

8 July 2019

Professor László Lovász
President
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
1051 Budapest
Széchenyi István sqr. 9
Hungary

Dear Professor Lovász,

We are writing to express our regret at the latest information provided to us on the changes to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, proposed by the Hungarian Government, including the passing by Parliament of a Bill this week.

We would like to commend the significance of the work of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in supporting research excellence across the sciences, both nationally and internationally. We see the Hungarian Academy as a valuable international partner and we would like to see the role of the Academy strengthened to take forward your vision that you so eloquently put forward at the ALLEA General Assembly in Sofia in 2018.

Academic freedom is a principle that is fundamental to research excellence. An important part of this freedom is the ability to set research agendas independently and transparently. We recognise and share your concerns that the proposed changes will impact the academic freedom of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and have sought to strongly express these views.

We see the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as a valued and esteemed partner for the UK. We look forward to maintaining these ties in future.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Ash Amin CBE FBA,
Foreign Secretary & Vice-President, The British Academy



Professor Richard Catlow FRS,
Foreign Secretary & Vice-President, The Royal Society



Professor Marcel Jaspars,
Vice President (International), Royal Society of Edinburgh



Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG PLSW,
President, the Learned Society of Wales