

## Instructions and Template Points for writing to Members of Parliament

### **1. Instructions**

- The Society has developed the below core points which you are welcome to include in your email to your Member of Parliament.
- We would encourage you to tailor and personalise your emails as much as possible to voice your own view and your personal experience of the Society's work.
- In coordination, Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries and those of the Geological Society, are also contacting their local Members of Parliament.
- In order for us to record and help manage Fellows' representations, please do forward a copy of the email sent to [lsl@aprilsix.com](mailto:lsl@aprilsix.com)
- The email address for your local Member of Parliament can be found through:  
<https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp/>

### **2. Suggested points to include in your email to your Members(s) of Parliament**

Dear [Name],

- **Introductory line** – for example:
  - *I am writing to you as my local Member of Parliament to ask for your support to safeguard the future of the Linnean Society.*
- **Summary of situation**
  - *The Society will soon be forced to move from Burlington House, due to unaffordable, rapidly escalating annual rent rises set by our landlord: the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.*
  - *Rent has increased by more than 3000% between 2012 and 2018. A similar situation is faced by our neighbours, the Society of Antiquaries and the Geological Society.*
- **About the Society, its work and value**
  - *Founded in 1788, the Linnean Society of London is the world's oldest active society dedicated to the natural world.*

- *The Society's home at Burlington House acts as **an international hub for research, discovery and debate**. It was **purpose-built** for the Society's charitable activities and is a significant educational and historical resource for the nation.*
  - *Burlington House has been refurbished and adapted to hold the Society's many educational activities, safeguard its **world-renowned and Arts Council England (ACE)-Designated heritage collections**, and bring together academia and other enthusiasts about the natural world with a diverse public.*
  - *The Society helps to establish concepts like **natural capital and ecosystem services**, which will help the UK to protect the environment and pave the way for **sustainable economic growth**.*
  - *Burlington House is where the **first public presentation of the theory of evolution was held** and will continue to play a central role in research and understanding as the UK and wider world look to find solutions to the **biggest challenges our society and the planet face**, including the biodiversity crisis and climate change.*
  - ***Independent analysis estimates that the Society contributes £8.2 million of public benefit to the UK every year**, in part realised through educational resources, regular tours, conferences and a range of lectures every month.*
  - *A move from Burlington House would separate the Society from the international hub of research and discovery at Burlington House and **threaten the UK's position on the world-stage**.*
  - *The dispersal of the co-located learned societies, their collections, libraries and archives would inevitably **limit the combined contributions made to research and discovery** for both national and global benefit.*
  - *It would also **diminish the Society's network that supports its valuable work for the UK**. The Society will lose its close ties to the other important biological and historical collections and associated research expertise in London, its political, diplomatic and media influence, and its international status.*
- **Request**
    - *As my local Member of Parliament, I would ask if you could:*
      - *Express my concerns on this matter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (as the landlord), as well as the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (as the department concerned with natural and the environment) and ask for their support in finding a solution.*
      - *Contact Tim Loughton MP, who is helping coordinate Parliamentary interest on this matter.*

Kind regards,