



INTEREST POLICY

1 PURPOSE

This policy sets out how Morgan Finch Solicitors applies interest in relation to funds held in our client bank account, in accordance with regulatory requirements. Morgan Finch Solicitors is committed to compliance with its obligations under the SRA Standards and Regulations 2019 and the SRA Accounts Rules 2019.

2 BACKGROUND

Our interest policy seeks to provide a fair outcome for clients whilst recognising that money must be immediately available, unless clear instructions are received to the contrary. This will mean interest of funds held by us is likely to be less than would be available if the funds were held by a bank or building society direct. Our policy is to make a payment in lieu of interest to ensure the costs of operating the bank, of managing the account and of calculating interest payments are covered.

As required under the regulations, Morgan Finch Solicitors has to ensure that client money is kept safe and available for the purpose for which it is provided and separate from funds belonging to the firm.

Client money must be held in a client account as required by the SRA Accounts Rules 2019. In doing this, funds are protected from being used to cover any liability to the bank by the firm.

3 APPLICATION OF INTEREST FOR CLIENT FUNDS HELD

3.1 Money held in a general client account - we will account to you for interest when it is fair and reasonable to do so in all the circumstances having regard to the principles and practices as detailed below.

3.1.1 We will compound interest quarterly.

3.1.2 We will normally calculate and pay interest once your matter has been concluded, however there may be instances where it might be more appropriate to account for interest at intervals throughout the matter.

3.2.3 Due to regulatory requirements and administrative costs involved we will not pay interest if the sum calculated is less than £100 in total for the full period during which we hold your money in client account.

3.2.4 We will retain interest paid to us by the bank on the aggregate of all client money held in a general client account, unless the interest is over £100 based on our current rate of interest.

3.2.5 We will not pay interest on money held:

- a) For payment of a professional disbursement once counsel or other professional has requested a delay in settlement.
- b) For the Legal Aid Agency.
- c) On an advance from us into our general client account to fund a payment on your behalf in excess of funds already held for you in that account.

d) If there is an agreement to contract out of the provisions of this policy.

4 REVIEW

This policy may be reviewed from time to time to ensure that it continues to deliver a fair outcome to clients.

5 CALCULATION OF INTEREST PAYABLE

Interest will be calculated and paid by reference to applicable rate over the period for which we hold cleared funds.

The rate of interest we apply is: 1.25% (unless we notify you of a change of interest rate or to the policy).

Unless otherwise agreed, where we are conducting more than one matter for you, balances will not be aggregated for calculation purposes.