

28 September 2018

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Our Reference: MIN/22254/2018

Jim Fitzpatrick MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 12 September to the Foreign Secretary on behalf of your constituents, using the pseudonyms of George and Mary Ordinary, of the Royal Mint Court Residents, London, E1. I am replying as the Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific.

Your constituents raise concerns regarding the purchase of the Royal Mint Court freehold, by the Government of the People's Republic of China, from Delancey in May 2018. I can confirm that this was a commercial deal between the two parties and did not include the UK Government. It is also the case that any plans for a new Chinese Embassy on the site will be subject to the normal processes including obtaining planning permission.

Many of the issues that your constituents raise relate to the time before the sale in May this year. I'm afraid that I'm not in a position to comment on these as, among other things, these issues are outside the scope of the FCO's role. I note, though, that you have also sent the letter to the Crown Commissioner and Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Field'.

The Rt Hon Mark Field MP
Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific