



Founded in 1890

# The British Astronomical Association

A company limited by guarantee

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19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## Agreement for the use of a proportion of the accommodation at Burlington House by BAA

Dear Philip

I refer to my letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> September concerning the Agreement between the RAS and the BAA for the use of the Herschel room and other shared facilities at Burlington House.

Last week the BAA Board voted, with regret, to endorse our Council's decision that the costs that we incur for the accommodation at Burlington House, can no longer be seen as a prudent use of our Members subscriptions, in the light of the changed circumstances following the Covid pandemic.

*Please accept this letter as our formal notice to terminate the Agreement between us with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Under the terms of the Agreement 3 months' notice is required from either side and as such this will result in a termination date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.*

As I stated in my previous letter, that you set before your Council, while financial constraints have driven this decision, it was expressly stated within a formal vote by the BAA Board that this should not imply a desire to sever our connection with the RAS. To the contrary we wish to retain a close bond between the Societies to promote astronomy to the wider public, to endeavour to increase the diversity of those that participate and enjoy astronomy as well as fostering an environment where amateur astronomers can assist their professional colleagues through Pro/Am collaboration.

I am aware that our desire to retain, if possible, Burlington House as our registered office and postal address raised some concerns. I have therefore spoken to our accountants RSM and they have indicated that it would be possible to use their office as a SAIL address (Single Alternative Inspection Location) where a registered company can keep statutory records and ensure they are available for public inspection. This would remove the need for our Association to retain any documents at Burlington House. As is presently the case all correspondence will remain diverted, to avoid any work for your staff, but would retain our connection with the building that has been our Association's home for the past seventy five years. I hope that this is sufficient to allay any concerns about a legal obligation on your Society.

Arrangements have already started on the relocation and storage of our archives, which we will endeavour to complete by the end of January.

Yours Sincerely

*Alan Lorrain*

Alan Lorrain  
BAA President