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Application for the dispensation of all or any of the consultation requirements provided for by section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985

Section 20ZA of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985

It is important that you read the notes below carefully before you complete this form.

This is the correct form to use if you want to ask the Tribunal to dispense with all or any of the consultation requirements set out in section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 and in the Service Charges (Consultation Requirements)(England) Regulations 2003.

A fee is payable for this application (see section 13 for Help with Fees).

Applications should be sent as a Microsoft Word document by **email** to the relevant regional tribunal address shown in the Annex to this form. You must also send by email **the documents listed in section 13 of this form**. If you cannot access email or find someone to assist you in lodging your application by email, then a paper application will be acceptable although there may be a delay in dealing with this. Sending an application on paper will not be suitable in urgent cases.

You can now pay the **the fee (if applicable) by an on-line banking payment or by cheque/postal order enclosed with the application form.**

If you want to be sent online banking payment details by email, please tick this box

Please make sure a copy of the application is served on the other party/parties to the application. If you are unable to serve a copy on the other party/parties, please bring this to the tribunal's attention in the covering email or if sending by post in a covering letter.

Please do not send any other documents. When further evidence is needed, you will be asked to send it in separately.

If you have any questions about how to fill in this form, the fee payable, or the procedures the Tribunal will use please contact the appropriate regional office.

If you are completing this form by hand please use **BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS**.

1. DETAILS OF APPLICANT(S) (if there are multiple applicants please continue on a separate sheet)

Name:

Capacity:

Address (including postcode):

Address for correspondence (if different from above):

Telephone:

Day: Evening: Mobile:

Email address:

Fax:

Representative name and address, and other contact details: Where details of a representative have been given, all correspondence and communications will be with them until the Tribunal is notified that they are no longer acting for you.

Name:

Reference no. (if any)

Address (including postcode):

Telephone:

Day: Mobile:

Email address:

Fax:

2. ADDRESS (including postcode) of SUBJECT PROPERTY (if not already given)

13,9656 leaseholders are affected by the electricity contract; and

668 leaseholders are affected by the gas contract.

A list of the relevant addresses is attached. Included with the application are five sample leases which are a variation of each of the different lease types for the leaseholders affected by this application.

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING (e.g.2 bedroom flat in purpose built block of 12 flats)

Various types of properties across the Borough including flats and maisonettes in tower blocks and low rise blocks and some houses. The properties range in size from studio flats to 5 bedroom units.

3. DETAILS OF RESPONDENT (S) the person against whom an applicant seeks determination from the tribunal – this will only be the landlord’s managing agent if they are a party to the lease. If there are multiple respondents, please continue on a separate sheet.

Name:

Capacity:

Address (including postcode):

Reference no. for correspondence (if any)

Address for correspondence (if different from above):

Telephone:

Day: Evening: Mobile:

Email address: Fax:

Note: If this is an application by a landlord, then usually all tenants liable to pay a service charge for the costs in question should be joined as respondents. If tenants are not joined in this way, the landlord should provide the Tribunal with a list of the names and addresses of service charge payers. If this is not possible or is impractical, then a written explanation must be provided with this application.

If you are the landlord/management company making the application please omit, if known, the telephone/fax numbers and email address of the respondent(s) when completing Box 4 and include them on a separate sheet. This is because the application form may be copied by the tribunal to other appropriate persons (e.g. other service charge paying leaseholders in the building or development).

5. DETAILS OF LANDLORD (if not already given)

Name:

Address (including postcode):

Reference no. for correspondence (if any)

Telephone:

Day: Evening: Mobile:

Email address: Fax:

6. DETAILS OF ANY RECOGNISED TENANTS' ASSOCIATION (if known)

Name of Secretary:

Address (including postcode):

Telephone:
 Day: Evening: Mobile:

Email address: Fax:

7. DISPENSATION SOUGHT

Applicants may seek a dispensation of all or any of the consultation requirements in respect of either qualifying works or long-term agreements.

Does the application concern qualifying works? Yes No

If Yes, have the works started/been carried out? Yes No

Does the application concern a qualifying long-term agreement? Yes No

If Yes, has the agreement already been entered into? Yes No

For each set of qualifying works and/or qualifying long-term agreements please complete one of the sheets of paper entitled ' **GROUNDS FOR SEEKING DISPENSATION** '

8. OTHER APPLICATIONS

Do you know of any other cases involving either: (a) related or similar issues about the management of this property; or (b) the same landlord or tenant or property as in this application? Yes No

If Yes, please give details

9. CAN WE DEAL WITH YOUR APPLICATION WITHOUT A HEARING?

If the Tribunal thinks it is appropriate, and all the parties and others notified of their right to attend a hearing consent, it is possible for your application to be dealt with entirely on the basis of written representations and documents and without the need for parties to attend and make oral representations. ('A paper determination').

Please let us know if you would be content with a paper determination if the Tribunal thinks it appropriate. Yes No

Note: Even if you have asked for a paper determination the Tribunal may decide that a hearing is necessary. Please complete the remainder of this form on the assumption that a hearing will be held. Where there is to be a hearing, a fee of £200 will become payable by you when you receive notice of the hearing date.

10. TRACK PREFERENCES

We need to decide whether to deal with the case on the Fast Track or the Standard Track (see Guidance Note for an explanation of what a track is). Please let us know which track you think appropriate for this case. Fast Track Standard Track

Is there any special reason for urgency in this case? Yes No

If Yes, please explain how urgent it is and why:

The contracts, which are the subject of this Application, must be renewed by 1 October 2024. The Application must be determined as soon as possible to allow the Council to place the contracts in time.

In view of the number of leaseholders the Council requests a period of no less than 21 days between the date of the directions order and the date for publication of details of the application and the directions on its website to ensure that there is sufficient time for the Council's website providers to make the necessary arrangements and for all of the letters to be printed and posted.

Note

The Tribunal will normally deal with a case in one of three ways: on paper (see section 10 above) or 'fast track' or 'standard track'. The fast track is designed for cases that need a hearing but are very simple and will not generate a great deal of paperwork or argument. A fast track case will usually be heard within 10 weeks of your application. You should indicate here if you think your case is very simple and can be easily dealt with. The standard track is designed for more complicated cases where there may be numerous issues to be decided or where for example, a lot of documentation is involved. A standard track case may involve the parties being invited to a Case Management Conference which is a meeting at which the steps that need to be taken to bring the case to a final hearing can be discussed.

11. AVAILABILITY

If there are any dates or days we must avoid during the next four months (either for your convenience or the convenience of any expert you may wish to call) please list them here.

Please list the dates on which you will NOT be available:

N/A

12. VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Please provide details of any special requirements you or anyone who will be coming with you may have (e.g. the use of a wheelchair and/or the presence of a translator):

NONE

Applications handled by the London regional office are usually heard in Alfred Place, which is fully wheelchair accessible. Elsewhere, hearings are held in local venues which are not all so accessible and the case officers will find it useful to know if you or anyone you want to come to the hearing with you has any special requirements of this kind.

13. CHECKLIST

Please check that you have completed this form fully. The Tribunal will not process your application until this has been done. Please ensure that the following are enclosed with your application and tick the appropriate box to confirm:

A copy of the lease(s).

A statement that service charge payers have been named as respondents or a list of names and addressess of service charge payers

EITHER

A crossed cheque or postal order made out to HM Courts and Tribunal Service for the application fee of £100 (if applicable) is enclosed. **Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque or postal order. Please also send a paper copy of your application with your cheque or postal order, regardless of whether you have already emailed the application.**

OR

You have ticked the box at the top of this form to say you want the relevant regional tribunal office to send you details on how to pay the application fee of £100 by on-line banking. **The unique payment reference the tribunal office supplies MUST be used when making your on-line banking payment.**

DO NOT send cash under any circumstances. Cash payment will not be accepted.

Please note where there is to be a hearing, a fee of £200 will become payable by you when you receive notice of the hearing date.

Help with Fees

If you think you may be entitled to a reduced fee, the guide EX160A ‘Apply for help with court, tribunal and probate fees’ outlines how you can submit an application for Help with Fees.

You can submit your Help with Fees application online at www.gov.uk/help-with-court-fees or by completing the form EX160 ‘Apply for help with fees’. You can get a copy of the ‘Apply for help with fees’ form online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-help-with-court-and-tribunal-fees or from your regional tribunal office.

If you have completed an online application for Help with Fees please enter the reference number you have been given here.

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If you have completed form EX160 “Apply for Help with Fees” it must be included with your application.

The ‘Apply for help with fees’ form will not be copied to other parties

14. STATEMENT OF TRUTH

The statement of truth must be signed and dated.

I believe that the facts stated in this application are true.

Signed:

John Scarborough

Dated: 14 June 2024

GROUNDS FOR SEEKING DISPENSATION

Please use the space below to provide information mentioned in section 7 of this form.

You will be given an opportunity later to give further details of your case and to supply the Tribunal with any documents that support it. At this stage you should give a clear outline of your case so that the Tribunal understands what your application is about. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1. Describe the qualifying works or qualifying long-term agreement concerned, stating when the works were carried out or planned to be carried out or in the case of a long-term agreement, the date that agreement was entered into or the proposed date it is to be entered into.

The Applicant is seeking further dispensation from the consultation requirements of Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 which apply to the procurement of energy contracts for gas and electricity. The Council is already part of a Framework Agreement to supply gas and electricity. The gas and electricity contracts are due to renewed in October 2024 and the dispenstations already given by the Tribunal in June 2009, June 2010, August 2012 August 2016 and July 2020 would need to be extended to allow the same to continue. The Applicant will continue to be a partner in the Framework Agreement which has been developed by Local Authority South East Region (LASER). In its latest determination (LON/00AH/LVT/2020/0001) the FTT concluded that it was not practical to require the Applicant to strictly comply with the consultation requirements and that the framework represented sufficient value to service users to make dispensation reasonable.

2. Describe the consultation that has been carried out or is proposed to be carried out.

As with previous dispensation applications, the Applicant will endeavour to address any questions or concerns raised by Respondents within the FTT process and will continue to respond thereafter as part of its tenant engagement processes in any event.

3. Explain why you seek dispensation of all or any of the consultation requirements.

The Applicant seeks a total dispensation of the consultation requirements imposed by Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (as amended). Given that the fuel procurement process in an increasingly volatile market is such that suppliers submit prices on the basis that they can be withdrawn at short notice, offers may be available for a few hours only.

In order to obtain the best electricity and gas prices for its residents, the Applicant needs to be able to act within three hours. In the circumstances, it is impracticable and impossible for the Applicant to comply with the consultation requirements imposed by the Act, which would have the perverse effect of preventing residents from getting the best possible deal for energy supply.

Please see the attached Witness Statement of herein.

ANNEX: Addresses of Tribunal Regional Offices

NORTHERN REGION

HM Courts & Tribunals Service

Telephone: 01612 379491

Fax: 01264 785 128

First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Residential **Email address:** RPNorthern@justice.gov.uk
 Property, 1st Floor, Piccadilly Exchange,
 Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4AH

This office covers the following Metropolitan districts: Barnsley, Bolton, Bradford, Bury, Calderdale, Doncaster, Gateshead, Kirklees, Knowsley, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Oldham, Rochdale, Rotherham, St. Helens, Salford, Sefton, Sheffield, Stockport, Sunderland, Tameside, Trafford, Tyneside (North & South), Wakefield, Wigan and Wirral.

It also covers the following unitary authorities: Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Darlington, Halton, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Kingston-upon-Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, Northeast Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Stockton-on-Tees, Warrington and York.

It also covers the following Counties: Cumbria, Durham, East Cheshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire and West Cheshire.

MIDLAND REGION

HM Courts & Tribunals Service **Telephone:** 0121 600 7888
 First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Residential **Fax:** 01264 785 122
 Property, Centre City Tower, 5-7 Hill Street, **Email address:** RPMidland@justice.gov.uk
 Birmingham, B5 4UU

This office covers the following Metropolitan districts: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

It also covers the following unitary authorities: Derby, Leicester, Rutland, Nottingham, Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin and Stoke-on-Trent.

It also covers the following Counties: Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

EASTERN REGION

HM Courts & Tribunals Service **Telephone:** 01223 841 524
 First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Residential **Fax:** 01264 785 129
 Property, Cambridge County Court, 197 East Road **Email address:** RPEastern@justice.gov.uk
 Cambridge, CB1 1BA

DX 97650 Cambridge 3

This office covers the following unitary authorities: Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Reading, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Luton, Peterborough, Milton Keynes, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

It also covers the following Counties: Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Suffolk.

SOUTHERN REGION

HM Courts & Tribunals Service **Telephone:** 01243 779 394
 First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Residential **Fax:** 0870 7395 900
 Property, Havant Justice Centre, The Court House, **Email address:** RPSouthern@justice.gov.uk
 Elmleigh Road, Havant, Hants, PO9 2AL

This office covers the following unitary authorities: Bath and Northeast Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bournemouth, Plymouth, Torbay, Poole, Swindon, Medway, Brighton and Hove, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

It also covers the following Counties: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, East Sussex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Somerset, Surrey, West Sussex and Wiltshire.

LONDON REGION

HM Courts & Tribunals Service
First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Residential
Property, 10 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7LR

DX 134205 Tottenham Court Road 2

This office covers all the London boroughs.

Telephone: 020 7446 7700

Fax: 01264 785 060

Email address: London.RAP@justice.gov.uk

The Ministry of Justice and HM Courts and Tribunals Service processes personal information about you in the context of tribunal proceedings.

For details of the standards we follow when processing your data, please visit the following address <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/personal-information-charter>

To receive a paper copy of this privacy notice, please call 0300 123 1024/ Textphone 18001 0300 123 1024.