



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

**Case Reference** : **LON/00BJ/LDC/2024/0075**

**Property** : **7 Balham Grove, London, SW12  
8AZ**

**Applicant** : **7-9 Balham Grove Freehold Ltd**

**Respondents** : **Flat 1: Ms Sarah MoneyPenny and  
Mr Johnathan Dixon  
Flat 2: Mrs Ilna Patel,  
Flat 3: Alvin Shrestha,  
Flat 4: Mr Nicholas and Mrs  
Christina Le Riche  
Flat 5: Mr Matt Marsh**

**Type of Application** : **Dispensation from consultation  
requirements under Landlord and  
Tenant Act 1985 section 20ZA**

**Tribunal Members** : **Judge Professor R Percival  
Mr A Lewicki BSc (Hons), MBEng,  
FRICS**

**Venue** : **Remote paper determination**

**Date of Decision** : **8 July 2024**

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**DECISION**

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## **Decisions of the tribunal**

- (1) The Tribunal, pursuant to section 20ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (“the 1985 Act”), grants dispensation from the consultation requirements in respect of the works which are the subject of the application.

## **Procedural**

1. The landlord submitted an application for retrospective dispensation from the consultation requirements in section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (“the 1985 Act”) and the regulations thereunder, dated 24 January 2024.
2. The Tribunal gave directions on 25 April 2024. The directions provided for a form to be distributed to those who pay the service charge to allow them to object to or agree with the application, and, if objecting, to provide such further material as they sought to rely on. The application and directions were required to be sent to the leaseholders and any sublessees, and to be displayed as a notice in the common parts of the property. The deadline for return of the forms, to the Applicant and the Tribunal, was 28 May 2024.
3. No response from any of the leaseholders has been received by the Tribunal. The Applicant confirmed that no responses had been received by it.

## **The property and the works**

4. The property is described as a residential block containing five flats.
5. The works were repairs to a felt roof.
6. The invoice provided by the Applicant for the work is for £2,160, including VAT. The invoice suggests an original price of £2,150, from which a deduction was made for work originally quoted for that was not done.
7. The works were said to be urgent, as water was leaking into one of the flats, flat 4, and damaging that flat. The work was carried out in November 2023.

## **Determination**

8. The relevant statutory provisions are sections 20 and 20ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1983, and the Service Charges (Consultation

etc)(England) Regulations 2003. They may be consulted at the following URLs respectively:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1985/70>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/1987/contents/made>

9. The Tribunal is concerned solely with an application under section 20ZA of the 1985 Act to dispense with the consultation requirements under section 20 and the regulations.
10. Very little detail is provided in the application, but we are prepared to accept that a roof leak causing damage to a flat is likely to require urgent remediation.
11. IN any event, no response has been received from any of the leaseholders objecting to the application, either by the Tribunal or, it reports, the Applicant. It is therefore clear that none of the leaseholders have sought to claim any prejudice as a result of the consultation requirements not having been satisfied. Where that is the case, the Tribunal must, quite apart from any question of urgency, allow the application: *Daejan Investments Ltd v Benson and others* [2013] UKSC 14; [2013] 1 WLR 854.
12. This application relates solely to the granting of dispensation. If the leaseholders consider the cost of the works to be excessive or the quality of the workmanship poor, or if costs sought to be recovered through the service charge are otherwise not reasonably incurred, then it is open to them to apply to the Tribunal for a determination of those issues under section 27A of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.

### **Rights of appeal**

13. 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 London regional office.
14. The application for permission to appeal must arrive at the office within 28 days after the Tribunal sends written reasons for the decision to the person making the application.
15. If the application is not made within the 28 day time limit, the 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 these reason(s) and decide whether to allow the application for permission to appeal to proceed despite not being within the time limit.

16. The application for permission to appeal must identify the decision of the Tribunal to which it relates, 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.

**Name:** Judge Prof Richard Percival      **Date:** 8 July 2024