



24th September 2021

2021 Annual Convention

Dear All,

It is with great sadness, and frustration, that I am having to write to you all to inform you that due to circumstances beyond our control we have unfortunately had to postpone this year's Annual Convention that was being held on 1st and 2nd October.

We had a phone call late last night from the Oxford Belfry informing us that the chain which owns the Hotel has been contracted by the Government to house individuals in the Afghan Resettlement Program, as and when required. The Oxford Belfry have just been informed themselves that they need to house a large number of these individuals on the Friday of our event, which makes it impossible for us to run our event. We have a statement from the Hotel which I attach to this letter.

After looking at all viable options given the very short notice, we have had no choice but to postpone this year and are now planning to host the Annual Convention on **Friday 18th & Saturday 19th March 2022**.

Both myself and Janet McKane will be personally calling individuals that were booked to attend next week, to discuss the number of options available to them. Please note that we will be in touch with you either today or tomorrow and we will contact every single person that has booked.

We as an organisation are deeply saddened that the event has been postponed, but hope you will still all be able to join us in March 2022.

Kind Regards,

Jemma Wilson
BA (Hons) LM, PG Cert (ODE), Cert Mgmt, Cert Bus Stud, MInstLM
General Manager of The SMAE Institute



It is with regret to announce that our hotel confirms we are postponing the SMAE Institute Annual Convention due to take place on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd October 2021.

This has been an extremely difficult decision and not one that has been made without full consideration to the impact to SMAE Institute and all delegates due to be attending.


Double Tree by Hilton, Oxford Belfry is operated by Almarose Hotels. Our group has been contracted by the government Home Office as a partner in providing accommodation and support services for the Afghan Resettlement Program. As has been widely reported, the UK has offered resettlement to Afghan Nationals and their families that worked closely with our government over the past 20 years. These families have been identified as having a high-risk to life if they were not resettled outside of Afghanistan.

Almarose Hotels has agreed to contract a proportion of our bedrooms across the UK for a period of up to 6 months to provide support as these families are rehoused in permanent accommodation.

Due to this contract, this has unfortunately meant we are unable to provide a large proportion of the accommodation for your annual convention. On discussion with the Directors at SMAE Institute, it was felt the most suitable solution would be to seek an alternative date for the event.

I would like to convey my personal apologies as the General Manager of Oxford Belfry for the inconvenience and disappointment by this decision and offer my full support to SMAE Institute in making the necessary changes to the dates of your event.

We have been fortunate enough to enjoy a long partnership with SMAE Institute and we are committed to the staff, members and non-members and will work closely with the team to ensure your next event is highly successful.



Joanne White
General Manager

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