

Party Wall Insurance Ensuring A Prompt Quotation Turnaround – Top Tips

It has traditionally been difficult for us to secure a prompt turnaround when it comes to party wall insurance applications. This type of liability cover is a fairly complex and technical thing to underwrite so the quality of the information provided is crucial. We find that applicants who take the time to properly complete the proposal form and to supply the supporting technical documentation will receive their quotations significantly quicker than applicants who rush through the information submission process.

The following are our 'Top Tips' to ensure a prompt and competitive quotation:

- Have the proposal form completed by somebody who is familiar with the technical and structural aspects of the project, for example, the structural engineer
- Ensure that full responses are provided to the questions on the proposal form. Expressions like 'see attached drawing' should not be used. The whole purpose of the proposal form is to summarise the technical information, not simply refer to it
- Ensure that the following are provided as promptly as possible. In particular, method statements are essential, particularly if there is substantial piling, excavation, demolition and/or underpinning taking place:
 - Plans/drawings
 - Schedules of condition for neighbouring/at risk properties
 - Method statements for any demolition/excavation/piling/underpinning works
 - Evidence of the contractor's liability insurances
 - Design of any temporary works (propping/shoring/scaffolding etc)
- There is no need to submit every single drawing and plan. A selection of key drawings showing the structural elements along with a couple of more general before/after drawings is going to be of more use to the insurer than the full tranche of architectural drawings
- Be prepared to provide clarification and/or additional documentation. The insurer will not provide a quotation until they are confident that they fully understand the risk. The provision of Party Wall insurance is high risk. There are lots of claims. The insurer will not accept risk until they are confident they understand it
- The party wall insurance needn't commence until the structural elements of the project kick off. If your project start date is imminent, but you will initially not be undertaking the structural works, then it is worth taking the time to ensure full information is submitted rather than trying to rush a quotation through.