

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th December 2020

Dear Constituent,

RE: THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding the future of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

I appreciate you taking the time to write and I understand your concerns on this issue. Educational charities, such as the Society of Antiquaries, provide unrivalled access to historical artefacts and information, and it is vitally important that we do everything we can to secure their future.

I am aware of recent reports surrounding the society, specifically regarding the rising cost of rent. I do, however, want to stress that the Society of Antiquaries currently pays around 30% of market rent for its premises in New Burlington House, and won't start paying full market rent until 2085. This comes as a result of a lease agreement in 2005 between the then Government and the Learned Societies following an unsuccessful High Court challenge by the societies for ownership of the building.

While I understand this must be frustrating, I want to reassure you that the Government is currently looking for a solution that can deliver value for taxpayers and help the societies to remain at New Burlington House.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE