



Seven-bedroom house in Highgate was originally priced at £11.95m; it is now for sale at £8.65m

reduction of £1m on its original asking price; and a six-bedroom terraced house in Westminster's Smith Square is on offer for £6.95m, down from £7.85m via Maskells. "I don't think the market will do anything for a year or two," says the Belgian buyer. "The next 10 years will turn out to be a good time to buy."

If she were taking a short-term position, she says a bigger concern is a change in the UK government.

"It's not that Labour itself is bad news for the housing market, which usually does well under Labour government," says Henry Pryor, an independent buying agent, "but Corbyn and McDonnell's version of socialism frightens clients — they have openly talked about sequestrating long-term empty properties and discussed extending Right to Buy to private tenants."

"Anyone in the middle and upper class would be badly affected," says Trevor Abrahamson of Glentree

'If you're in Hong Kong, you look at London in terms of currency value and see it as an exciting opportunity'

away. A 48-year-old Belgian national who also asked to remain anonymous recently bought a smart family house in north-west London after renting in the city for several years.

"If I could, I would have bought two or three years earlier," she says. "But I am not unhappy because when the market is nervous, it is not a bad time to buy."

She paid £2.5m for her six-bedroom semi-detached house near Willesden Green. She bought the home through Sotheby's and managed to negotiate 11 per cent off the asking price.

Similar discounts — and even larger ones — abound. Several homes on the market with asking prices of more than £5m have had their prices slashed by more than 30 per cent. A six-bedroom house in Chelsea, currently marketed for £5.95m, was listed in 2013 at £9m, according to Zoopla. In Hampstead, a six-bedroom home currently marketed for £5.25m was listed on Zoopla in November 2016 for £6.95m.

Estate agency Arlington Residential is selling a seven-bedroom house in Highgate for £8.65m that was originally priced at £11.95m. Best Gapp is marketing a five-bedroom house on Halkin Place in Belgravia for £8.95m, a

Estates, predicting a flight of capital from the UK as "wealth creators" find other places to live. "Corbynistas are trying to make the poor rich by making the rich poor," he says.

George Monbiot, the British writer and environmental activist, says fears over a prospective Labour government's policy are unfounded, pointing out that Labour has not even officially formulated its housing policy yet. In June, Monbiot edited a Labour-commissioned report called "Land for the Many" which included policy recommendations. "Mansion tax, garden tax, capital gains tax — there is nothing of that kind [in the report]," he says, adding that the media coverage of it has been largely misleading. If people read the report, he thinks many would agree with lots of it.

"It really isn't trying to see every capitalist hanging from a lamppost," he says. "It's a redistribution of power in the housing market away from the big developers and speculators towards ordinary people."

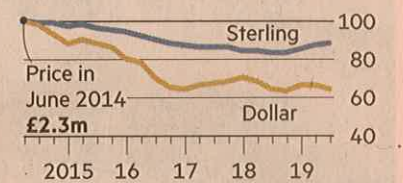
Some international investors remain undeterred. "London is one of the best — if not the best — places in the world to be in," says the US buyer.

Pound shop



Victorian terrace in Fulham

Assessed value (rebased, 2014=100)

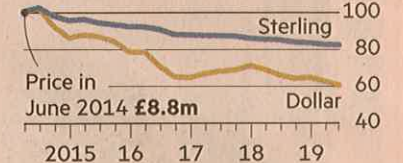


Source: Savills



Five-bedroom house in Kensington

Assessed value (rebased, 2014=100)

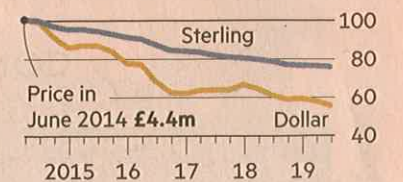


Source: Savills



Three-bedroom flat in Chelsea

Assessed value (rebased, 2014=100)



Source: Savills

Mega-mansions slash prices

