## SNAPSHOT WINTER 2011/2012 RESIDENTIAL RESEARCH MARYLEBONE LETTINGS Knight Frank



Erin van Tuil, Head of Knight Frank's Marylebone Lettings team, discusses where tenants tend to come from, the benefit of using Knight Frank, and how the market is likely to perform in the coming months.

#### What can landlords do to ensure their property is let as quickly as possible?

We always recommend that landlords are realistic when it comes to price. We base our recommendations on thorough research into previous rents and the state of the market. Recently we have been stressing the importance of flexibility when it comes to furniture demands from tenants, as this really can make or break a deal.

## How long does it usually take you to let a property?

Typically we expect to find a tenant within six to eight weeks, but this is very much dependent on market conditions at the time. The number of applicants registered with us increased by 20% over the past 12 months, which is great news for landlords looking for tenants in the current market.

#### Why should landlords consider using Knight Frank over other agents?

We are constantly innovating and our iPhone and iPad app is a perfect example of this. The app is far superior to those of our competitors and guarantees that your property is viewed by as wide an audience as possible, complemented by the fact that our website is now available in eight different languages. We have been encouraging landlords to download the app for free. Aside from being easy to navigate it has great special features such as our research library, where you can download our latest reports, store them in your own personal library, and sign up to be alerted when new ones are published. Landlords who choose to use Knight Frank also benefit from the fact that we have a dedicated corporate relocation department that sources executive tenants moving for work reasons.

# Where do your tenants tend to come from?

We continue to source a variety of tenants from around the world. Over the past few months

most of our new tenants have come from North America and Europe. The majority tend to work in the finance and banking sectors.

#### Which price band is most active?

The majority, around 75%, of our agreed tenancies recently have been between  $\pm$ 320 and  $\pm$ 1,000 per week.

## How do you think the market will fare in the coming months?

We expect increased interest for short lets in Marylebone over the summer given the exciting events taking place in London. Knight Frank's Residential Research department pinpointed the area as one of London's future 'hotspots' due to various redevelopments and the introduction of the Crossrail network, so we expect the area's desirability to improve even further in future years.

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**Erin van Tuil** Associate Lettings Manager +44 (0)20 78715070 erin.vantuil@knightfrank.com

# Marylebone lettings market at a glance

#### Figure 1 What do our applicants want to spend? New applicants, past 12 months



| 7%  |
|-----|
| 41% |
| 18% |
| 17% |
| 12% |
| 5%  |
|     |

Figure 2 What is coming to market? New instructions, past 12 months



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#### **Charting the Marylebone Lettings market**



| Figure 3                         |
|----------------------------------|
| Tenancies by price band          |
| Tenancies agreed, past 12 months |

| under £500pw         | 23% |
|----------------------|-----|
| £500pw to £750pw     | 34% |
| £750pw to £1,000pw   | 21% |
| £1,000pw to £1,500pw | 19% |
| £1,500pw to £2,500pw | 3%  |

#### Figure 4 Source of our tenants Tenants, past 12 months

| Web                | 51% |
|--------------------|-----|
| Relocation         | 15% |
| Referral           | 15% |
| Corporate services | 13% |
| Brand awareness    | 4%  |
| Internal           | 2%  |

### Marylebone properties and the Knight Frank team

### TO LET Stylish apartment

PORTLAND PLACE

1 £650pw

#### TO LET

**Apartment with** expansive balcony

NEW CAVENDISH ST **1** £700pw

#### TO LET

**Contemporary duplex** apartment

#### SEYMOUR PLACE **---** 3 £995pw

**Knight Frank Marylebone Lettings** +44 (0)20 7871 5070 marylebone@knightfrank.com 120a Mount Street London W1K 3NN knightfrank.co.uk/lettings







#### Figure 5 Market activity

Year-on-year change (October 2011 to December 2011)

| Exchanges        | <u></u> 200%  |
|------------------|---------------|
| New applicants   | <b>†</b> 116% |
| New instructions | <u></u> 50%   |
| Viewings         | <u></u> 34%   |
| Prices           | <b>†</b> 3.1% |

Figure 6

#### Wider market performance

Prime London (rental prices) vs FTSE 100, past 5 Years



### TO LET

Split-level penthouse

GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE **----** 3

£1,900pw

TO LET Apartment in striking mansion block

**BICKENHALL MANSIONS ---** 3 £1,950pw

TO LET Lateral apartment in prestigious block

HARLEY HOUSE **----** 3

£2,800pw







Hannah Cronin Lettings Administrator

**Emily Munro** Associate Lettings Manager Lettings Negotiator

Lucie Hirst Lettings Negotiator

If you have any queries or would like to obtain additional information on the UK or international housing markets please contact: Liam Bailey, Head of Residential Research, +44 (0)20 78615133, liam.bailey@knightfrank.com @ Knight Frank LUP 2012 - This report is published for general information only. Although high standards have been used in the preparation of the information, analysis, views and projections presented in this report, no legal responsibility can be accepted by Knight Frank Residential Research or Knight Frank LUP for any loss or damage resultant from the contents of this document. As a general report, this material does not necessarily represent the view of Knight Frank LUP interlation to partice or projects. Reproduction of this report in whole or in part is allowed with proper reference to Knight Frank LUP is a limited liability partnership registered in England with registered number OC305934. Registered office: 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 8AN

Erin van Tuil