

SIR - The Government needs to address the situation at Burlington House urgently.

The Society of Antiquaries, the Geological Society and the Linnean Society have been based at this unique scientific and cultural campus in London for over 145 years. This shared home has enabled significant contributions to science, heritage and learning. PwC estimates that the Societies contribute £39.7 million in public value to the country every year.

Yet, rising rents (which have increased by 3,000% in the last decade) are forcing the Societies towards costly relocations, threatening to disperse their priceless collections, libraries and archives. Despite assurances from the landlord, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, that new solutions would be presented, the Societies are still awaiting an update and time is running out.

Securing their future supports Government priorities to tackle climate change, halt biodiversity loss, transition to a low carbon economy, and improve understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage.

We urge Government to work to find an affordable solution before it is too late.

Signed:

Axel Rüger, Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Arts

Jools Holland DL OBE

Loyd Grossman CBE, (signed in a personal capacity) Chairman, The Royal Parks

Professor Alexandre Antonelli, Director of Science, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Dr Eve Lucas, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Lynne Farrell, President, Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI)

Ken Smith, President, Royal Archaeological Institute

Dr Nicola Stacey, Director, Heritage of London Trust

Advocacy Committee, International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)

Rt Hon Lord Cormack Kt DL FSA, Founder and President, All Party Arts and Heritage Group

Rt Hon Lord Faulkner of Worcester

Rt Hon Lord Howarth of Newport CBE PC

Rt Hon Baroness Young of Old Scone FRSGS

Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Saltaire PC

Sarah Olney MP ACCA

Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP

Tim Loughton FSA MP

James Gray CStJ MP

Chris Bryant MP

John Howell OBE MP FSA FRGS ACI Arb

James Wild MP

Cllr Timothy Barnes, Cabinet Member for Young People and West End Ward Councillor, Westminster City Council

Professor James A. Secord FBA, Director, Darwin Correspondence Project, University of Cambridge

Emeritus Professor Nicholas Jardine FBA, Emeritus Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

Rt Hon Professor Lord Krebs Kt FRS FMedSci, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford

Professor Sir David Read FRS, Emeritus Professor of Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield.

Professor Nick Davies. Professor of Behavioural Ecology, University of Cambridge

Professor John Dupre, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Director, Centre for the Study of Life Sciences (Egenis), University of Exeter

Emeritus Professor Peter Davis, Newcastle University

Duncan Hawley, Chairperson, History of Geology Group

Simon Milne, Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Henry Howard-Sneyd, Chairman of Asian Art, Sotheby's

Nicola Hicks MBE, President, Artists General Benevolent Institution



Martin P. Levy FSA, Chair, Kelmscott Manor Campaign Group

Simon King, Director, Haith's—Feeding the Nation's birds since 1937

Julian Luxford, President, British Archaeological Association

Professor Tim Birkhead FRS

Professor Ray Howell, Chairman, Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association

H. Martin Stuchfield, President, Monumental Brass Society and Chairman, Francis Coales Charitable Foundation

Robert Harrison, Chairman, The Heraldry Society

Professor James Raven FBA FSA FLS, President, Bibliographical Society

Dr Jeremy Mynott, former head, CUP and co-founder, New Networks for Nature

Joe O'Donnell, Director, Victorian Society

John A Burton FLS, Founder, World Land Trust

Nick Hodgson, President, Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Claire Street, Events Officer, Royal Forestry Society

Professor Clive Gamble, President, Prehistoric Society

Geoffrey Matthews, Secretary, Chelsea Arts Club (in a private capacity)

Dr P Carrington FSA, Vice-President, Chester Archaeological Society

Barry Fehler, CEO, SEIB Insurance Brokers Ltd

Suzy Middleton, SEIB Insurance Brokers Ltd

Clive Jacotine, Trustee, Oriental Ceramic Society

Jessica Harrison-Hall, Council Member, Oriental Ceramic Society

Beth McKillop, Oriental Ceramic Society

Robert Yorke, Chairman, Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee

Dr Jack Ogden, President, Society of Jewellery Historians



Gina Douglas FLS, President, The Ray Society

Alasdair Grant, Chairman, Anglo Chilean society

Mark Hews, Group Chief Executive, Ecclesiastical Insurance

Margaret L. Ford, Past President, The Bibliographical Society

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