



The British
Chamber of Commerce
in Hong Kong
香港英商會

12 October 2018

The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong – Statement regarding the non-renewal of Victor Mallet’s work visa

The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is a strong supporter of, and advocate for, Hong Kong as an international business centre. The Chamber is also a firm supporter of Hong Kong’s special status as part of China under the One Country Two Systems arrangements.

The Chamber has noted the decision not to renew the work visa of Victor Mallet of the Financial Times, and the concerns this raises about freedom of expression and information in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong’s rights and freedoms under One Country Two Systems, including of speech, expression and information, along with the rule of law, are core features of its special status.

The Chamber is a business organization. From that perspective we see these rights and freedoms as key aspects of Hong Kong’s success and competitiveness as an international business centre, and its attractiveness to international business investment. A free flow of information and comment is central to its positioning as the region’s leading financial, trading and business hub, as reflected in the presence here of many international business and media organisations, as well as to its attractiveness to the best of international talent.

Indeed, in the Special Administrative Region Government’s own 2017 survey of international business here, freedom of information ranked overall second among factors in importance relating to the choice of Hong Kong as a location.

The maintenance and upholding of these freedoms – in practice as well as in word – is vital to Hong Kong’s continued business success and to its reputation as the region’s leading business centre.