



HOUSE OF LORDS

Senior Deputy Speaker

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14th February 2019

Jim Fitzpatrick MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Jim

Re: Sale of Royal Mint Court

Thank you for your letter of 1 February drawing my attention to the disposal of Crown Estate land at the Royal Mint Court in your constituency. As you noted, in 2010 a sub-committee of the Treasury Select Committee conducted an inquiry into the work of the Crown Estate. You may already be aware of the findings of that inquiry but, to recap, the Committee made a number of conclusions, including the following two:

“We recommend that the CEC review their community and local stakeholder consultation processes with a view to increasing transparency and engagement.”
(Paragraph 43)

“Having regard to the wider interests at stake, and on the basis of what we have learned during the inquiry, we recommend that the CEC should examine and set out clearly how they take their good management obligations into account in decisions on residential property. More generally, we note the extent to which local stakeholders were taken by surprise by the CEC’s proposal to sell-off residential housing, and urge the CEC to engage more fully with key public bodies in London about their future plans for their London portfolio and their potential impact on London communities.” (Paragraph 51)

The Committee also felt that, more broadly, the Crown Estate had more flexibility to accommodate wider public interests than either they or the Government appeared to realise at the time.

Of course a good deal of time has now elapsed since that inquiry concluded, and I would not be certain on the extent to which some of these issues and recommendations might have been addressed in the meantime; my current appointment as Senior Deputy Speaker limits the time available to pursue some of the matters which were of interest while I was



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Chair of the Treasury Select Committee. Notwithstanding that, however, I hope that this limited information is still of some assistance to you.

The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith
Senior Deputy Speaker
House of Lords