

Jim Fitzpatrick MP

Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



9TH October 2018

Dear Mr Fitzpatrick,

**RE: SALE OF THE ROYAL MINT COURT FREEHOLD LAND TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT & IMPACT
ON BRITISH CITIZENS RESIDING IN HOMES ON THE LAND**

Thank you for forwarding us a copy of the letter from the Rt Hon Mark Field MP, in reply to the letter you sent to the Foreign Secretary. We are disappointed to learn that the Foreign Office (FCO) views the issues as being outside the scope of the FCO's role and Mr Field is not in a position to discuss our situation with the Chinese Ambassador to London.

We have no malice, are not being vexatious and wish no disrespect to Her Majesty the Queen or the citizens of the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, as new tenants of the Chinese Government, we are in a very delicate political situation. The residents do not have the legal or diplomatic experience to deal with this matter which is further complicated by the circumstances in which the Crown Estate originally sold the historic freehold land.

As we explained in our letter, the 100 families residing at Royal Mint Court, unbeknown to them, lost the Crown Estate (a UK public authority) as their Superior Landlord/Freeholder and now have the Government of the PRC as their Superior Landlord. Once the new Chinese Embassy is relocated to Royal Mint Court, the individuals will reside on land occupied for posterity by the Embassy of a foreign power. Under the terms of our Leases, the Chinese Government (as Superior Landlord) is permitted to enter and inspect our homes to view their condition and grant permissions.

This may be the first occasion where 100 British families residing in homes in the United Kingdom have unwittingly become tenants of the Chinese Government. As expressed in our previous letter, this presents issues that warrant the involvement of the British Government to ensure the fundamental human rights of individuals residing at Royal Mint Court are respected.

The Chinese Government will be seeking approval from the British Government to relocate its embassy to Royal Mint Court and will apply to Tower Hamlets Council for Planning Consent. On 19 April 2018, an article in The Sun newspaper reported that Britain might block the new embassy plans due to a dispute over ownership of a service road at the British Embassy in Beijing. Although unconfirmed, the report suggested there has been dialogue between the two governments.

Given that the FCO has declined our request for assistance, would you be kind enough to forward this request for assistance to The Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Housing.

Yours sincerely,

George & Mary Ordinary