



# Instrumental Music Services

Results from the IMS Survey,  
May-July 2015

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# Introduction

This report documents the results from the 2015 Instrumental Music Survey, which was carried out on behalf of Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS) and is the third year of the annual survey. In previous years, the survey was issued on behalf of the Scottish Government Instrumental Music Implementation Group (IMIG) and the Instrumental Music Group. The purpose is to provide up-to-date information on the provision of local authority led instrumental music services across Scotland.

Instrumental Music is a discretionary service provided by all local authorities and is additional to the music curriculum taught within the classroom. This study concentrates solely on these discretionary services, outwith Youth Music Initiative (YMI) funded tuition and the music curriculum. This research continues from the results that were published in June 2013<sup>1</sup> and February 2015<sup>2</sup>.

In May 2015 a questionnaire was distributed to all Heads of Instrumental Teaching across Scotland to collect up-to-date information on tuition charges, concession rates, hire/loan policies, pupil numbers, costs of services, teacher numbers, and additional activities.

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1 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00426353.pdf>

2 <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/research.html>

# Instrumental Music Services

## Charging Policies

There continues to be a wide range of charging policies for instrumental music tuition across local authorities in Scotland. The following section outlines current and previous charging policies, indicating changes in tuition costs and concession procedures over the past three years.

### Tuition costs

For the current academic year, 2015/16, thirteen<sup>3</sup> local authorities changed their tuition fees. Among these authorities, tuition fees in:

- Midlothian decreased by 50%;
- Moray, Aberdeenshire, Stirling, and Clackmannanshire increased in line with inflation;
- Angus increased by 4% (from £201 to £210 per pupil, per year);
- South Lanarkshire increased by approximately 17% (from £180 to £210 per pupil, per year);
- East Renfrewshire increased by 25% (from £200 to £250 per pupil, per year);
- East Ayrshire increased by 20% (from £150 to £180 per pupil, per year);
- Fife increased by 12% (from £125 to £140 per pupil, per year);
- North Ayrshire increased by 12.5% (from £160 to £180 per pupil, per year as the final phase in the 3-year phased increase);
- Inverclyde increased by 11% (from £100 to £111 per pupil, per year); and,
- Shetland changed to a new structure so that fees differ for group and individual lessons.

At the time of the survey, Glasgow Council was reviewing its existing structure but any potential changes had not yet been finalised.

Table 1 displays current and previous instrumental music charging costs across all local authorities in Scotland. Currently, 10 local authorities do not charge for instrumental music tuition. Also, Midlothian Council reduced fees by 50% in 2015/16 with plans to remove these fees entirely by 2016/17.

Among the local authorities that charge for tuition, fees for group lessons range from £272 per pupil, per year in Aberdeen City, to £84 per pupil, per year in Midlothian. The average (mean) cost of tuition<sup>4</sup> per pupil, per year among local authorities that charge for tuition is approximately £184<sup>5</sup> (£177 in 2014/15).

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3 This includes Local Authorities that increase their fees in line with inflation every year

4 Excluding hire fees where applicable

5 Calculated on group costs where applicable

Table 1: Instrumental music tuition charges

Cost per person, per year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Aberdeen City	£272 Group, £340 individual	£272 Group, £340 Individual	£272 Group, £340 Individual	£272 Group, £340 Individual
Highland	£252	£252	£264	£264
East Renfrewshire	£160	£180	£200	£250
Stirling	£189 Group, £309 Individual	£189 Group, £309 Individual	£240 Group	£246 Group
Perth & Kinross	£245.85	£245.85	£245.85	£245.85
Clackmannanshire	£220	£222	£228	£230
Angus	£183	£192	£201 + £30 hire	£210 + £30 hire
Moray	£201 Group, £300 Individual	£201 Group, £300 Individual	£210 Group, £300 Individual	£210 Group, £300 Individual
South Lanarkshire	£180 (£60 per lesson block)	£180	£180	£210
Aberdeenshire	£192 Group, £284 Individual	£196 Group, £292 Individual	£200 Group, £300 Individual	£204 Group, £304 Individual
North Ayrshire	£120	£140	£160	£180
East Ayrshire	£100 Group, £150 individual	£100 Group, £150 Individual	Single fee £150	£180
East Dunbartonshire	£140	£140	£160	Possible £10 increase
Renfrewshire	£150	£150	£150	£150
North Lanarkshire	£150	£150	£150	£150
Argyll and Bute	£138	£142.15	£146.40	Not known
Falkirk	£44.40 Group, £178.20 Individual + £20.40 hire	£140*	£140	£140
Fife	£125	£125	£125	£140
Shetland	£140	£140	£160	£129 Group, £172 Individual
Scottish Borders	£125	£125	£125	£125
Inverclyde	£95.50	£98	£100	£111
Midlothian	£150	£160	£168	£84
Dundee City	£132 + £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire

Cost per person, per year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	No charge	No charges for lessons in Wind, Brass or Pipes. Some secondary pupils in the Nicolson choose to have fiddle tuition during school hours and pay for that service. The same is true for piano tuition in Sgoil Lionacleit.		
Dumfries & Galloway	£130 + £47.15 hire	No Charge, hire	No Charge, £48.50 hire	No Charge, £48.50 hire
Orkney	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Edinburgh	No charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Glasgow	No charge	No Charge	No Charge	
South Ayrshire	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
East Lothian	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
West Dunbartonshire	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
West Lothian	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge

\* instrument loan provided free of charge for up to a year

For the majority of local authorities, the charge presented above includes instrument hire for at least the first year of tuition, as well as a variety of additional activities provided by the service. Details of instrument hire/loan policies are available in Table 2 below and Summary Table 2 in the appended document. Instrument hire policies and availability vary between authorities with many services limited by the number of instruments available.

Additional activities include a range of school and regional orchestras; ensembles; bands and groups, and concerts and residential courses. Although some of these activities incur an additional fee in some local authorities—for example, residential courses—the majority are provided free of charge. In 2014/15 at least 16,300<sup>6</sup> pupils participated in additional activities run by instrumental music services. Further details including staff allocations, funding and pupil numbers for these activities are available in summary tables 14 and 15.

Table 2- Instrument hire/loan procedures

Local Authority	Hire/Loan	Cost per pupil per year	Details
Aberdeen City	Yes	Included in cost of lessons	
Aberdeenshire	Yes	No fee	The IMS has a limited stock of musical instruments. Allocation of instruments is subject to availability and need. Senior and/or more advanced pupils will generally be encouraged to purchase their own instrument.

6 Several Local Authorities were unable to provide precise figures

Local Authority	Hire/Loan	Cost per pupil per year	Details
Angus	Yes	£30	All IMS pupils are eligible to hire The hire can continue until a child leaves school at the end of S6
Argyll & Bute	Yes	No fee	Service tries to provide instruments for the first 2 years but pupils are then expected to purchase their own.
Clackmannanshire	Yes	No fee	Pupils can borrow instruments, but are encouraged when appropriate to provide their own. No pupil will be excluded because they can't provide an instrument.
Dumfries & Galloway	Yes	£48.50	
Dundee City	Yes	£83	The service provides an optional service for pupils to hire an instrument at a cost of £83 per year. Families with a household income of less than £15,800 can apply to have this charge waived. Hire charges can be paid by direct debit. The service also provides a supported purchase scheme for those wishing to purchase instruments via the school thus accessing the Council's procurement arrangements and VAT exemption.
East Ayrshire	Yes	No fee	Instruments are provided for the first year. Parents are encouraged to invest in an instrument for their child after the first year of tuition to allow the IMS to continue to offer the same opportunity to the next upcoming year group.
East Dunbartonshire	Yes	No fee	Instruments are loaned to beginner pupils if available. There is no hire procedure in place.

Local Authority	Hire/Loan	Cost per pupil per year	Details
East Renfrewshire	Yes	No fee	<p>All Monday-Friday pupils are loaned an instrument for the first two terms, then they are encouraged to purchase their own.</p> <p>Pupils eligible for free school meals are loaned an instrument, as much as possible, for the duration of their tuition.</p> <p>The IMS does not have the resources to loan instruments to Saturday Music Centre pupils - they are encouraged to hire instruments from local stockists, before going on to purchase their own.</p>
Eilean Siar	Yes	No fee	The Instrumental Music Service buys instruments for pupils to borrow for the whole duration that they need them.
Falkirk	Yes	No fee	<p>Generally instruments are provided for 1 year, however if the instrument is expensive to buy and parents cannot afford to purchase, the IMS will extend this and tailor towards the pupils.</p> <p>The IMS try to offer the option of free hire for all instruments, however it is limited by the number available. Currently the IMS do not have enough instruments to meet demand, which means some parents have to hire externally or purchase from the beginning.</p>
Fife	Yes	No fee	Where appropriate, an instrument will be loaned and available for pupils to take home. For larger instruments such as piano, double bass, orchestral percussion etc. practice facilities are made available in schools. The use of an instrument is included in the charge for instrumental instruction.
Glasgow	Yes	No fee	
Highland	Yes	No fee	Council instruments available for as long as a pupil requires them
Inverclyde	Yes	No fee	



Local Authority	Hire/Loan	Cost per pupil per year	Details
Midlothian	Yes	No fee	Midlothian IMS has a limited number of instruments available for loan. Staff also help to arrange discounted lease-hire and purchase of instruments for pupils.
North Ayrshire	Yes	No fee	
North Lanarkshire			The IMS does not operate an instrument hire service for pupils. However, it does provide instruments for pupils who play larger, more expensive, instruments such as French Horns, tuba, Baritone saxophones etc. Schools have also been encouraged to purchase their own stock of instruments to allow first access for pupils. The IMS provide the staffing for schools but it is the responsibility of individual schools and parents/carers to provide the instruments for tuition to take place.
Orkney Islands	Yes	No fee	No maximum length of time for pupils to keep instrument.
Renfrewshire	Yes	No fee	Provided for at least first year of tuition.
Scottish Borders	Yes		Cost of hire of instrument is included in annual fee. Any pupil taking music in \$4 and above and does not own their own instrument can hire an instrument from Scottish Borders Council for £58 per year.
Shetland Islands	Yes	No fee	All pupils are entitled to borrow an instrument where suitable. There is no set timescale for this but the IMS advises parents/guardians to provide their own instrument after the first free term.
South Ayrshire	Yes	No fee	
South Lanarkshire			South Lanarkshire Council holds a relatively small supply/inventory of musical instruments. In general, parents/service users enter into independent hiring or purchase arrangements with musical instrument retailers or suppliers. The Instrumental Music Service does not offer any hire or loan facility in relation to musical instrument provision, however, individual schools hold a small supply of instrument resources for pupil use. A selection of larger and more costly musical instruments are centrally provided and distributed to schools by the Instrumental Music Service, these include: oboes, bassoons baritone saxophones, tubas, trombones, drum kits, timpani and large orchestral percussion instruments etc.
Stirling	Yes	No fee	Pupils are usually asked to provide their own instrument after two years but no pupil will be excluded from lessons because they cannot provide their own instrument.

Local Authority	Hire/Loan	Cost per pupil per year	Details
West Dunbartonshire	Yes	No fee	

## Concessions

Every local authority in Scotland that charges for instrumental music tuition provides concessions on some level. These concessions often apply to pupils from low-income households, pupils sitting SQA music exams, and siblings of pupils already receiving tuition with the service.

### Pupils from low-income households

Since August 2014, all charging local authorities have provided some form of concession for pupils from low-income households. The majority of these authorities (19 out of 22) provide complete exemption from charges for pupils from low-income households. The measure used to qualify pupils for this concession varies but is usually determined by Free School Meal Entitlement (FSM).

Within the three local authorities that do not offer complete exemption, charges are considerably reduced for pupils from low-income households:

- Falkirk offers concession rates of £55 per year (61% discount) for pupils entitled to Free School Meals and/or Clothing Grant.
- Clackmannanshire offers half fees for pupils from households entitled to Housing Benefit or Income Support (£115 per pupils, per year in 2015/16, £114 per pupil, per year in 2014/15).
- Stirling offers two concessionary rates. Pupils in receipt of free school meals and/or clothing grant are offered a concessionary rate of £66 per year (£63 in 2014/15). Pupils whose families are in receipt of housing benefit, council tax reduction/benefit or education maintenance allowance are offered a concessionary rate of £186 per year (£180 in 2014/15).

### SQA

One of the concerns highlighted in 2012 was that in some local authorities pupils sitting SQA music exams were charged for instrumental tuition. Since August 2014, all 32 instrumental music services have provided free instrumental music tuition to pupils sitting SQA music exams.

The majority of local authority led Instrumental Music Services offer exemption from tuition fees for SQA music pupils from Secondary 4 (S4) onwards. However, within some areas this exemption begins from Secondary 3 (S3) onwards. More detailed information on these procedures is available in Summary Table 7.

Although the majority (approximately 78%) of instrumental music pupils in S4 to S6 also sit SQA music, not all SQA music pupils receive lessons with the Local authority service. Overall across Scotland, approximately 40% of SQA music pupils received lessons with the Instrumental Music Service in 2014/15. These figures vary considerably between local authority areas and are provided in detail in Summary Table 10.

## Sibling discount

Several local authorities also provide reduced charges for second or subsequent siblings receiving instrumental tuition with their service.

Among these local authorities:

- Aberdeen City, North Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire offer a 50% sibling discount. North Lanarkshire also offers a 50% discount for pupils taking a second instrument.
- East Ayrshire offers a 50% reduction to second siblings, and full exemption from fees for third or subsequent siblings.
- Scottish Borders offers exemption from tuition fees for third or subsequent siblings.
- Renfrewshire offers a concession rate of £50 per year to second or subsequent siblings (66% reduction).
- Argyll and Bute offers a £5 reduction per year for siblings or pupils taking more than one instrument with the service.
- East Renfrewshire offers a 25% discount for siblings of a pupil paying full price.
- Aberdeenshire Council introduced a 20% sibling discount in 2013/14. This is discounted to each child when 2 or more siblings are paying for tuition. To receive this discount each sibling must be registered with the same contributor (person responsible for payment).
- Angus introduced a 20% discount for second siblings and a 40% discount for third and subsequent siblings in August 2014. 2015/16 prices: £210 for the first child, £168 for the second child, and £126 for the 3rd and any subsequent children.

## Other concessions:

A number of local authorities provide a variety of other concessions. Among these:

- North Lanarkshire Council offers full exemption from tuition fees for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
- Inverclyde Council offers full exemption for Primary School Pupils
- Argyll and Bute offers a 50% discount for pupils learning the bagpipes (Argyll Piping Trust Subsidy).
- Renfrewshire and Inverclyde offer 1-year free tuition to new starts.
- Scottish Borders offers a discount rate of £70 per year for new starts (44% discount).
- Midlothian Council provides 100 extra bursaries for families whose income is under £10,000 above the Free Meal Entitlement limit.
- In Highland, exemptions may be requested from the Highland Instrumental Unit. The process requires support from the Music Instructor or Head teacher.

More detailed information on concession rates and qualifying measures is available in summary table 7.

## Percentage of IMS pupils receiving concessions/exemptions

Table 3 displays the number and percentage of instrumental music pupils who received concessions or exemptions from fees in 2014/15. The number of instrumental music pupils includes all pupils who received instrumental music lessons with the local authority service at some point over the course of 2014/15. This figure includes pupils who received lessons in music centres if these lessons were part of the core service but does not account for other pupils who took part in additional activities provided by the service.

Table 3 - Number of IMS pupils receiving concessions/exemptions

Local Authority	Number of IMS pupils 2014/15	Number of IMS pupils who received concessions/exemptions in 2014/15	% IMS pupils	Total %
Aberdeen City	2255	113 SQA music pupils	5.0%	11%
		135 Sibling Discount	6.0%	
Aberdeenshire	2955	385 SQA music pupils	13.0%	34.6%
		135 FSM	4.6%	
		503 Sibling Discount	17.0%	
Angus	1434	90 SQA music pupils	6.3%	39.7%
		122 Sibling Discount	8.5%	
		357 Benefit exempt	24.9%	
Argyll and Bute	1334	118 SQA music pupils	8.8%	14.8%
		80 FSM	6.0%	
Clackmannanshire	345	144 SQA music pupils	41.7%	41.7%
Dumfries & Galloway	1552	152 FSM (discounted hire)	9.8%	9.8%
East Ayrshire	823	184 SQA music pupils	22.4%	45.4%
		150 Benefits	18.2%	
		40 Sibling discount	4.9%	
East Dunbartonshire	1410	298 SQA music pupils	21%	25.6%
		63 FSM	4.5%	
East Renfrewshire	1904	Total 638 inc 100 FSM	33.5%	33.5%
Falkirk	1376	353 SQA music pupils	25.7%	33.8%
		112 FSM and/or Clothing Grant	8.1%	
Fife	3332	154 SQA music pupils	4.6%	23.2%
		618 FSM	18.5%	
Highland	3400	110 SQA music pupils	3.2%	12.9%
		20 Special Exemption	0.6%	
		310 Benefits	9.1%	

Local Authority	Number of IMS pupils 2014/15	Number of IMS pupils who received concessions/ exemptions in 2014/15	% IMS pupils	Total %
Inverclyde	1677	524 SQA music pupils	31.2%	100.0%
		426 Trialist	25.4%	
		555 Primary	33.1%	
		44 FSM and/or Clothing Grant	2.6%	
		128 S3 pupils (pay 1 term)	7.6%	
Midlothian	1221	129 SQA music pupils	10.6%	27.4%
		46 Bursaries	3.8%	
		8 Third Child Discount	0.7%	
		151 FSM	12.4%	
Moray	893	56 SQA music pupils	6.3%	14.9%
		77 FSM	8.6%	
North Ayrshire	1554	363 SQA music pupils	23.4%	48.2%
		310 FSM	19.9%	
		1 Looked After Children	0.1%	
		75 Sibling discount	4.8%	
North Lanarkshire	3685	963 SQA music pupils	26.1%	59.4%
		627 FSM/CG	17.0%	
		64 Sibling discount	1.7%	
		63 ASN	1.7%	
		425 1 year - YMI	11.5%	
		48 Second instrument	1.3%	
Perth & Kinross	1690	224 total inc. 47 FSM	13.3%	13.3%
Renfrewshire	1534	321 SQA music pupils	20.9%	62.8%
		141 FSM	9.2%	
		34 Sibling discount	2.2%	
		467 new recruits exemption	30.4%	
Scottish Borders	895	172 SQA music pupils	19.2%	34.0%
		57 FSM	6.4%	
		71 Clothing Grant	7.9%	
		4 Sibling	0.4%	
Shetland	570	87 SQA music pupils	15.3%	19.8%
		26 FSM/CG	4.6%	

Local Authority	Number of IMS pupils 2014/15	Number of IMS pupils who received concessions/ exemptions in 2014/15	% IMS pupils	Total %
Stirling	844	241 (no charge - SQA)	28.6%	33.4%
		26 (£63 concession rate) – FSM/CG	3.1%	
		15 (£180 concession rate)	1.8%	
South Lanarkshire	3035	1500 SQA music pupils	49.4%	51.9%
		75 FSM	2.5%	

Among the 59,451 instrumental music pupils across the whole of Scotland in 2014/15 at least 13,928 (23.4%<sup>7</sup>) of these pupils received concessions or exemptions from tuition fees. A further 21,285 instrumental music pupils received tuition within local authorities that do not charge for the service.

### Free School Meal entitlement (FSM)

Figure 1 displays the percentage of instrumental music pupils registered for free school meals compared to the total percentage of pupils—in Primary 4 (P4) and above<sup>8</sup>—registered for free school meals in the local authority. This gives an indication of whether pupils registered for free school meals are under- or over-represented in the service. Please note, however, that caution should be taken when comparing these percentages: many local authorities were unable to provide these figures, particularly those that do not charge for instrumental music tuition. Although many other authorities record this information for concession purposes, real figures may be higher than those recorded. Dundee City, for example, records FSM in order to offer pupils free hire. However, for instruments that do not require hire, free school meal entitlement is not recorded. In light of this, several other Local Authorities may not record this information for pupils sitting SQA exams because these pupils already receive free tuition (this is the case, for example, in East Ayrshire). It is likely that for several local authorities the percentages of IMS pupils registered for FSM are higher than the figures presented.

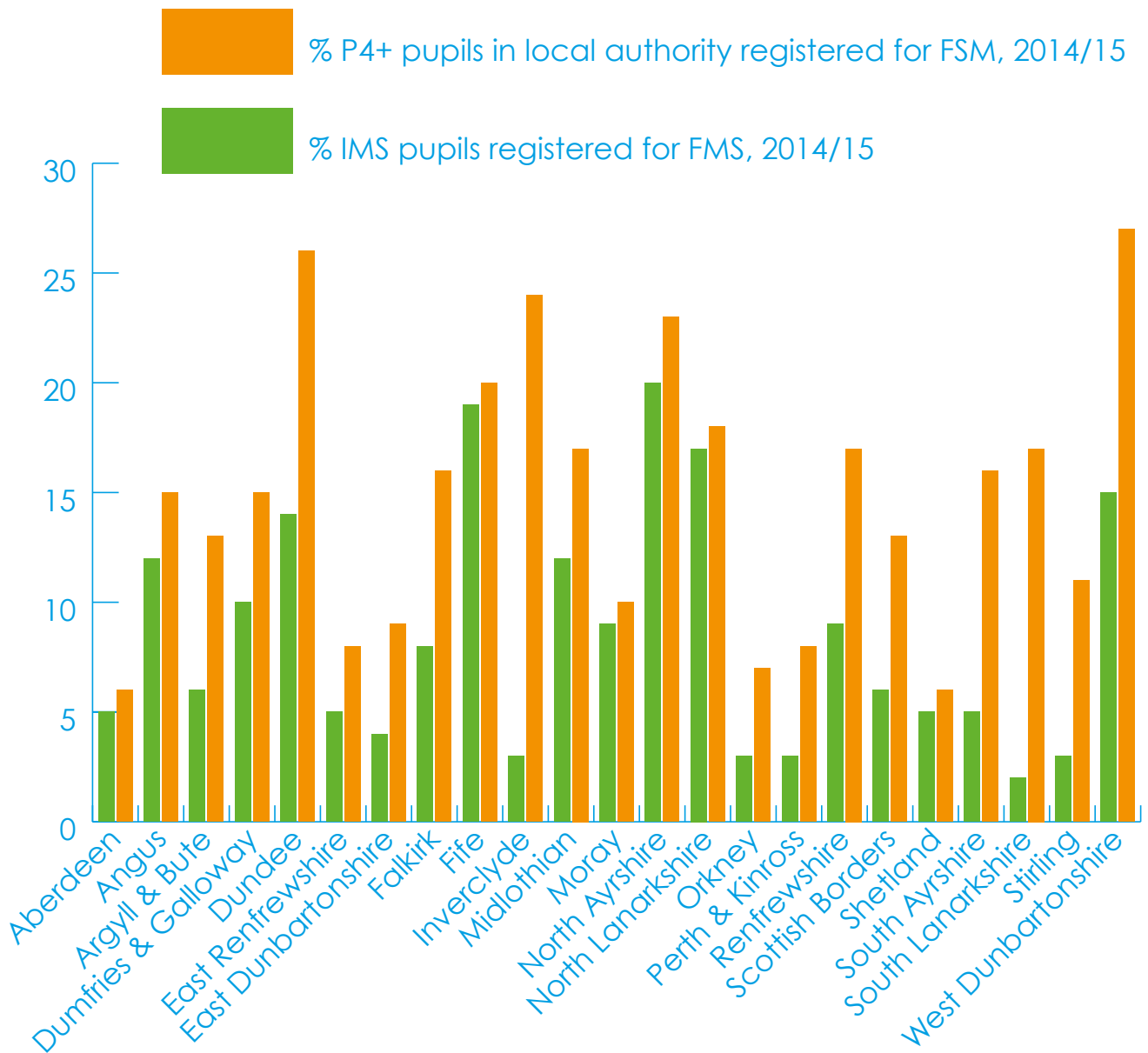
Evidently the percentage of pupils registered for free school meals (FSM) varies between instrumental music services and local authority areas. In some local authority areas, such as in Fife, North Lanarkshire and Shetland, the percentage of instrumental music pupils registered for FSM is relatively similar to the proportion for all Primary 4 and above pupils.

More information on IMS pupils registered for free school meals in 2014/15 is available in Summary Table 9.

<sup>7</sup> Approximately 36% among local authorities that charge for tuition

<sup>8</sup> The percentage was taken from Primary 4 and above because all pupils in Primary 1-3 are now entitled to Free School Meals in Scotland.

Figure 1 - % IMS FSM compared to total % FSM in the local authority



# Number of IMS Pupils

Across all local authorities in Scotland, in 2014/15 59,451 pupils took instrumental music tuition with the local authority service at some point over the course of the year. This equates to approximately 8.9% of the 2014 Primary and Secondary School roll and is a slight increase relative to the equivalent in 2013/14: 8.6%.

Table 4 displays numbers of pupils who received instrumental music lessons in 2014/15, 2013/14 and 2012/13. These figures include pupils who may have dropped out over the course of the year and exclude YMI and additional activities. Pupils who took part in additional activities but did not receive instrumental lessons are not included in these figures. The percentages provided below are calculated out of the whole Primary and Secondary school roll<sup>9</sup>. It must be noted that whilst instrumental music lessons start at different stages in different local authorities, the majority do not start until at least Primary 4. This does not therefore reflect the percentage of IMS pupils out of the population of entitlement, which would be considerably higher for all local authorities.

Table 4 - Number of instrumental music pupils

Local Authority	Number of IMS pupils			Number of pupils on the Primary & Secondary School Roll, September*			% of IMS Pupils out of Primary & Secondary School Roll		
	12/13	13/14	14/15	2012	2013	2014	12/13	13/14	14/15
Aberdeen City	2760	2642	2255	21288	21502	21894	13.0%	12.3%	10.3%
Aberdeenshire	3389	3025	2955	33829	34185	34799	10.0%	8.8%	8.5%
Angus	1500	1200	1434	15127	15065	15114	9.9%	8.0%	9.5%
Argyll & Bute	1258	1435	1334	10741	10659	10545	11.7%	13.5%	12.7%
Clacks	432	448	345	6584	6611	6540	6.6%	6.8%	5.3%
Dum. & Gal.	1210	1317	1552	19123	18917	18828	6.3%	7.0%	8.2%
Dundee City	2200	2669	2938	17109	17287	17423	12.9%	15.4%	16.9%
East Ayrshire	1147	783	823	15835	15767	15720	7.2%	5.0%	5.2%
East Dun.	1301	1600	1410	15799	15908	16036	8.2%	10.1%	8.8%
East Lothian	1284	1318	1327	13466	13658	13716	9.5%	9.7%	9.7%
East Ren.	1942	1938	1904	16050	16123	16329	12.1%	12.0%	11.7%
Edinburgh	4758	4912	5215	44392	45266	46289	10.7%	10.9%	11.3%
Eilean Siar	360	500	500	3501	3434	3361	10.3%	14.6%	14.9%
Falkirk	1142	965	1376	20684	20862	21119	5.5%	4.6%	6.5%
Fife	3494	3161	3332	47725	48088	48419	7.3%	6.6%	6.9%
Glasgow	4538	4551	4573	62959	63512	63870	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%
Highland	3100	3200	3400	30781	30772	30660	10.1%	10.4%	11.1%
Inverclyde	1015	13-1400	1677	10032	9936	9854	10.1%	13-14%	17.0%

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/12/4199>



Local Authority	Number of IMS pupils			Number of pupils on the Primary & Secondary School Roll, September*			% of IMS Pupils out of Primary & Secondary School Roll		
	12/13	13/14	14/15	2012	2013	2014	12/13	13/14	14/15
Midlothian	1100	1100	1221	11716	11730	11927	9.4%	9.4%	10.2%
Moray	850	850	893	11961	12009	12048	7.1%	7.1%	7.4%
North Ayrshire	1570	1627	1554	18214	18105	17989	8.6%	9.0%	8.6%
North Lan.	3853	3670	3685	48005	47969	48154	8.0%	7.7%	7.7%
Orkney Islands	498	500	531	2666	2643	2662	18.7%	18.9%	19.9%
Perth & Kinross	1590	1605	1690	17466	17517	17686	9.1%	9.2%	9.6%
Renfrewshire	1050	1280	1534	22975	22979	22880	4.6%	5.6%	6.7%
Scottish Border	716	862	895	14717	14572	14553	4.9%	5.9%	6.1%
Shetland	662	561	570	3228	3237	3226	20.5%	17.3%	17.7%
South Ayrshire	1222	1319	1240	14113	14074	13902	8.7%	9.4%	8.9%
South Lan.	2957	3029	3035	42829	42850	42888	6.9%	7.1%	7.1%
Stirling	810	844	844	12337	12234	12316	6.6%	6.9%	6.9%
West Dun.	964	891	941	12129	12190	12189	7.9%	7.3%	7.7%
West Lothian	2448	2395	2468	25809	25838	25983	9.5%	9.3%	9.5%

\*(source: Scottish Government)

A series of analyses were carried out to investigate the relationship between the variation of tuition fees and the percentage of pupils who took instrumental music tuition across local authorities in Scotland. Details from these analyses are available on page 21 of this report.

# Selection Procedures

Although some instrumental music services try to provide tuition for all interested pupils, for the majority of services this is not possible because demand highly outweighs resources. In 2014/15 only four local authorities: Eilean Siar, Falkirk, Dundee and South Lanarkshire, were able to provide tuition for all interested pupils over the course of the year. Both Falkirk and Dundee expressed strategies for teaching in groups to allow greater access to more pupils.

For the majority of other local authority areas, however, demand outweighs staff capacity and available teaching time. Consequently, some form of selection process is often required when recruiting new pupils. These selection procedures vary across and, in some cases, within local authorities. A number of local authorities do not have any form of testing, some test but only to establish a starting point or to match appropriate instruments with pupils, and others use tests or trial periods to select successful applicants.

In 2014/15 22 local authority instrumental music services used some form of test or trial period as part of the selection process for new pupils. These tests vary but often involve some form of assessment in rhythm, pitch, and physical suitability followed by a trial period. In several local authorities, these procedures only take place if demand outstrips availability.

Six local authorities maintain waiting lists instead of carrying out trials or tests, with pupils being selected in chronological order from when they applied. Within some of these local authorities tests are used to establish a starting point or for matching appropriate instruments but not within selection itself. Full descriptions of selection procedures within each local authority are available in Summary Table 13.

*It should be highlighted that all primary school pupils will also have the opportunity to learn an instrument for one year through Youth Music Initiative (YMI) provision. This survey is focussed on Instrumental Music Instruction provided outwith YMI funding and, therefore, does not account for this provision.*

## Other variations in IMS Policies

As established, there are a wide variety of instrumental music policies between local authorities in Scotland, not only regarding tuition fees, concession rates, and selection procedures but also when pupils can first apply for tuition and whether pupils can apply for tuition on more than one instrument with the service. Within eight local authorities pupils can apply for tuition on more than one instrument; in some of these local authorities this only applies if it does not prohibit any other pupil receiving tuition. Policies also vary as to whether concessions and exemptions apply for the second instrument. In seventeen other local authorities, pupils may take a second instrument but only in special or exceptional circumstances, such as if pupils are applying to higher music education. Seven other local authorities only offer tuition on one instrument per pupil, largely so as to provide tuition to as many pupils as possible.

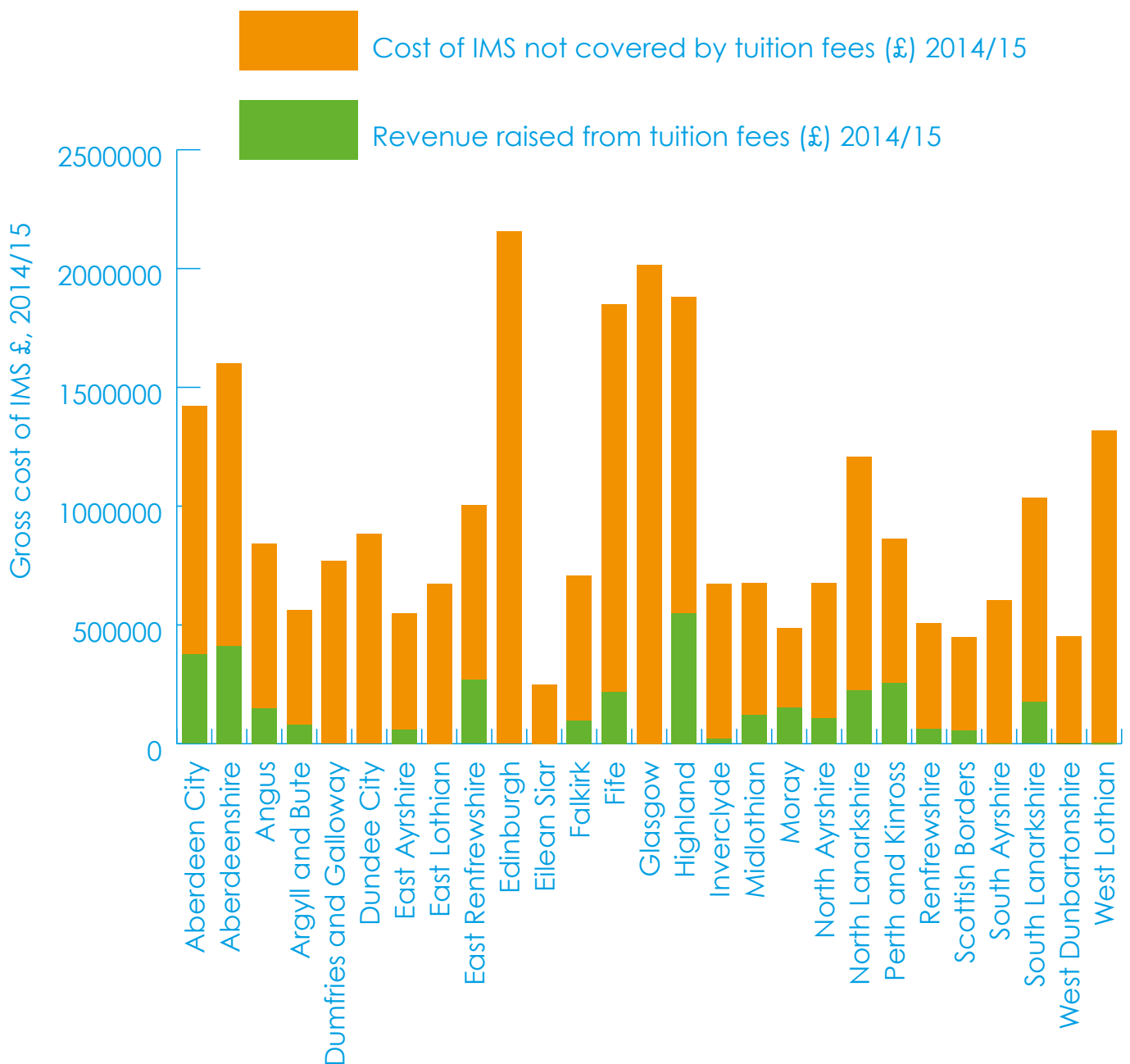
Although it varies between and within local authorities as to when pupils can first apply for instrumental music tuition, the majority start offering tuition on some instruments, for example in strings, around Primary 4. Whilst some instruments are started at a later age, all local authorities offer lessons on at least one from Primary 6 onwards. More details are available in Summary Table 11.

Similarly, the number of minutes per instrumental lesson also varies across and within local authorities. The majority provide between 25 and 30 minutes of tuition per week, with a minimum number of approximately 30 weeks. Local authorities tend to provide tuition for the whole school term, which often results in several more weeks than the minimum requirement. More information is available in Summary table 12.

# Revenue and Budget Allocations

All Instrumental Music Services across Scotland are subsidised by their local authority. Revenue from tuition fees does not cover the total cost of the service in any local authority (rather, it covers from around 3 to 30% of the total cost). Overall the combined revenue from charging Instrumental Music Services in 2014/15 amounted to approximately 20%<sup>10</sup> of the total cost for these services (excluding non-charging local authorities) and is relatively similar to previous years<sup>11</sup>.

Figure 2 - Revenue from tuition fees compared to gross cost of IMS, 2014/15



10 Among the 18 local authorities able to provide figures:

- revenue from tuition fees: £3,384,955,
- total gross cost: £16,988,140.

11 approximately 19% in 2013/14 and 2012/13

The bar chart in Figure 2 displays the total revenue from instrumental music tuition fees and the remaining gross cost of the Instrumental Music Service not covered by these fees. For example, the total revenue generated from tuition fees in North Ayrshire in 2014/15 was £108,290, which was 16% of the gross cost of £674,317.

The gross cost of all 28 local authority led instrumental music services which were able to provide this information<sup>12</sup> in 2014/15 was approximately £26,178,780. Among the 25 local authorities also able to provide figures for 2013/14, the total gross cost of instrumental music services increased from approximately £22,412,305 to £22,762,246 in cash terms between 2013/14 and 2014/15. This 1.6% cash increase was not collectively experienced by all Instrumental Music Services in Scotland with a number of services' gross budgets declining by up to 7% in cash terms across this same period.

Very few instrumental music services receive any private sponsorship: East Lothian and Argyll and Bute both receive funding from local piping trusts for piping instruction in their local authority areas; North Ayrshire's instrumental music service receives funding from the Rhona Reid Trust to sponsor Young Musician Events, and the service in Perth and Kinross receives sponsorship through the Perth and Kinross Music Foundation (the Young Musicians' Parents' Association). Several other instrumental music services gain private sponsorship through parent support bodies and other charities and companies but only for additional activities run by the service. More information on revenue from charges, instrumental music budgets and private sponsorship is available in Summary Tables 3 and 4.

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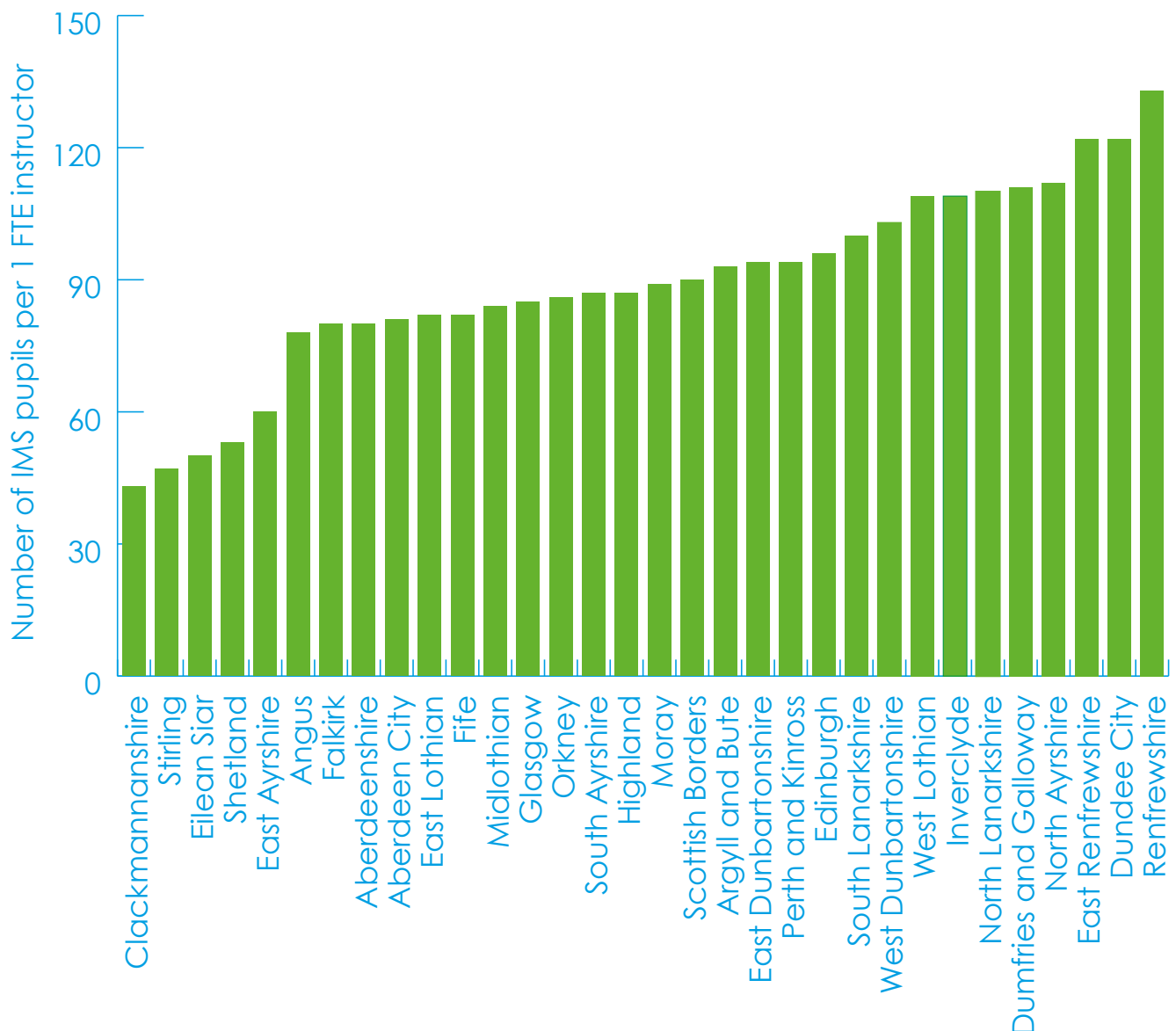
12 Excluding Gross Budget for Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Orkney Islands, and East Dunbartonshire.

# Instrumental Music Instructors (IMI)

The majority of local authority Instrumental Music Services provide a wide range of instrumental instruction including tuition in strings, woodwind, brass, guitar, percussion and traditional instruments – see Summary Table 6.

In 2014/15 there were approximately 657 FTE instrumental music instructors across Scotland; this includes 411 full-time instructors and 465 part-time instructors. This is relatively similar to the overall number of instructors in 2013/14; 652 FTE. The number of pupils per IMI varies between local authorities. These rates are displayed in the chart in Figure 3, and range from 43 pupils per 1 FTE IMI in Clackmannanshire to 133 pupils per 1 FTE IMI in Renfrewshire. Pupil to teacher ratios differ across music services in Scotland but the challenges and needs within each authority also vary. Different authorities use different practices to meet these needs and maintain their service; it should be noted that there may be very high pupil to teacher ratios in some local authorities to try to maximise provision and opportunity. This is a consideration for each individual authority but may not be appropriate or possible in all areas.

Figure 3 - pupils per FTE instructor



# Reviewing Practices

There are a variety of procedures and policies for reviewing, engaging and sharing information across instrumental music services in Scotland. Examples of these procedures are available in summary tables 16, 17, 18, and 19.

Charging and concession policies for instrumental music services tend to be revised alongside other charging structures within local authorities, often part of the annual budget setting process within the council or department. Other procedures include:

- Aberdeenshire Council which established a working group to consider the advice contained in the Scottish Government Instrumental Music Group report;
- Falkirk's instrumental music service which compares its charging and concession procedures with neighbouring authorities and across the rest of Scotland, and makes use of the Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment for concession rates;
- The instrumental music service in Fife which holds an annual internal review, and
- Argyll & Bute's instrumental music service which had a review taking place at the time of the survey that included equality of access and provision.

Procedures to engage with parents or carers of pupils utilising instrumental music services include a range of take-home media, such as information leaflets, record books or diaries, and progress reports. Further, IMS websites and online social media are used, as well as parent councils, parent evenings, and surveys. In 2014/15 Dundee implemented public cluster meetings across the city to improve its 'involve and inform' strategy.

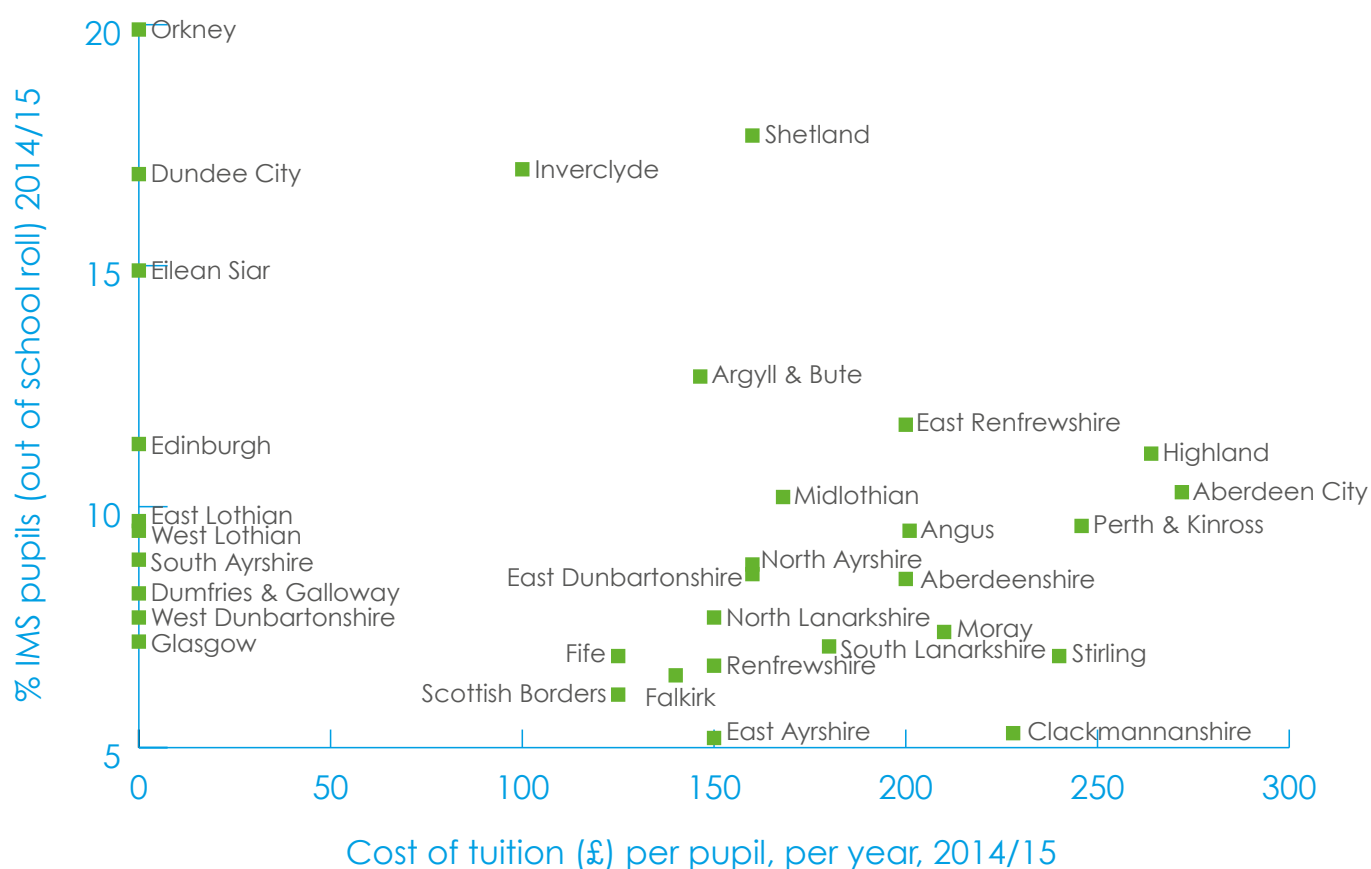
One feature highlighted repeatedly for sharing information between local authorities is the value of HITS. The collaboration of heads and managers of instrumental music enables local authorities to share policies and learn from other service's experiences.

# Impact of Charging and Other Variables

## Percentage of pupils and the cost of tuition

A series of analyses were conducted to address the impact of charging structures on pupil numbers and equity among instrumental music services in Scotland. The scatter plot in Figure 4 displays the percentage of pupils who took instrumental music tuition in 2014/15 (out of the whole school roll) against the cost of tuition among different local authorities. Evidently Orkney—a non-charging service—had the highest percentage of pupils who took instrumental music in 2014/15, followed by Shetland and Inverclyde which charged £160 and £100 per pupil respectively, and Dundee City which also provides a non-charging service.

Figure 4 - % IMS pupils by cost of tuition



Similar to 2012/13 and 2013/14, there is no statistically significant correlation<sup>13</sup> between the variation of tuition fees and the percentage of pupils who took instrumental music tuition across local authorities in Scotland in 2014/15. This is also the case when results are split into sub-groups of charging and non-charging local authorities. In other words, Instrumental Music Services with relatively high tuition fees did not necessarily have a lower percentage of pupils that took Instrumental Music in 2014/15 than local authorities with relatively low or no tuition fees.

13 (p>0.05)



This does not suggest that the cost of fees do not influence parents' decision as to whether pupils take up instrumental music; charging policies need to be continuously reviewed to ensure opportunities are not closed for particular pupils. It was highlighted by one instrumental music service that the cost of tuition is commonly cited as a contributing factor when interested pupils do not go on to participate in lessons. The results do indicate, however, that there are many other influences on pupil numbers, beyond charging costs. As mentioned previously, the majority of local authorities cannot provide tuition for all pupils who apply for instrumental music. The percentages of pupils as listed above, therefore, do not necessarily reflect the percentages of interested pupils.

This analysis also does not demonstrate whether there are variations in pupil numbers from different areas or socio-economic backgrounds within local authorities. Pupils most at risk of exclusion may be those from households that narrowly miss out from concession and exemption policies. This should be revised by local authorities to ensure equality of opportunity. In Highland, for example, special exemptions may be requested from the Highland Instrumental Unit. Also, in Midlothian 100 additional bursaries are available for pupils from households with income below £10,000 above the free school meal entitlement limit.

It should be noted, however, that equality of access goes beyond tuition costs and concession procedures. Several charging and non-charging Instrumental Music Services noted procedures in place to encourage more equal participation within their local authority area. For example, in North Ayrshire and Stirling they make use of "soundstart": an initiative involving classroom music learning to encourage music participation in the local authority's more deprived areas or in schools with low uptake in music learning. Falkirk has also set up a project called Class Band which offers free whole class tuition to pupils in three primary schools who in the past have not accessed instrumental music. The project is now being rolled out across more primary schools with the aim to increase participation numbers in the long term. Other similar approaches and further best practice examples are provided in Summary Tables 19 and 20.

## Percentage of pupils and the percentage of education budget

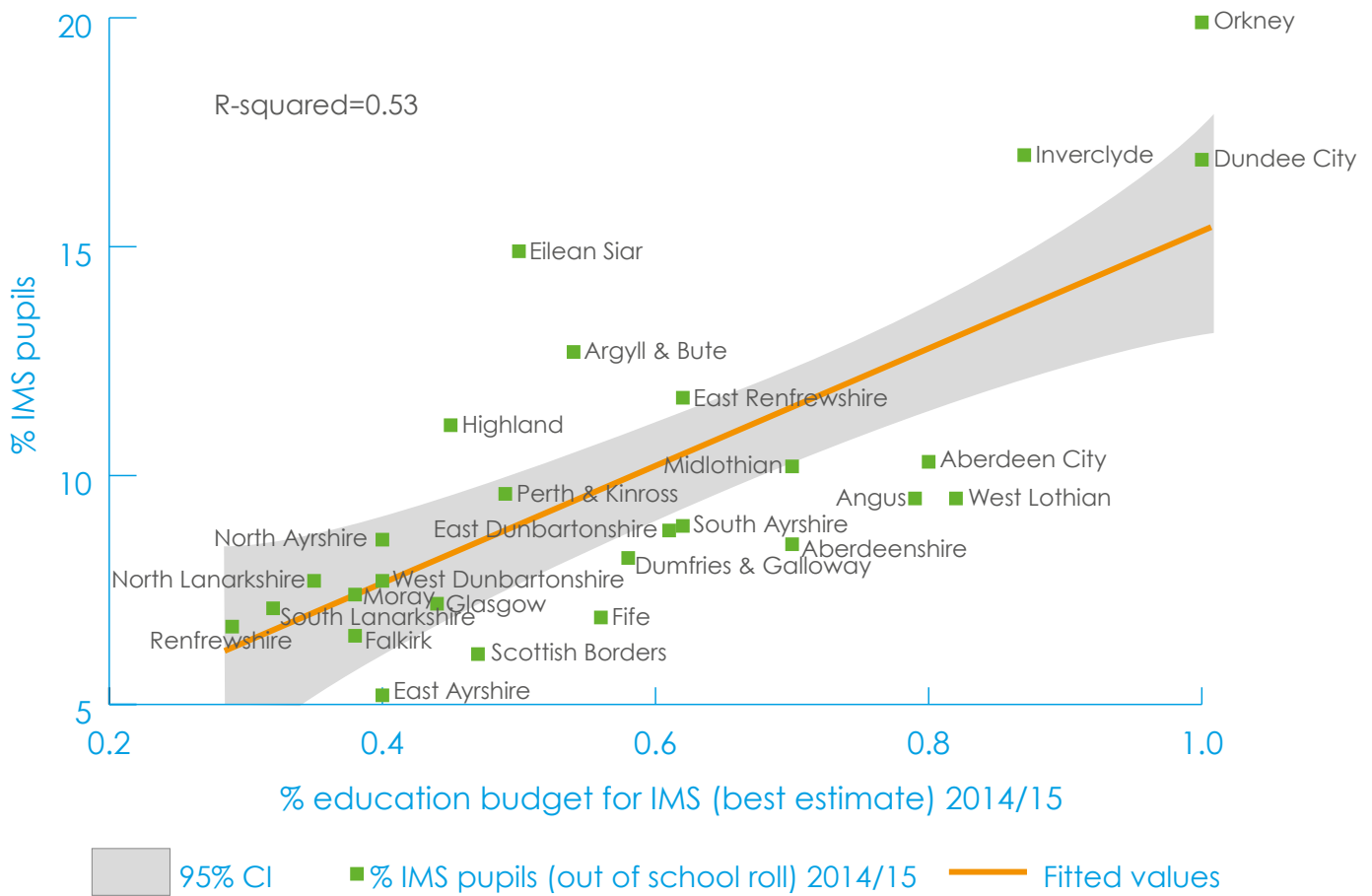
Although there is not a detectable association between charging costs and the percentage of pupils who took instrumental lessons, there is a significant correlation between the percentage of education budgets allocated to instrumental music and the percentage of pupils who took instrumental music tuition across local authorities in 2014/15<sup>14</sup>. This association is displayed in the scatterplot in Figure 5 below.

Despite variation, in 2014/15 local authorities in Scotland that put a higher proportion of their education budget towards the instrumental music service tended to also have a higher proportion of pupils who participated in the service over the course of the year. This is relatively unsurprising considering that within the majority of local authority areas demand for lessons outweighs resource and teaching capacity. Generally speaking, the more resource local authorities are able to put into the service, the more pupils are able to participate.

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<sup>14</sup> Spearman rank correlation coefficient: 0.72 (p<0.01)

Figure 5 - % IMS pupils by % education budget



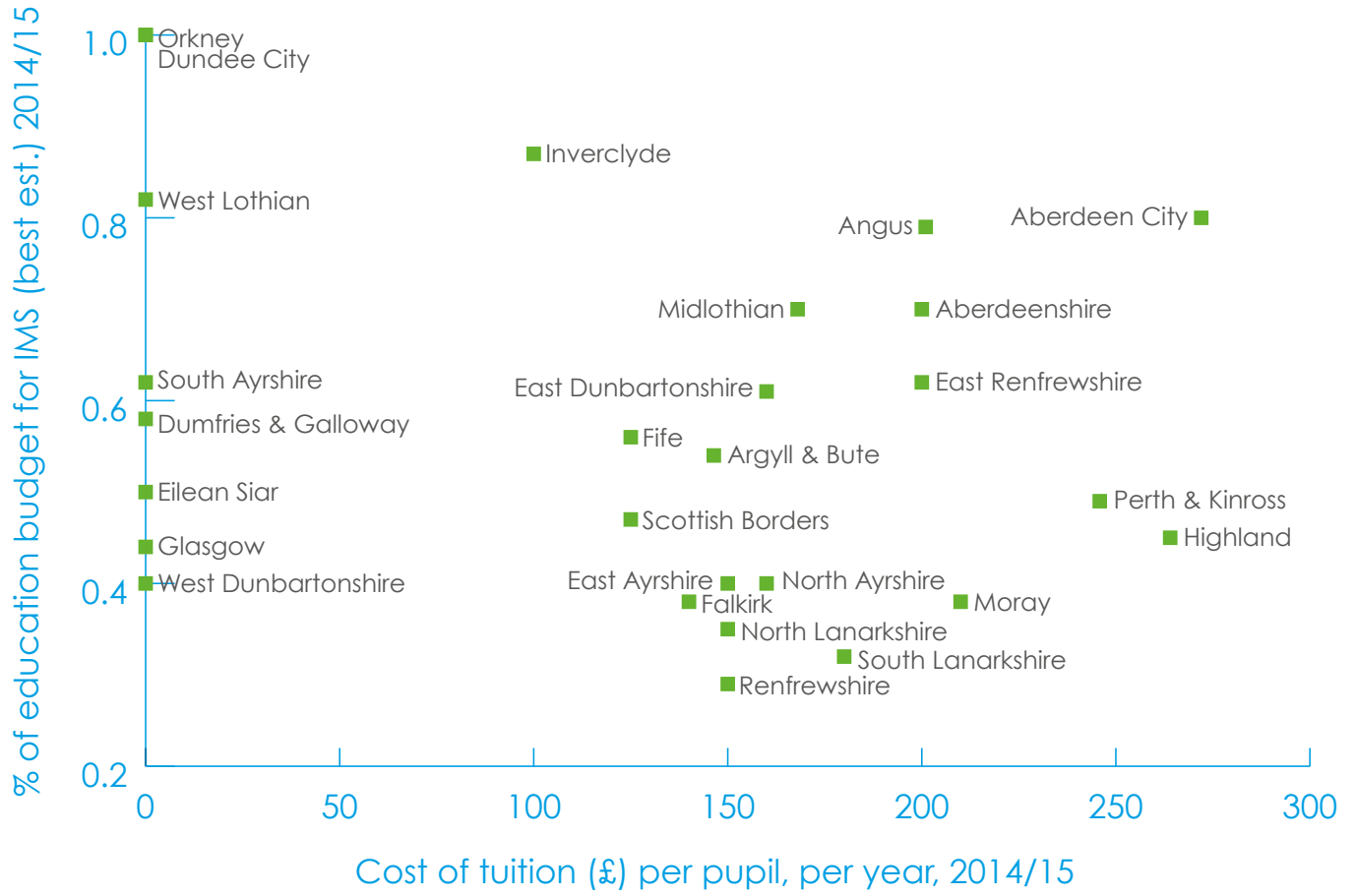
## Cost of tuition and the percentage of the education budget

The scatter plot in Figure 6 displays the estimated percentage of the education budget for instrumental music against the cost of tuition for instrumental music pupils.

Similar to 2012/13 and 2013/14, there is no significant association<sup>15</sup> between the variation of tuition fees and the percentage of education budget used for Instrumental Music Services (best estimate). This is also the case when local authorities are organised into sub-groups of charging and non-charging. Many high-charging local authorities also put a relatively high proportion of their education budget towards the service. As discussed in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 reports, this indicates that charging for instrumental tuition does not imply any less of a commitment from a local authority. Revenue from tuition fees do not cover the cost of the instrumental music service in any local authority in Scotland, rather they are all heavily subsidised by local authorities.

15 (p>0.1)

Figure 6 - Best estimate % education budget sorted by cost of tuition



# Summary

In 2014/15, approximately 59,500 pupils in Scotland received lessons with local authority-led instrumental music services; at least 16,300 pupils also participated in additional activities provided by these services. Overall pupil numbers have generally been persistent over the past three years.

As indicated by the information provided in this year's survey, reducing budgets could have serious implications on the numbers of pupils who are able to participate in instrumental music learning. Nearly all local authority Instrumental Music Services already have limited resources and teaching capacity, with very few able to accommodate for all interested pupils. With further public sector budget constraints, discretionary services — such as instrumental music — may come increasingly under pressure.

The information provided over the past three years highlights that tuition costs are only one variable among many between different instrumental music services. In the 2012/13 study several authorities mentioned a drop in pupil numbers when charges were introduced or increased, but this was also the case for drops in teacher numbers and provision. As different authorities have differing demand on their services and differing challenges in their local authority area it remains their responsibility to accurately determine which policies will best support such demands whilst supporting equality of access, high quality tuition, and optimising opportunities. Charging policies should be reviewed in order to protect pupils' opportunities, as should various other elements of service provision, such as selection procedures and access to instruments.

It is clear that all instrumental music services in Scotland strive to optimise opportunities for young people in Scotland, organising numerous additional activities such as bands, ensembles and orchestras, including various concerts and weekend and residential courses. Several engage with and are supported by parent support groups, which are often set up with charitable status to help raise funds for these activities and events.

This annual survey is now being carried out on behalf of Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland and has received responses from all 32 local authorities each year since 2012/13. This in itself illustrates willingness and investment in sharing information and learning from other instrumental music services across Scotland. This survey and report is intended to support music services, enabling them to compare provision in other local authority areas, share ideas and innovation whilst monitoring components such as pupil and teacher numbers.



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