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April 2009

The Director of Children's, Young People's and Families' Services in England & Wales
(Education Authorities in Scotland have received a separate letter)
cc Head of Music Service

Dear Colleague

National Music Council Local Education Authority Music Awards 2009

The National Music Council (NMC) Local Education Authority Music Awards Scheme recognises those education authorities that are able to demonstrate imaginative, inclusive and all round high-quality music provision in a particular year. The **Music Education Council** continues to be formally associated with the Scheme. And once again, **Jazz Services** as well as the **PRS Foundation (PRSF)** will be looking to award Diplomas/Certificates of their own in accordance with the questions in the form.

2. As in previous years, the 2009 Awards (relating to the 2008/09 financial year) are being organised with the support of and assistance from the **Federation of Music Services** and the **Convention of Scottish Local Authorities**.

3. The combined support of all the various partners enables the NMC to improve the possibilities for publicising and celebrating the achievements of the winning authorities and highlighting good practice through:

- a high-profile ceremony, to which the following will be invited: representatives of the winning authorities; a representative of every submitting authority; key opinion formers linked to the music industry and music education (including all Council members); and representatives of the media;
- broadening the dissemination of the report detailing the activities of those authorities recognised during the year (using printed and electronic means)

4. In 2009, as in previous years, the Awards will take the form of a major trophy and diplomas of merit. The major trophy will be awarded to the authority that demonstrates the most substantial overall commitment to music during the year in question, and the questionnaire has been drawn up in such a way as to enable recognition by diploma to be accorded also to those education authorities whose policies and practices are worthy of special acknowledgement.

5. For the avoidance of doubt, I confirm that in our deliberations we take full account of the resources available to and the size of the LEAs/Music Services making submissions.

6. Education authorities are now invited to make submissions for the 2009 Awards using the questionnaire attached to this email. No doubt, those authorities who are completing annual self-evaluation forms will draw upon the data used for that purpose.

7. A copy of the report in respect of the previous year's Awards can be accessed via the MusicEd website, www.musiced.org.uk under the Magazine section. Those awards were presented by John Stephens last November at a ceremony in London.

8. I confirm that, as always, a submission in the name of a semi-autonomous unit within an education authority – be it called a music service, agency, trust or foundation for music – will be most welcome. In all cases, submissions should be made using the questionnaire, **either in email form** to info@nationalmusiccouncil.org.uk or printed **in hard copy**, completed and returned by 5pm on Friday 7 August 2009 to:

Fiona Harvey
Administrator
National Music Council
60/62 Clapham Road
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We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

IVOR WIDDISON

Chair of the Music Awards Panel