

Litigation

Please note that we charge Value-Added Tax (VAT) in addition to our fees. VAT is currently payable at the rate of 20%. The fees below apply to both Claimant and Defendant instructions unless reference to one is specifically made.

Legal Work Required	Fees
Conduct of case (small claim) <i>Claims of up to £10,000 only</i>	<p>£250 per hour capped at £1,500, plus VAT plus expenses.</p> <p>The capped fee will include the preparation and conduct of the small claim, up to, but not including, our attendance at <u>any</u> hearing or mediation.</p> <p>Attendance at any Court hearing up to and including trial - £250 <u>per hour or part thereof</u>, plus VAT, plus disbursements and expenses.</p> <p>Expenses include disbursements (such as Counsel's fees) and general expenses such as travel costs.</p> <p>In addition, claimant pays any <u>Court</u> or application fee including the claim issue fee (depending on the value of the claim) and a <u>Court</u> hearing fee (£355).</p> <p>Mediation is available. Costs of this will depend on whether mediation is entered into before or after court proceedings are issued.</p> <p>Counsel and expert witnesses are independent third parties who set their own fees. We will obtain fee indications for your approval before any third party is instructed by us on your behalf. A general indication of likely counsel fees is given below.</p>

<p>Conduct of case (claimant or defendant) for claims of over £10 000 (fast track or multi track cases)</p>	<p>£250 per hour, plus VAT plus expenses.</p> <p>Typically, work required will include the preparation and conduct of the claim, up to, but not including, our attendance at <u>any</u> hearing or mediation.</p> <p>Attendance at any Court hearing up to and including trial - £250 <u>per hour, or part thereof</u>, plus VAT, plus disbursements and expenses.</p> <p>Expenses include disbursements (such as Counsel's fees) and general expenses such as travel costs.</p> <p>In addition, a claimant is required to pay an issue fee equivalent to 5% of the value of the claim and a hearing fee in a fast-track case of £545 and in a multi-track case of £1,175). If a claimant is on a low income, they may qualify for Help with Fees which would cover the costs to issue the proceedings and hearing fee. Our costs would still need to be met by the client.</p> <p>Mediation is available. Costs of this will depend on whether mediation is entered into before or after court proceedings are issued.</p> <p>Counsel, expert witnesses and mediators are independent third parties who set their own fees. We will obtain fee indications for your approval before any third party is instructed by us on your behalf. A general indication of likely Counsel fees is given below.</p>
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Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as court fees. You must either pay any disbursements directly yourself or place us in funds so we can make payment on your behalf when due.

Counsel's fees are estimated at between £1,000 and £2,500 per day (depending on the experience of the advocate) for attending a Court Hearing (including preparation). Counsel will also be paid a Brief Fee of £1,500 to £10,000, plus VAT depending on the complexity of your case and time spent by Counsel reading into your case and preparing it for the hearing.

*** Legal Expense Insurance**

If you have home contents, or buildings, insurance, you should check whether you have legal expense insurance as part of the policy. You have the right to choose your solicitor and so if your insurer tries to compel you to use a solicitor from their panel, please refer them to us and we will challenge them on this point and insist that you can continue to use this firm if you so wish.

If you do have insurance, we may be able to fund your claim under the terms of the policy. If you have either contents, or buildings, insurance, please provide a copy of the policy, so that we can review the terms with you and see if cover might be available. If you have another kind of legal expense insurance cover, please also provide a copy of the policy so that we can review it with you to see if cover is available. The policy is likely to only cover you from the time we issue proceedings, so any work carried out by the practice before this will still have to be paid on a private, hourly, basis. You will need to check this with your insurer.

No-win no-fee

We currently do not offer no-win-no-fee funding arrangements.

Legal aid

We do not participate in the Legal Aid Scheme. You are referred to www.gov.uk/legal-aid/how-to-claim.

We offer a free consultation for 10 minutes, in which we will discuss and give you basic advice as to your case.

Key Stages

The fees set out above cover all of the work in relation to the following key stages of a claim.

Key Stage	Likely Timescale
Taking your initial instructions in respect of claim/defence, within 7 <u>working</u> days of instructions.	1-2 weeks
Prepare and submit claim and Particulars of Claim, or defence in response to claim and Particulars of Claim.	Within 14 <u>working</u> days of the receipt <u>by way of service</u> of the claim/defence.
Complete relevant Directions Questionnaire.	Within 7 <u>working</u> days of <u>receipt by way of service of</u> an order of a court.

Attend case management conference/Directions Hearing.	In accordance with an order of a court.
Exchange of documents	In accordance with an order of a court.
Exchange of witness statements (in accordance with a direction of a court).	Typically, required two months before trial date.
Representation at trial	In accordance with an order of a court.

The stages set out above are an indication of the key stages and if some of the stages above are not required, the fee will be reduced. You may wish to handle the claim yourself and only have our advice in relation to some of the stages. This may be arranged based on your individual needs.

The fees above DO NOT include the cost of enforcing any award, including the costs for compensation, or costs. The following fees would apply to enforce an award, or order:

Basic enforcement measures (bailiffs)	£250 per hour, plus VAT plus expenses Expenses include disbursements (such as Counsel's fees) and general expenses such as travel costs and bailiff's fees/costs of £60
Oral examination	£250 per hour, plus VAT plus issue fee of £59
Third-party debt order	£250 per hour, plus VAT plus issue fee of £119
Attachment of earnings order	£500 plus VAT and court fee of £119
Warrants (County Court)	£500 plus VAT and issue fee of £83 to £130 according to type of application
Writ (High Court)	£500 plus VAT and issue fee of £71
More complex enforcement measures (e.g., bankruptcy/winding up)	£250 per hour plus VAT and court issue fee according to process used: Winding up issue fee £1880 OR Bankruptcy petition £990 (petition deposit) and £302 (court costs)

If Counsel is used, their fees are set by counsel's clerk. Counsel will typically charge around £750 plus VAT to represent at an enforcement hearing. If more complex enforcement measures required counsel will typically charge up to £350 per hour plus VAT for an opinion and to represent at a hearing a Brief Fee of £1,500 plus VAT and £1,000 plus VAT per day.