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## HANOVER THE ODDS NASH MANSION IS SOLD FOR A RECORD £120 MILLION

THE sale of Britain's most expensive house will legally complete within days. An unnamed Ukrainian is to pay £120 million for Hanover Lodge in Regent's Park, owned by former Conservative peer Lord Bagri. When contracts were exchanged in November, a report suggested the price might range between £100 million and £120 million.

It is understood the buyer recently confirmed an "impossible-to-refuse" offer of £120 million, after post-exchange problems were ironed out.

The previous record is £119 million, paid in 2011 by a Russian buyer for a Henley mansion. Lord Bagri paid £5.9 million to the Crown Estate in 1994 for a 150-year lease.

The 80-year-old peer made his £82 million fortune from trading metal. He has spent 10 years and many millions refurbishing the Grade II-listed Nash mansion, pictured. Bagri's architect, that favourite of Prince Charles, Quinlan Terry, was fined £25,000 in 2007 for allowing part of two lodges in the two-acre garden to be demolished.



The conversion of the 26,000-square-foot main house and a 7000-square-foot lodge is complete. Permission has been granted to dig a large basement but work has not started.

The buyer is considering remodelling

the interiors of the three-storey main house. However, no decision has been taken.

The Ukrainian's adviser is O Private Office, a firm backed by Anglo-Italian entrepreneur Luca del Bono, who has

strong connections in Eastern Europe. The 38-year-old is also acting for Russian buyers who are paying £75 million for 50 St James's – the former casino is to be converted to a private club and hotel.