



Note No. A002/16

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and international organisations and, on behalf of Land Registry, wishes to bring to their attention information which, they may not be aware, is in the public domain.

When land and property are registered in England and Wales the legal ownership is recorded and made publically available. If diplomatic premises, or accommodation used for diplomatic staff, are registered in the name of a foreign government or agency, this information will be open and can be searched on the Land Register, or by searching the Index of Proprietors' Names held by Land Registry.

Additionally details of land and property owned by corporate entities and companies incorporated in the United Kingdom can be accessed in bulk via a licence. Land Registry now plans also to release in February 2016 bulk data of land and property owned by corporate entities and companies incorporated outside the United Kingdom, following a request from the Prime Minister as part of a wider Government drive for greater transparency.

Diplomatic missions and international organisations may not be aware of the availability of land and property information within England and Wales and the implications of this with respect to some diplomatic property. Whilst it is not possible to restrict ownership information from statutory search services, Her Majesty's Government would like to give diplomatic missions and international organisations the opportunity to identify diplomatic premises or diplomatic residential properties which they do not wish to be published as part of the data set due to be released by Land Registry in February.

Protocol Directorate asks those diplomatic missions and international organisations which wish to have their properties withheld from the data set to send the address and postcode for each

relevant property, noting whether it is official or residential premises, to Land Registry (not Protocol Directorate), by no later than 22 January 2016. Only properties owned by foreign governments or international organisations as diplomatic premises or as accommodation for diplomatic staff should be included. The contact in the Land Registry is Tracey Salvin (Tracey.salvin@landregistry.gsi.gov.uk).

Any properties which diplomatic missions and international organisations do not mention in responses by 22 January 2016 may appear in the data set when it is published in February.

Protocol Directorate requests that diplomatic missions and international organisations which wish to exempt properties from publication within the bulk data set after the initial release in February should update the Land Registry (contact details above), of any changes to their property portfolio following purchases of new properties or the sale of existing ones.

Protocol Directorate avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions and international organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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