

	<b>FIRST - TIER TRIBUNAL PROPERTY CHAMBER (RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY)</b>
<b>Case Reference</b>	<b>HAV/29UD/MNR/2025/0808</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>15 Heathcote Street, Stone, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6GT</b>
<b>Tenant</b>	<b>C Mustafa</b>
<b>Tenant's Representative</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Landlord</b>	<b>ALPF Single Family Homes LP</b>
<b>Landlord's Address</b>	
<b>Landlord's Representative</b>	<b>Allsop Letting &amp; Management</b>
<b>Date of Application</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>
<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Determination of a Market Rent sections 13 &amp; 14 of the Housing Act 1988</b>
<b>Tribunal Members</b>	<b>Ian Perry FRICS – Chair Carolyn Barton MRICS</b>
<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Rent Determined</b>	<b>£1,875 per month</b>
<b>Date the new rent takes effect</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

### **Background**

1. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the Landlord's Agent served a notice under Section 13(2) of the Housing Act 1988 which proposed a new rent of £1,920.00 per calendar month(pcm) in place of the existing rent of £1,765.00 pcm to take effect from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
2. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025, under Section 13(4)(a) of the Housing Act 1988, the Tenant referred the Landlord's notice proposing a new rent to the Tribunal for determination of a market rent.
3. The assured shorthold tenancy commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 for a term of 12 months. The rental period is monthly.

### **Allocation of Repairs between Landlord and Tenant.**

4. As per section 11 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.

### **Services Charges or furniture provided by Landlord (other than carpets and curtain and white goods specified below) and the costs relating to the same.**

5. No additional charges.

### **Liability for Council Tax**

6. The Tenant is responsible for the payment of Council Tax in respect of the Property. The rent determined is exclusive of Council Tax.

### **Any other terms of the tenancy taken into consideration in determining the rent.**

7. None

### **Inspection/Hearing**

8. Neither party requested an oral hearing. The Tribunal has considered this case on the basis of the papers provided by the parties and its own knowledge and specialist expertise.

## **The Property**

9. The Property is a semi-detached 'Rose' style house within a nearly new development of 98 residential properties all of which are owned and operated by the Landlord, offering the following accommodation:

Hall, open plan kitchen/living room, two bedrooms, and bathroom with WC.

Outside: Parking space for two cars, gardens.

The Property benefits from heating from an electric air source heat pump, double glazing, free Broadband and a dedicated property manager for the whole development. The Energy Performance Rating is 'B'.

The Property is situated approximately 1.5 miles east of the centre of Dartford, close to parkland, local amenities and excellent transport links.

## **Evidence**

10. Both the Tenant and the Landlord returned the Tribunal's Reply forms.

*The Tenant.*

11. The Tenant made the following comments:

- a) The Tenant states that the property was a new build at the start of the tenancy and provided similar properties in the DA2 postcode as comparables, with rents ranging from £1,700 to £1,900 pcm. These were all asking rentals rather than rents achieved.
- b) The Tenant states that his concern is not about the rental increase but was asking why the increase on his property was more than applied to his neighbour and the increase was more than originally suggested on an App used by Landlord and Tenants in the development.

*The Landlord*

12. The following comments were made by the Landlord's Agent:

- a) The Agent had completed two new lettings on this house type between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at £1,875 pcm and £1,895 pcm, and completed two new rental agreements between 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at £1,885 pcm and £1,875 pcm.

- b) The Agent also provided details of similar properties to rent available on Zoopla or Rightmove with asking rents between £1,950 and £2,100 per month.

### **Determination and Valuation**

- 13. The Tribunal considers that there is a particular micro market for rental properties on this development. The homes are nearly new and energy efficient.
- 14. The only evidence provided of actual rents achieved are recent lettings and renewals arranged by the Agent.
- 15. Relying on its own expert, general knowledge of rental values in the area, and the comparable evidence provided by the Parties, the Tribunal considers that the market rental of the subject property is £1,875 per month.

**Market rent**

**£1,875 pcm**

### **Undue hardship**

- 12. The new rent takes effect from the date specified in the Landlord's Notice of Increase unless that would cause undue hardship to the tenant. In cases of undue hardship, the Tribunal has a discretion to fix a later starting date up to the date a Tribunal makes its determination.
- 13. No evidence of undue hardship was provided.

### **Decision**

- 14. Therefore, the Tribunal determines the market rent at £1,875.00 per calendar month with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### **APPEAL PROVISIONS**

If either party is dissatisfied with this decision, they may apply for permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) on any point of law arising from this Decision. Prior to making such an appeal, an application must be made, in writing, to this Tribunal for permission to appeal. Any such application must be made within 28 days of the issue of this statement of reasons (regulation 52 (2) of The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Property Chamber) Rules 2013) stating the grounds upon which it is intended to rely in the appeal.