deliver inclusive sessions for all children attending [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (for children from across [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] with severe and profound additional support needs), young people attending [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and young people attending [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]. In [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], we deliver inclusive sessions with [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], which specialises in working with children with additional support needs. In [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] we work with Deaf children attending [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Primary through a specially designed percussion programme.

“Big Noise is a safe place; you can go and talk to them if you didn't want to talk to your parents or anyone else. I definitely did speak to my tutor about things that weren't to do with music. It gave me the skills to communicate in the job I have now - that ability to speak to people with confidence.”
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Overview of current Big Noise Programmes

Each Big Noise programme is at a different stage in its development. We begin working with the youngest children in our Big Noise communities, and our programmes grow each year as the oldest young people remain engaged and we welcome the next generation of children joining Little Noise/Baby Noise and Nursery. Our six programmes currently work with over 3,700 children and young people each week:

Big Noise Raploch (est. 2008) is our founding programme and therefore has the full model, working with babies/toddlers through to school leavers and beyond (0-24 years old). Children and young people take part through learning string, wind, brass and percussion orchestral instruments.

Big Noise Govanhill (est. 2013) very nearly has the full pathway. The oldest participants are now around 17 years old and started their final year at school in August. Children and young people take part through learning string, wind, brass and percussion orchestral instruments.

Big Noise Torry (est. 2015) works with children from babies/toddlers up to around 15 years old (entered Secondary 4 in August). Children and young people currently take part through learning string and percussion orchestral instruments.

Big Noise Douglas (est. 2017) works with children from babies/toddlers up to around 13 years old (entered Secondary 2 in August), so we have our second cohort making the transition to secondary school this year. Children and young people currently take part through learning string and percussion orchestral instruments.

Big Noise Fallin (est. 2021) is an innovative brass-band based programme in a second community in Stirling and drawing on the expertise and capacity of Big Noise Raploch. It works with children aged 9-12 (currently Primary 5 to Secondary 1). Through Big Noise Fallin, we are testing an approach to expansion within an existing region which may offer a future growth model for other areas.

Big Noise Wester Hailes (est. 2022) is our newest programme and works with children from babies to age 7 (entered Primary 4 in August). Children and young people currently take part through learning string orchestral instruments.

Delivering on Scottish Government Priorities: Equality, opportunity, community

The Big Noise programmes take a holistic approach to supporting children, young people, families and communities; and they deliver across a broad range of Scottish Government policies and priority areas. In Appendix 1, we have provided a summary of the contribution Big Noise makes to contributing to each outcome in the National Performance Framework.

Equality

Big Noise helps to tackle the impacts of poverty and protect children and young people from harm. As mentioned, the programme is delivered entirely free of charge (including instruments, tuition, healthy snacks/meals, t-shirts and trips/experiences), all in the eligible age groups are actively encouraged to participate and we work in partnership with children and families to overcome any barriers to attendance. This offers a significant support to families during the cost of living crisis. Big Noise helps to reduce inequalities by ensuring that young people from disadvantaged communities are given opportunities that they may not otherwise have. Our programmes also create community cohesion and are highly valued in the areas that we operate.

Our support is targeted to those who need it most. This is evidenced by our understanding that, of the children and young people who engage with the voluntary Big Noise after-school programmes, around 75% live in the most deprived quintile (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020). In the Big Noise Govanhill after-school programme, we have 24 nationalities represented and 14 first languages spoken. Our Little Noise/Baby Noise strand (delivered across all programmes) is a weekly session for babies from just a few months old together with their parent/carer and supports bonding as well as being an important opportunity for social connections for parents/carers. Evaluation has consistently shown that amongst the Big Noise participant group there is a significantly higher percentage of children

with additional support needs. Big Noise [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] works with all the children in [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] for children with severe and profound additional support needs; Big Noise [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] supports Deaf children who attend [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)].

Crucially during this cost of living crisis, children and young people attending the Big Noise after-school clubs receive a healthy snack on arrival, and during the school holiday clubs they receive a healthy hot meal and snacks during the day. In a typical month, children attending the after-school clubs will receive over 5,500 healthy snacks. This has been an integral part of the programme since its launch 15 years ago and we know it is important to the young people, often particularly during school holidays.

Through our whole community approach, we also provide additional targeted support and practical help for families in greatest need. We consider the individual circumstances of families including children at risk in situations of domestic abuse and violence; looked after or accommodated children; children who live in substance misusing households; children living with parents who have mental health problems or learning disabilities; families with disabled children; and children in conflict with the law. We also consider factors such as social work involvement, staged interventions, situations where we are aware of stress or conflict in home life, children whose care arrangements have changed and children who struggle with social interaction/engagement.

The Big Noise staff team has established excellent relationships with children and extended families along with effective partnership working with schools and social work teams. This makes them ideally placed to identify and offer additional support for these children including enhanced one-to-one support (whether online or in-person), increased pastoral check-ins with children and families and practical support e.g. with technology and signposting other services.

“The musicians are really kind and they’ll always answer your questions. If you’re having a bad day there is always someone to talk to [...] I want to give the same experience to other people who have had really bad days at home, or don’t get noticed at home. I want them to feel noticed in a place where they can feel safe and protected.”

Big Noise Torry participant on their wish to volunteer in future

Opportunity

Big Noise provides the opportunity for children and young people to realise their potential. The programme models an early intervention approach, supporting children and young people’s wellbeing and enabling them to achieve positive outcomes, avoiding becoming parents in poverty in the future.

As outlined in section 3 above, Big Noise has been independently evaluated by experts at GCPH since 2013 with a wide range of positive impacts being evidenced. These evaluations show that Sistema Scotland’s respectful and empowering support has helped children reach their full potential, improved their confidence, mental health and wellbeing, and supported them to go on to a positive destination after leaving school.

Importantly, the most recent evaluation report published by GCPH in November 2022 (the first in the quantitative phase of the evaluation) found that Big Noise has a positive impact on educational outcomes. Almost all (98%) participants achieved a positive post-school destination compared to 84% of young people who had not taken part. Young people who attended Big Noise programmes were more likely to be in employment after leaving school than their counterparts, with 42% of Big Noise attendees in employment as opposed to 30% of non-attendees.

Big Noise provides important free childcare support for parents/carers during the school term and spring, summer and autumn school holidays, enabling them to access additional work or learning opportunities secure in the knowledge that their child is taking part in fun and stimulating activities in a loving and safe environment. Children and young people take part in the Big Noise after-school and school holiday programmes from around age 7 years old upwards. They attend multiple times per week with the older young people attending up to four afternoons (or 8 hours) per week in term time, and four days (or 15 hours) per week during the school holidays.

Through our extensive engagement with parents/carers we help them to develop valuable skills for work. We have community representative groups in each Big Noise community which enable parents/carers and community members to gain experience of influencing decision-making within the organisation, advocacy and making representations to elected members and other stakeholders. Each Big Noise programme engages volunteers. We currently have 38 volunteers across the organisation including over 50% of whom are young people or community members, who support with the set up of spaces, supervising snack time and assisting individual children in sessions.

“Working together with Big Noise, staff, parents, and pupils, we can help the children to develop skills such as creativity, resilience, self-confidence and also increase their wider achievement [...] Big Noise could become a real focal point for the amazing community we have here in [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)].”

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Head Teacher of [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Communities

The Big Noise programmes are place-based and embedded in communities. They offer a model of how successfully to deliver person-centred services based on building long-term, trusting relationships. Big Noise programmes are connected, embedded community assets. They build on the existing partnerships and services, providing a positive, inspirational social intervention. They build social cohesion and connection among the young people and the wider community. They provide a consistent and safe diversionary activity for young people in the community out of school hours and during school holidays. They build pride in children and families and return confidence to communities, providing meeting places of joy, interaction and sharing.

“The teachers and the volunteers, and everybody at Big Noise, let them express themselves freely and encourage them to be themselves [...] I find it brings a lot of people together who probably wouldn't normally be together and helps families maybe meet new families that they wouldn't have met otherwise [...] It's not just the music. It's the friendship, the social side, it builds their confidence, and it is just great.”

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], parent of Big Noise [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] participant

Evidence of Impact

“I wouldn't be where I am without Big Noise. It has supported me for the last 11 years of my life, every step of the way [...] Before Big Noise I didn't have many aspirations, like going to university, but now I have the motivation to be the best and do the best I can in life.”

Big Noise Participant

Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) has been leading the independent longitudinal evaluation of Sistema Scotland since 2013, together with a range of partners including Education Scotland, Audit Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University. GCPH is an

Sistema Scotland – Scottish Government Investment Proposal

internationally-recognised research organisation, which seeks to generate insights and evidence, support new approaches, and inform and influence action to improve health and tackle inequality.

Over the course of the evaluation, GCPH has identified seven delivery principles which it considers, taken together, are uniquely present in the Big Noise programmes. These principles are:

Quality relationships: people change lives
Longevity and commitment
Inclusivity and accessibility
Intensity and immersion
Innovation and flexibility
Collective and cooperative learning
Excellence, aspiration and inspiration

These principles inform all aspects of the Big Noise programmes. GCPH's 2019 report, *People change lives*, consolidated learning from the first five years of evaluation work and places a particular emphasis on how the impacts of Big Noise are underpinned by the long-term, encouraging, trusting and supportive relationship between the Big Noise musician and participant; this allows the musician to act not only as an educator, but also as a mentor and a role model, supporting positive behaviours and life choices. The unique design of the Big Noise programme allows this relationship to develop based on consistent daily contact over many years, as participants face the challenges and rewards that come from being part of an orchestra and performing regularly. GCPH has also set out these seven delivery principles in a briefing paper to inform the practice of other organisations, entitled *Principles for Effective Social Regeneration and Interventions*.

The GCPH evaluation of Big Noise Raploch, Govanhill and Torry (reinforced by a recent University of Dundee report on Big Noise Douglas) shows that Big Noise supports children and young people to achieve a broad range of positive outcomes, significantly enhancing participants' lives, prospects, health and wellbeing in the long term:

Educational – Big Noise helps improve concentration, listening, co-ordination, language development, school attendance and outcomes.

Life Skills – Our programmes help children and young people develop problem solving skills, decision-making, creativity, determination, self-discipline, and leadership.

Emotional – Big Noise increases happiness, security, pride, self-esteem, emotional intelligence and resilience, and acts as an emotional outlet.

Social – It encourages social mixing, social skills and cultural awareness, and builds strong and diverse friendships and support networks.

Musical – Children and young people are taught instrument and performance skills and learn to read music. They are also given music career options and access to other music organisations.

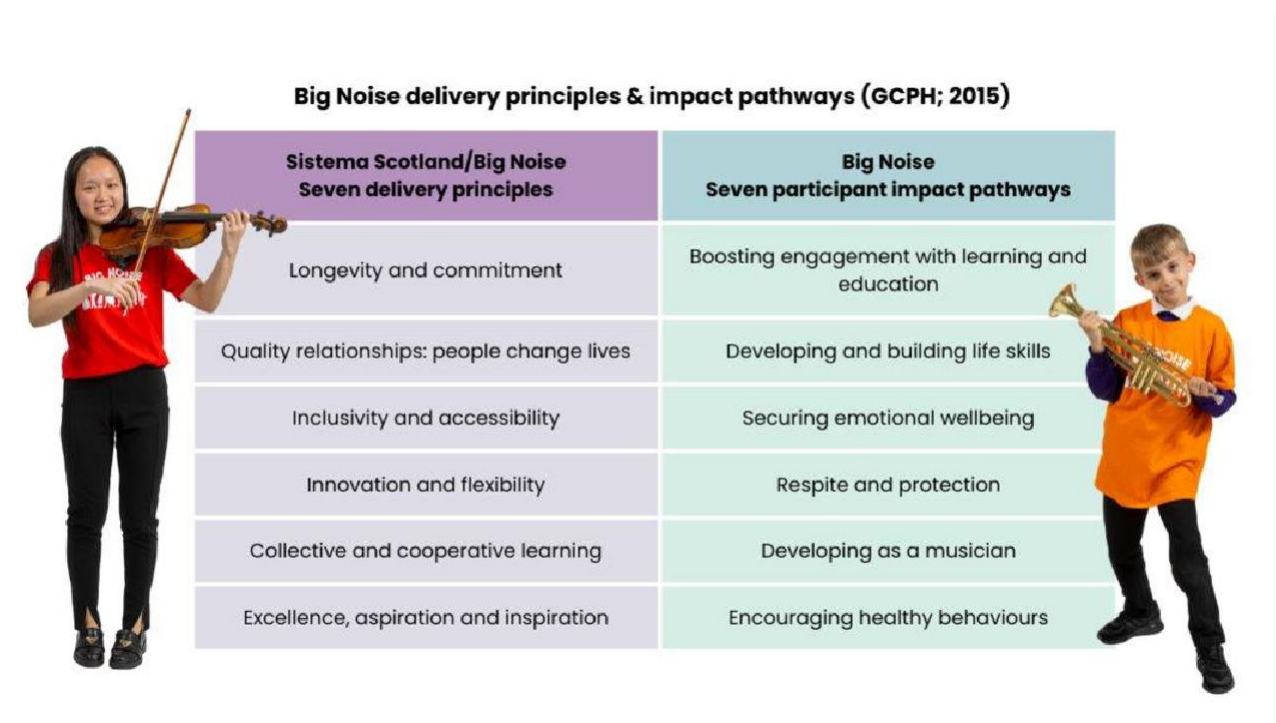
Physical – Participants are given healthy food at all after-school and school holiday sessions, which also acts as a poverty alleviation measure. They also have opportunities for games and exercise, which creates healthy habits for adulthood.

Protection – Big Noise provides someone to confide in, a calm and safe environment, and reduced stress. After school and holiday programmes also reduce barriers for parents engaging with work or training.



Each of the seven impact pathways outlined above has a detailed logic model.

The latest report in the long-term evaluation was published in November 2022, a statistical analysis examining the impacts of Big Noise participation on educational outcomes. According to the research, young people who take part in Big Noise have a greater chance of achieving a positive post-school destination than their peers who do not participate in the programme: 98% compared to 84%. Young people who attended Big Noise programmes were more likely to be in employment, and less likely to be unemployed, after leaving school than their counterparts. These are statistically significant findings from a robust analysis that involved comparing Big Noise Raploch participants who had reached school leaving age with a control group of young people from similar socio-demographic background who had not participated in the programme.



Strategic Aims 2024-27

With investment from Scottish Government, we will secure the delivery of high quality, inclusive Big Noise programmes [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. Through this investment, we will:

Be sector leading across all elements of our programme delivery:

This will take the form of an approach to inclusive practice that values individual learning journeys and celebrates diversity. We will create learning opportunities where musical excellence and opportunity can co-exist and are of equal value.

Embed pathways for young people to become future leaders:

[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. We will further develop and embed employment pathways for school leavers [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. Over the longer term these employment pathways will lead to developing routes for young people and community members to become leaders within Big Noise and their local communities.

Provide inclusive learning environments for all:

We aspire to create truly inclusive orchestral groups, where beginners are able to learn alongside more advanced students. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. We will continue to develop and hone our curriculum so that it is consistent in aims and outcomes across our six Big Noise programmes while still celebrating the differences of our communities and actively incorporating the needs and views of participants.

Model diversity and inclusion:

We will continue to strive to make our organisation as inclusive as possible and will use data where possible to inform and influence future practice. We will gather data to monitor equality across all aspects of our processes in order to inform future practice, understand whether our processes are encouraging equality and diversity and how they can be improved [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

We will expand and enrich our curriculum by interrogating our resources, repertoire and teaching methodologies including incorporating materials from a diverse range of sources including the communities with whom we work, and ensuring staff are trained in delivering this. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Test innovative approaches to expansion:

We will explore how best to expand the instrumental offer in [redacted under FOISA Section.38(1)(b)], drawing on our organisational learning from the past 15 years to increase the impact and broaden opportunities for young people in these communities. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. We will continue to grow the programmes in terms of instrumental offer [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Embed transformative youth voice:

The voice of children, young people and communities will shape and inform everything that we do. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)], so that we develop in a truly collaborative and inclusive way that reflects the needs and wishes of our communities. We will embed youth voice and community engagement structures which enable children, young people and families to feel true agency and ownership of all aspects of their Big Noise experience, as well as feel enabled and empowered through their involvement in Big Noise to have influence in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and the lives of their wider community. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

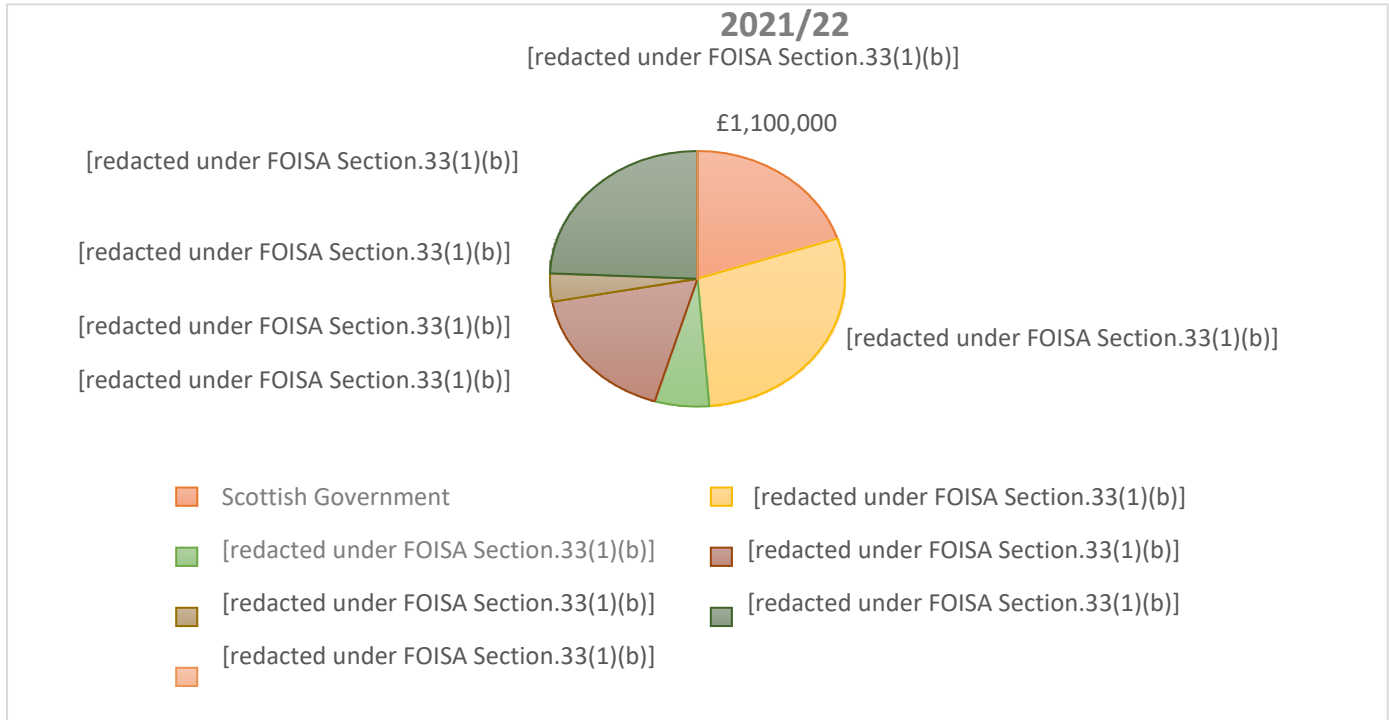
Enable community ownership:

We will provide opportunities for every age and stage of the community, including [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Reduce our carbon emissions in line with Scotland's pathway to Net Zero:

We recognise the critical importance of reducing our carbon emissions in order to create a greener, healthier and more secure future. We are currently undertaking [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Sistema Scotland – Scottish Government Investment Proposal



Please note: [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Expenditure budgets [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Our expenditure budget is projected to [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

Total expenditure [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

As you are aware our Local Authority funding from Aberdeen, Dundee and Stirling was withdrawn in 2023/24. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

We are seeking funding investment from the Scottish Government of [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. Delivering on the Scottish Government’s strategic priorities, we will continue to tackle poverty and transform the lives of children and young people in Scotland’s most deprived communities.

November 2023

APPENDIX 1

Big Noise: Delivering across the National Performance Framework

The Big Noise programmes make a strong contribution across the full range of National Performance Framework priorities:

National Outcome: Human Rights

Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise programmes have been identified as contributing key and important learning on how to deliver effective social interventions. This includes [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. This is in line with our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

National Outcome: Culture

Big Noise participants have increased access to attend and participate in cultural activity. Big Noise programmes also strive to increase opportunities for other young people in Scotland, providing access to holiday programmes and special events and visiting artists. Sistema Scotland has [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. Sistema Scotland also has a demonstrable commitment to training and professional development for all staff and volunteers, continuing to up-skill the sector. Sistema Scotland is ambitious to broaden the reach of its training and development programme, increasing impact for the wider cultural sector. Big Noise participants from [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

National Outcome: Health

The current robust base of independent evaluation and evidence shows increased healthy behaviours and avoidance of health-damaging behaviours in Big Noise participants. There is also evidence of increased confidence, aspiration, self-esteem and social connectedness. All are important factors in building positive mental wellbeing. This has been particularly evident [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

National Outcome: Fair Work and Business

By the end of 2023/24 Sistema Scotland will have [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. The organisation is committed to continued professional development [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

National Outcome: Education

Big Noise programmes are building skills for learning. In the early stages of the programme, there is evidence of [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. Independent evaluation shows that participation in Big Noise leads to a statistically significant increased likelihood of achieving a positive post-school destination. Through the Big Noise programmes Sistema Scotland is contributing [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

National Outcome: Children

The programmes are committed to ensure children in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities have the best start in life. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]. We committed to adopting appropriate structures to ensure children's and young people's voices are represented in decision-making across the organisation in line with the principles set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

National Outcome: Poverty

Sistema Scotland's core purpose is about preventing the next generation continuing the cycle of poverty and deprivation. [redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)].

National Outcome: Communities

Big Noise programmes are connected, embedded community assets. They build on the existing partnerships and services, providing a positive, inspirational social intervention. They build social cohesion and connection among the young people and the wider community. They provide a consistent and safe diversionary activity for young people in the community out of school hours

and during school holidays. They build pride in children and families and return confidence to communities, providing meeting places of joy, interaction and sharing.

APPENDIX 2

Sistema Scotland

Summary of Income & Expenditure Projections to 2024-2027 as at October 2023

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2024-27 £'000
<u>Cost by Expenditure Category:</u>					
Staff & Freelance Costs	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Direct Programme Costs	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Fundraising, Marketing & Evaluation	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Development & Training	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Other Overheads	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Governance Costs	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Expenditure Budget	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
<u>Cost by Centre</u>					
Big Noise Raploch & Fallin	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Big Noise Govanhill	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Big Noise Torry	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Big Noise Douglas	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Big Noise Wester Hailes	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Central Team	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Expenditure Budget	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Committed Income for Year	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Adjustment for use of Restricted Funds brought forward or to be carried forward to future year	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Total Committed Income after adjusting for use of Restricted Funds	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Surplus/(Deficit) after Committed Income	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
<u>Potential Funding Sources</u>					
Potential Public Funding	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.30(1)(b)]
Potential Private Funding	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]

Potential Funding	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Surplus/(Deficit) after Potential Funding	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Scottish Government Investment Request		[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
As % of Expenditure					
Remaining Deficit after Government Funding		[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Statistics:					
Staff Headcount	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Staff FTE	[redacted under FOISA section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Volunteers	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Programme delivery and participation:					
In school	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Individual Programme	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Nursery	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Baby & Toddler	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Double count adjustment – In school and after school	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]
Total Reach	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]	[redacted under FOISA Section.33(1)(b)]

4.

From: Danny Gibson <gibsond@stirling.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:58 PM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <dfmcsf@gov.scot>;
Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <ministercwpf@gov.scot>
Subject: Urgent: El Sistema Big Noise Funding

dfmcsf@gov.scot
MinisterCWPF@gov.scot

28 Feb 2024

To Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Dear Ms Robison,

El Sistema Big Noise Funding

As a local elected member for Stirling North Ward which includes Raploch I am writing to seek your continued financial support for El Sistema Big Noise.

Historically Labour Councillors have always found it possible to support Big Noise even despite year after year of SNP Green cuts to Council budgets. We are very proud of helping the organisation start here and the fantastic work it does to help our young people.

Despite Labour doing so again last year, when it emerged that 2 SNP Councils (Dundee and Aberdeen) withdrew funding the Scottish Government was forced through public pressure to provide direct funding and accordingly that allowed us to redirect this budget here to other pressed areas.

Given that Scottish Government funding for Big Noise last year and yet another year of SNP Green cuts to the Stirling Council budget this year I formally call on you to continue direct support for the organisation.

The minority Labour administration budget proposals being considered tomorrow (Thu 29 Feb) are to again withdraw from £336,000 making funding support and to continue £50,000 in kind funding given their base in a Stirling Council campus.

The SNP opposition amendment proposes to remove both the main funding as well as that in kind support too (-£386,000).

I note you are visiting Big Noise Raploch tomorrow (Thu 29 Feb) and very much hope and expect that the purpose of this visit will be to commit to continued financial support for the organisation from the Scottish Government.

We won't be able to join you on this visit as we will be meeting in the Council chamber to try and agree a budget that deals with the impact of the SNP Green Cuts

you have voted for in Parliament and that will hammer vital local public services here and right across Scotland.

Your assertion that the Scottish Government budget “protects public services” would be funny were it not quite so gravely serious for the people and communities I represent.

Even though it is abundantly clear that the SNP and Greens don't value local government, I hope at least to hear of your continued direct support for El Sistema Big Noise.

Yours sincerely

Danny Gibson
Councillor for Stirling North Ward
Scottish Labour and Cooperative Party

M: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
A: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
E: gibsond@stirling.gov.uk
W: www.stirling.gov.uk
W: www.stirling.gov.uk/dannygibson

From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance
<DFMCSF@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 7:44 AM
To: Shona Robison <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
CC: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Urgent: El Sistema Big Noise Funding

DFM,

Please see below email from Cllr Danny Gibson, Stirling North. We will make officials aware who are supporting you at the visit today.

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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

From: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 7:49 AM
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>
CC: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: El Sistema Big Noise Funding

Good morning,

Please see below email from Councillor Gibson, Stirling North Ward, relating to Sistema Big Noise Funding. DFM is visiting Big Noise Raploch this morning and I have flagged this correspondence to her.

Grateful if policy officials can advise [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]?

Many thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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

From: <[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 7:49 AM
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@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: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Urgent: El Sistema Big Noise Funding

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

Thanks for highlighting this to us.

In terms of the funding position for 24/25, the lines in the briefing pack are still the up-to-date response - [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]. Our preference would be to issue a response through Micase please, could you allocate to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]?

Many thanks,

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader – Culture Engagement and Participation
Access to Culture Unit
Cultural and Major Events Directorate, 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)]

5.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2024 11:34 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - DFM

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

I've drafted a response to Councillor Gibson re Sistema funding for comment/clearance. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)].

Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - MR - Councillor Danny Gibson - Stirling Council - March 2024 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Senior Policy Officer
Access to Culture | Culture and Major Events Directorate | Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot |

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 5:01 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - DFM

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

[redacted under FOISA Section(b)(ii)]. I've added a few comments to consider, see what you think and happy to chat.

Many thanks,

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader – Culture Engagement and Participation
Access to Culture Unit
Cultural and Major Events Directorate, 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>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2024 10:28 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - DFM

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

I've made the advised edits. If you want to have a quick look over to see if your happy with them. If so, I can accept the changes and send it up to Lisa for review?

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

6.

Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – MR – Councillor Danny Gibson
– Stirling Council – March 2024

Context

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

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

2024-25 funding: [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)].

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

Original Correspondence

Dear Ms Robison,

El Sistema Big Noise Funding

As a local elected member for Stirling North Ward which includes Raploch I am writing to seek your continued financial support for El Sistema Big Noise.

Historically Labour Councillors have always found it possible to support Big Noise even despite year after year of SNP Green cuts to Council budgets. We are very

proud of helping the organisation start here and the fantastic work it does to help our young people.

Despite Labour doing so again last year, when it emerged that 2 SNP Councils (Dundee and Aberdeen) withdrew funding the Scottish Government was forced through public pressure to provide direct funding and accordingly that allowed us to redirect this budget here to other pressed areas.

Given that Scottish Government funding for Big Noise last year and yet another year of SNP Green cuts to the Stirling Council budget this year I formally call on you to continue direct support for the organisation.

The minority Labour administration budget proposals being considered tomorrow (Thu 29 Feb) are to again withdraw from £336,000 making funding support and to continue £50,000 in kind funding given their base in a Stirling Council campus.

The SNP opposition amendment proposes to remove both the main funding as well as that in kind support too (-£386,000).

I note you are visiting Big Noise Raploch tomorrow (Thu 29 Feb) and very much hope and expect that the purpose of this visit will be to commit to continued financial support for the organisation from the Scottish Government.

We won't be able to join you on this visit as we will be meeting in the Council chamber to try and agree a budget that deals with the impact of the SNP Green Cuts you have voted for in Parliament and that will hammer vital local public services here and right across Scotland.

Your assertion that the Scottish Government budget "protects public services" would be funny were it not quite so gravely serious for the people and communities I represent.

Even though it is abundantly clear that the SNP and Greens don't value local government, I hope at least to hear of your continued direct support for EI Sistema Big Noise.

Yours sincerely

Danny Gibson
Councillor for Stirling North Ward
Scottish Labour and Cooperative Party

Response

Thank you for your letter of 29 February 2024 regarding 2024-2025 funding for Sistema Scotland.

The Scottish Government has been funding Sistema Scotland since 2012 to support delivery of Big Noise projects. Our support for Sistema Scotland demonstrates how

Scottish Government funding helps to harness the empowering potential of culture, contributing to the government priority of tackling child poverty as well as increasing access to culture.

In March 2023, we were concerned by the ongoing financial challenges that Sistema Scotland were facing. That is why we were pleased to announce an additional £1.5 million funding to alleviate the concerns around the future of the organisation to continue to deliver their programmes in 2023-2024. This was based on the well-evidenced benefit of the programmes in supporting children, young people and their families and the contribution of Big Noise towards Scottish Government policy ambitions.

It is important for me to be clear that this funding was to Sistema Scotland at an organisational level, and it is for the organisation to decide how best to distribute this in the communities in which they serve. Scottish Government did not stipulate a breakdown of funding by local authority.

In 2024-25, Stirling Council will receive £221 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £10.7 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 5.1% compared to the 2023-24 budget.

As you are aware, the Scottish Government's policy towards local authorities' spending is to allow local authorities the financial freedom to operate independently. As such, the vast majority of funding is provided by means of a block grant. It is then the responsibility of individual local authorities to manage their own budgets and to allocate the total financial resources available to them, on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities.

We have committed to investing at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by the financial year 2028-2029. This commitment to additional funding despite the challenging budget situation signals our confidence in the Scottish culture sector. Through this increased investment we want to drive up opportunities for participation in creative pursuits, support the production of new works, and ensure that Scotland's cultural output has platforms at home and abroad.

I hope you find this information helpful.

7.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: Clearance - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Good afternoon Lisa,

For review and clearance, please see attached the draft response for the MiCase on Sistema Scotland funding, that was sent to the DFM Private Office via the MiCase System by Stirling Council.

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]. The attached document contains the context, the original correspondence and our response.

Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - MR - Councillor Danny Gibson - Stirling Council - March 2024 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Senior Policy Officer
Access to Culture | Culture and Major Events Directorate | Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] |

From: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 5:04 PM
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>
Subject: RE: Clearance - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

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

Thanks for this.

Happy with the overall tone of your response but it needs updated now that the budget has passed through parliament safely. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)].

It might be worth asking [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] / Exchequer if there's a form of words we should be using. [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)] and asking [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] for a review?

Thanks – happy to chat

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – *currently working from home*
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clearance - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Thanks Lisa,

I'll reach out to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] to see if we can get a better budget line and run past the response with [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] / LA colleagues for review.

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

From: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:53 AM
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>
Subject: RE: Clearance - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Sounds good, thanks!

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – *currently working from home*
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

8.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:52 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: Current budget lines - micase response

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

I am responding to a micase on Sistema Scotland funding, that was sent to the DFM Private Office via the MiCase System by Stirling Council (attached for reference).

I would like to include an updated line on the budget for this response. Do we have updated budget lines now that the budget has passed through parliament that could be shared with local authorities for this response?

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Senior Policy Officer
Access to Culture | Culture and Major Events Directorate | Scottish Government
Mobile: [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>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:09 PM
To: [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: Current budget lines - micase response

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

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

Thanks

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

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:37 AM
To: [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: Current budget lines - micase response

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

I am the policy lead for Sistema, and we are looking for a more general line on what we can say about the budget as it has now gone through parliament, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)], so any steer from yourself on how best to communicate the current standing would be great.

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

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:48 AM
To: [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: Current budget lines - micase response

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

Okay sorry understood now.

Would suggest the following:

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)], Culture budgets have seen an uplift of £15.8m in 2024-25, as part of the Scottish Government's commitment to invest at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by the financial year 2028-2029. This commitment to additional funding despite the challenging budget situation signals our confidence in the Scottish culture sector. Through this increased investment we want to drive up opportunities for participation in creative pursuits, support the production of new works, and ensure that Scotland's cultural output has platforms at home and abroad. "

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

Thanks

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

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:15 AM
To: [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: Current budget lines - micase response

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - that's helpful.

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

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:21 AM
To: [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: Current budget lines - micase response

Thanks all – [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)].

Many thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Business Manager
Directorate for Culture and Major Events
Scottish Government

9.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:40 AM
To: [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: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

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

I am responding to a micase on Sistema Scotland funding, that was sent to the DFM Private Office via the MiCase System by Stirling Council (attached for reference).

I wanted to loop you in for awareness/ review of our proposed response, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]. The attached document contains the context, the original correspondence and our response (for review).

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Senior Policy Officer
Access to Culture | Culture and Major Events Directorate | Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot |

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 10:06 AM
To: [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: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

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

I've added LG Finance lines below to address the point made on funding cuts.

Turning now to funding for councils, the 2024-25 Local Government settlement provides record funding of over £14 billion to local authorities, including £147 million of funding for the Council Tax Freeze, this represents an increase of £574.6 million, equivalent to a 4.3 per cent cash terms increase. The Deputy First Minister has also confirmed a further £62.7 million of funding for Local government and a commitment to pass on any consequential received for increased teacher pension employer contributions.

The Local Government Settlements share of the discretionary Scottish Budget has also increased in the face of a real terms reduction in the Scottish Budget overall highlighting the importance Ministers place on local services.

In 2024-25, Stirling Council will receive £221 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £10.7 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 5.1% compared to the 2023-24 budget.

As you are aware, the Scottish Government's policy towards local authorities' spending is to allow local authorities the financial freedom to operate independently. As such, the vast majority of funding is provided by means of a block grant. It is then the responsibility of individual local authorities to manage their own budgets and to allocate the total financial resources available to them, on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities.

10.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 10:49 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

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

I've added some of the LA finance lines to the response.

Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - MR - Councillor Danny Gibson - Stirling Council - March 2024 [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

I'm still waiting to hear back from Davie. If you are happy with the changes made, I'll send him the updated version and request a response by Monday.

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

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 12:05 AM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], happy with the changes.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader – Culture Engagement and Participation
Access to Culture Unit
Cultural and Major Events Directorate, 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)]

11.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:40 AM
To: David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Good Morning Davie,

I am responding to a micase on Sistema Scotland funding, that was sent to the DFM Private Office via the MiCase System by Stirling Council (attached for reference).

I wanted to loop you in for awareness/ review of our proposed response, [redacted under FOISA Section.30(b)(i)]. The attached document contains the context, the original correspondence and our response (for review).

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

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Senior Policy Officer
Access to Culture | Culture and Major Events Directorate | Scottish Government
Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Email: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot |

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:17 PM
To: David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Hello David,

I have an updated version of the response, now including lines from local authority finance colleagues.

If you can review this, and come back with any feedback by Monday, that would be great.

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

From: David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:24 PM
To: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Draft is fine to go to ministers.

From: David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: For review / awareness - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

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

12.

From: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:05 PM
To: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clearance - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Hi Lisa,

I've added some lines on finance from Local Authority colleagues and response has been cleared by SpAds.

I've attached the updated version if you would like to review it again, otherwise happy to send this up to PO.

Thanks for your support on this,
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

From: Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:17 AM
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>
Subject: RE: Clearance - Micase [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] - Stirling Council - Sistema Funding

Great - thanks

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – *currently working from home*
email: lisa.baird@gov.scot

13.

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ionmhas
Shona Robison MSP/BPA

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

Councillor Danny Gibson
gibsond@stirling.gov.uk

Our Reference: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]
Your Reference: Urgent: EI Sistema Big Noise Funding

20 March 2024

Dear Councillor Danny Gibson,

Thank you for your letter of 29 February 2024 regarding 2024-2025 funding for Sistema Scotland.

The Scottish Government has been funding Sistema Scotland since 2012 to support delivery of Big Noise projects. Our support for Sistema Scotland demonstrates how Scottish Government funding helps to harness the empowering potential of culture, contributing to the government priority of tackling child poverty as well as increasing access to culture.,

In March 2023, we were concerned by the ongoing financial challenges that Sistema Scotland were facing. That is why we were pleased to announce an additional £1.5 million funding to alleviate the concerns around the future of the organisation to continue to deliver their programmes in 2023-2024. This was based on the well-evidenced benefit of the programmes in supporting children, young people and their families and the contribution of Big Noise towards Scottish Government policy ambitions.

It is important for me to be clear that this funding was to Sistema Scotland at an organisational level, and it is for the organisation to decide how best to distribute this in the communities in which they serve. Scottish Government did not stipulate a breakdown of funding by local authority.

In 2024-2025, Stirling Council will receive £221 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £10.7 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 5.1% compared to the 2023-2024 budget.

As you are aware, the Scottish Government's policy towards local authorities' spending is to allow local authorities the financial freedom to operate independently. As such, the vast majority of funding is provided by means of a block grant. It is then the responsibility of individual local authorities to manage their own budgets and to allocate the total financial resources available to them, on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities.

We have committed to investing at least £100m more annually in culture and the arts by the financial year 2028-2029. This commitment to additional funding despite the challenging budget situation signals our confidence in the Scottish culture sector. Through this increased investment we want to drive up opportunities for participation in creative pursuits, support the production of new works, and ensure that Scotland's cultural output has platforms at home and abroad.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

SHONA ROBISON