



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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

12 August 2020

Dear Tom

RELOCATION OF AMSTERDAM CONSULAR OFFICES

I am glad to inform you that the works which started in 2018 to relocate the Amsterdam Consular office to The Hague are nearing completion. Despite a number of delays including as a result of the EU Exit timetable and more recently Covid-19, the Consular team should move across to new offices in The Hague, converted from a previously unused part of the Embassy building, in September or October. The current Consulate building will be put on the market.

Consular, Estates and Security, and Europe Directorates have worked closely with BE The Hague to ensure the move results in as little disruption as possible for customers and staff and that the financial gain from the sale of the building can be reinvested in the FCO Estate. Consular are putting procedures in place to ensure their customers will still get a 24/7 consular service, and that the 30 mile distance from Amsterdam to The Hague will not create major challenges for the small number of customers needing to visit in person for help. The Embassy at The Hague are in close contact with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant Dutch authorities and will work with Consular on a Communications plan.

This move will produce a more efficient operation; the new office is more fit for purpose; sales proceeds boost our finances. I am grateful to all the teams who have worked hard to complete the project and ensure a smooth transition

Yours sincerely
Simon

Simon McDonald

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