



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Tom Tugendhat MBE MP
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 August 2018

Dear Tom,

REFURBISHMENT OF EMBASSY COMPOUND IN WASHINGTON

Thank you for your letter of 9 August, asking for further information about our plans to refurbish the UK Embassy compound in Washington.

We plan to tender the project in early 2019. Given commercial sensitivities, I can provide only limited detail in advance of tender. As required under EU procurement rules, the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) tender notice included a guide figure of £55m for the construction element of the project.

The current plan is to start work in summer 2019 with completion in winter 2021. We expect work in the Residence to start in early 2020, but we would not vacate the main reception rooms there until a new entertainment space in the main office is ready around May 2020. The precise schedule may change once project procurement has started.

We have taken into account the need to find appropriate alternative accommodation for the Ambassador and his family during the Residence refurbishment. The provisional decant costs are also commercially sensitive at this stage.

The project will create a new large space in the main office building, and we will use the Deputy Head of Mission's Residence for smaller scale functions. The project budget includes some funding for hiring external facilities to enable business and hospitality events to continue, so that there is as little disruption to Embassy activities as possible.

Yours ever,
Simon

Simon McDonald

Sir Simon McDonald KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 020 7008 2150
Email: pus.action@fco.gov.uk
www.fco.gov.uk