

Ms Kim Burchell: 2020 Service Award

The 2020 RAS Award for Service to the Astronomy and Geophysics Community is given to Kim Burchell. Kim Burchell is a stalwart of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) astronomy grants scheme and her 26 years of service and experience represent an invaluable resource to the UK astronomy and geophysics community.

Kim has given advice and support to Investigators and Panellists alike during her role administering the grants process for the astronomy and solar system community for STFC, and for its predecessors the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council and the Science and Engineering Research Council.

The fact that Kim is held in such high esteem within the community is a testament to her professionalism, her fairness, her impartiality, and a determination to support the community. Her guidance and advice when developing and preparing research grant applications and dealing with the result of the outcome is highly valued by Principal Investigators, even though sometimes it is not always the advice they would like to hear.

Research funding is highly competitive, with demand usually outstripping the available resources many times over, and the responsibility felt by grant panel members can be considerable. Panel chairs depend upon Kim's calm and authoritative advice on procedural or policy matters and her support before, during and after panel meetings. Her willingness to challenge a panel if the rationale underpinning a decision needs to be questioned is further evidence of her dedication to the research community.

For these reasons Kim Burchell is awarded the RAS 2020 Service Award.