



**FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL  
PROPERTY CHAMBER  
(RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY)**

**Case reference** : **LON/00AM/LDC/2019/0032**

**Property** : **Flats at Sheldon House, 1 Baltic Place, London, N1 5AQ**

**Applicant** : **Long Term Reversions (Torquay) Ltd**

**Representative** : **Written Application by Parkfords Property Management (Managing Agents)**

**Respondent** : **Various leaseholders as per the application**

**Representative** : **None.**

**Type of application** : **Application for dispensation from consultation requirements under s20ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985**

**Tribunal members** : **Mr A Harris LLM FRICS FCI Arb**

**Venue** : **10 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7LR**

**Date of decision** : **15 April 2019**

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**DECISION**

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## **Decisions of the tribunal**

- (1) The tribunal grants dispensation from the consultation requirements under s20ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.

## **The application**

1. The Applicant seeks dispensation from the consultation requirements under s20ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.
2. The relevant legal provisions are set out in the Appendix to this decision.

## **The hearing**

3. A written application was made by Parkfords Property Management Ltd, the managing agents of the property. The case was decided on paper and no appearances were made. The tribunal considered the written application form and estimate for the and an email from the tenants living in flat 10.

## **The background**

4. The property which is the subject of this application is a block of 26 flats with commercial property.
5. A specimen lease of flat 6 has been provided. The lease is for a term of 125 years beginning on 1 January 2007 at a ground rent of £300 per annum doubling every 25 years.
6. Works are required to the lift where the estimate provided reports that the safety gear has engaged. The estimate refers to work to be carried out at the commercial block but as an email from a residential tenant has also been provided it is assumed this is a mis-description rather than an estimate concerning the commercial part of the property only. If this is not correct a fresh application for dispensation will need to be made as the tribunal has no jurisdiction over commercial service charges. The amount of the estimate is £4156.90 plus VAT
7. The tribunal notes that the amount of the estimate divided by the number of flats comes below the consultation threshold and to that extent dispensation is not required. It is assumed this application is a precaution against additional unforeseen works.
8. The relevant repairs fall under the Landlord's repairing obligations.

### **The tribunal's decision**

9. The tribunal grants dispensation from the consultation requirements of under s20 ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 and the Service Charges (Consultation Requirements) (England) Regulations 2003.

### **Reasons for the tribunal's decision**

10. The works are required to ensure the safety and convenience of the residents. The tribunal is satisfied that the works are necessary as a matter of urgency in the circumstances and for the convenience of the residents grants dispensation.

**Name:** A Harris LLM FRICS FCI Arb      **Date:** 15 April 2019

### **Rights of appeal**

By rule 36(2) of the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Property Chamber) Rules 2013, the tribunal is required to notify the parties about any right of appeal they may have.

If a party wishes to appeal this decision to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber), then a written application for permission must be made to the First-tier Tribunal at the regional office which has been dealing with the case.

The application for permission to appeal must arrive at the regional office within 28 days after the tribunal sends written reasons for the decision to the person making the application.

If the application is not made within the 28 day time limit, such application must include a request for an extension of time and the reason for not complying with the 28 day time limit; the tribunal will then look at such reason(s) and decide whether to allow the application for permission to appeal to proceed, despite not being within the time limit.

The application for permission to appeal must identify the decision of the tribunal to which it relates (i.e. give the date, the property and the case number), state the grounds of appeal and state the result the party making the application is seeking.

If the tribunal refuses to grant permission to appeal, a further application for permission may be made to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber).

## **Appendix of relevant legislation**

### **S20 Limitation of service charges: consultation requirements**

- (1) Where this section applies to any qualifying works or qualifying long term agreement, the relevant contributions of tenants are limited in accordance with subsection (6) or (7) (or both) unless the consultation requirements have been either—
  - (a) complied with in relation to the works or agreement, or
  - (b) dispensed with in relation to the works or agreement by (or on appeal from) a leasehold valuation tribunal.
- (2) In this section "relevant contribution", in relation to a tenant and any works or agreement, is the amount which he may be required under the terms of his lease to contribute (by the payment of service charges) to relevant costs incurred on carrying out the works or under the agreement.
- (3) This section applies to qualifying works if relevant costs incurred on carrying out the works exceed an appropriate amount.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that this section applies to a qualifying long term agreement—
  - (a) if relevant costs incurred under the agreement exceed an appropriate amount, or
  - (b) if relevant costs incurred under the agreement during a period prescribed by the regulations exceed an appropriate amount.
- (5) An appropriate amount is an amount set by regulations made by the Secretary of State; and the regulations may make provision for either or both of the following to be an appropriate amount—
  - (a) an amount prescribed by, or determined in accordance with, the regulations, and
  - (b) an amount which results in the relevant contribution of any one or more tenants being an amount prescribed by, or determined in accordance with, the regulations.
- (6) Where an appropriate amount is set by virtue of paragraph (a) of subsection (5), the amount of the relevant costs incurred on carrying out the works or under the agreement which may be taken into account in determining the relevant contributions of tenants is limited to the appropriate amount.
- (7) Where an appropriate amount is set by virtue of paragraph (b) of that subsection, the amount of the relevant contribution of the tenant, or each of the tenants, whose relevant contribution would otherwise exceed the amount prescribed by, or determined in accordance with, the regulations is limited to the amount so prescribed or determined.[\[FN1\]](#)

[FN1] ss.20-20ZA substituted for s.20 subject to savings specified in SI 2004/669 art.2(d)(i)-(vi) by Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act (2002 c.15), Pt 2 c 5 s 151

### **S20ZA Consultation requirements: supplementary**

- (1) Where an application is made to a leasehold valuation tribunal for a determination to dispense with all or any of the consultation requirements in relation to any qualifying works or qualifying long term agreement, the tribunal may make the determination if satisfied that it is reasonable to dispense with the requirements.
- (2) In section 20 and this section—  
"qualifying works" means works on a building or any other premises,  
and  
"qualifying long term agreement" means (subject to subsection (3))  
an agreement entered into, by or on behalf of the landlord or a superior landlord, for a term of more than twelve months.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that an agreement is not a qualifying long term agreement—
  - (a) if it is an agreement of a description prescribed by the regulations, or
  - (b) in any circumstances so prescribed.
- (4) In section 20 and this section "the consultation requirements" means requirements prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) may in particular include provision requiring the landlord—
  - (a) to provide details of proposed works or agreements to tenants or the recognised tenants' association representing them,
  - (b) to obtain estimates for proposed works or agreements,
  - (c) to invite tenants or the recognised tenants' association to propose the names of persons from whom the landlord should try to obtain other estimates,
  - (d) to have regard to observations made by tenants or the recognised tenants' association in relation to proposed works or agreements and estimates, and
  - (e) to give reasons in prescribed circumstances for carrying out works or entering into agreements.
- (6) Regulations under section 20 or this section—
  - (a) may make provision generally or only in relation to specific cases,  
and
  - (b) may make different provision for different purposes.
- (7) Regulations under section 20 or this section shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.[...] [FN1]

[FN1] ss.20-20ZA substituted for s.20 subject to savings specified in SI 2004/669 art.2(d)(i)-(vi) by Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act (2002 c.15), Pt 2 c 5 s 151