

FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL PROPERTY CHAMBER

(RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY)

Case reference . LON/00BG/LSC/2021/0287

Property : Various Properties at St. David's

Square, London E14

Applicant . Liam Philip Spender and the several

lessees listed in the application

Representative . Liam Spender

FIT Nominee Limited and FIT Nominee

2 Limited

Respondents Representatives:

: FirstPort Bespoke Property Services

Limited

Freehold Managers Plc

Representative . Simon Allison of Counsel

Determination of payability and

Type of application . reasonableness of service charges pursuant

to s27A LTA 1985

Judge Shepherd

Tribunal . Duncan Jagger FRICS

Mr N. Miller

Date of Decision . 3rd May 2023

Decision

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- 1. The Respondents were asked to provide a breakdown of the costs of the Countryside Contracts for the relevant period illustrating specifically how much is attributed to rent and how much to maintenance. They have been unable to provide a breakdown from Countryside. This is surprising. Countryside must have some idea, at least at a ball park level, of the split. The Respondents referred the Tribunal to estimates they obtained from other contractors. The Applicants also suggest that the estimate obtained by the Respondents from SCCI Alpha Track should be followed for each of the years in question for the Door Entry Systems. Faced with an absence of information from Countryside the Tribunal agrees with the Applicants that these estimates should be followed in relation to a determination of reasonable costs for the relevant period. This represents an 81% reduction in costs originally sought by the Respondents. The Applicants submit that the same reduction should be applied to the other fittings: TV Distribution and Car Park Gates and Barriers. The Tribunal accepts that this is a pragmatic approach.
- 2. In summary the following sums are allowed for the Countryside Contracts for the period in question:

2018: £36551.25

2019: £37105.56

2020:£37105.56

- 3. The Tribunal allows the Applicants' application for repayment of their application fee and hearing fee of £300.
- 4. As indicated in the previous decision the appeal rights for the whole case are triggered by this decision.

Judge Shepherd

3rd May 2022

RIGHTS OF APPEAL

1. 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.

- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.