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CASE STUDY - RATING AUDIT

Leonardo Hotels - The Grand Brighton Hotel

Leonardo Hotels is the European division of Fattal Hotels Group, which operates a chain of over 294 hotels across Europe, with 59 locations across in the UK and Ireland. Their Grand Brighton Hotel is a historic Victorian seafront 5-star hotel, located in the heart of Brighton. Opening its now-iconic doors on 21st July 1864, it has become one of the most recognised and celebrated hotels on the UK's south coast. Dunlop Heywood was appointed to provide a rating audit service for Leonardo Hotel including The Grand Brighton. The objective was to identify and recover historic overpayments in business rates, ensuring the client's liabilities were both accurate and cost-effective.

Our rating audit specialists conducted a forensic analysis of historic billing data, uncovering errors made by the Billing Authority. These errors included:

- Incorrect rate liability calculations
- Misinterpretations of rating legislation and regulations

The complex nature of business rates assessments means such errors are common. By combining our expert knowledge of business rates law, case law, and billing systems, we were able to identify and correct the inaccuracies on behalf of the client.

Key achievements are:

- **£200,000+ in Savings:** Significant overpayments identified and recovered.
- **Efficient Process:** Over 90% of rating audit cases we undertake result in savings, with most completed within a matter of weeks.
- **Specialist Expertise:** Our analysts' unique understanding of business rates legislation and Billing Authority processes ensured accurate results.

Conclusion

Through our rating audit service, Dunlop Heywood delivered more than £200,000 in savings for The Grand Brighton Hotel.

This case demonstrates the value of specialist rating audit expertise in the hospitality sector- ensuring clients not only secure immediate financial savings but also gain confidence in the accuracy of their future liabilities.