

# House of Commons: Written Statement (HCWS1261)

## Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Written Statement made by: **Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Steve Reed)** on 20 Jan 2026.

### Planning Casework

This statement follows the decision I made today to grant planning permission and listed building consent for a new Embassy in London.

The proposal is for the redevelopment of the Royal Mint Court site in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to provide a new Chinese Embassy. It would involve the refurbishment and restoration of several listed buildings, and associated works.

The decision was in line with the recommendation of the independent Planning Inspector who held a public inquiry into this case between 11 February and 19 February 2025.

MHCLG ministers making planning decisions must follow a quasi-judicial process. This means they must make decisions fairly, based on evidence and planning rules.

The decision letter and associated Inspector's Report fully explains the reasons for the decision and is available on the government's website. The decision letter comprises the Secretary of State's letter, the Inspector's Report, and the following annexes: Annex A (Schedule of Representations); Annex B1 (List of conditions for the listed building consent); Annex B2 (List of conditions for the planning permission); and Annex C (Consolidated Drawing Schedule and revised drawings). Annex C is a separate document. The relevant plans to which these permissions relate are secured by condition. I will deposit a copy of the decision letter in the House libraries, including all annexes.

Representations received from parties as part of the reference back exercise are listed in the decision letter and are available on request. For convenience, I will deposit a full set of the reference back correspondence in the House libraries.

All material considerations were taken into account when making this decision.

The decision is now final unless it is successfully challenged in court.