

Legal Fee Information for

Motoring Offences

If you have been charged with a motoring offence, such as speeding, driving without due care and attention or driving whilst under the influence, professional legal advice will help limit the possible consequences.

Our pricing information for assistance in relation to **summary only motoring offences** under Part I of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and s89 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

VAT, currently 20%, will be payable on all our fees and some disbursements, and we will clearly confirm which disbursements carry VAT in formal quotation or as we advise you to incur them.

Legal Fees

Legal Fees are the amount you will be required to pay for all of the work performed by us in actioning your instructions, from commencement of your case to conclusion.

Please note that the legal fees that we mention below do not include any fees which may be payable to a third party. Those are known as disbursements, and an example of these costs are listed below. disbursement costs will be in addition to any fees you pay to us. We will advise you if we think it is likely that you will incur any such fees.

Our fees stated below are based on an hourly rate of £300.00 plus VAT @20% (£360.00 inc. VAT)

Given that each case falls on its facts, we agree fees for the common criminal offences once the facts are ascertained as follows:

- The firm offers an initial consultation free of charge for 15 minutes and thereafter at a cost of £300 plus VAT (£360.00 Inc. VAT) with the Senior Partner or staff members to establish the facts of the individual case and give an indication of the costs that may be incurred so that the client is aware of the cost up front.
- Depending on whether a Guilty or Not Guilty Plea is entered, then our hourly rate is £300.00 plus VAT (£360.00 inc. VAT) and the estimated fee will be £2,500.00 - £6,000.00 plus VAT (£3,000.00 - £7,200.00 Exc VAT) dependent on the length of the Trial, sentencing and preparation time.
- Where we agree a fixed fee, this is typically £3000.00 plus VAT (£3600.00 inc. VAT) and will depend on the facts of the individual case and agreed prior to the hearing. Below we cover what is included in our fees.
- We will charge the sum of £50 + VAT (£60 Inc. VAT) for electronic money transfers.

If at any stage our fees change, we will notify you and discuss the reason for any changes. This would typically occur if you change your instructions or your case involves an unforeseen complexity.

The fees above do not include additional disbursements such as barristers or experts fees.

Each case is dependent on its own circumstances and facts, and once we have established the facts of your individual case, we will ensure you are informed of any additional costs that may be incurred so that you are aware of the cost up front.

Our average fees assume that:

- a. The transaction is concluded in a timely manner and no unforeseen complication arise.
- b. All parties to the transaction are co-operative and there is no unreasonable delay from any parties providing documentation.

Our Legal Fee includes:

- General attendance/preparation:
- considering evidence
- taking your instructions
- providing advice in relation to plea and likely sentence
- Where we cannot anticipate the likely sentence, advice on the options available to the court in relation to sentencing
- Where appropriate, advice on whether an exceptional hardship or special reasons argument should be made
- Attendance and representation at a single hearing at the Magistrates Court
- The price whether the price displayed includes taking statements from, and examination of witnesses.

Our Legal Fee does not include:

Where there is likely to be any additional cost, we will inform you as soon as possible with a clear estimate of those costs.

The following expenses are not included in our fixed fee:

- The cost of an expert report if needed to support the defence.
- Counsel or Expert fees
- Court fees
- Acting for you in an appeal.

Where there is a fixed fee (as detailed above) which will be agreed prior to the hearing, this will not include:

- instruction of any expert witnesses
- taking statements from any witnesses
- advice and assistance in relation to a special reasons hearing
- advice or assistance in relation to any appeal

Disbursements

Disbursements may be incurred in the handling of the matter for you. For motoring offences these will typically be:

- Counsel's fees to provide advice or represent you at a hearing. If Counsel is required to be instructed a quotation for their services will be obtained from them and discussed with you before they are instructed to ensure you are fully aware of the fees that will be charged.
- The fees of a barrister vary depending on the experience of the advocate and their expertise. In our experience, the initial fee for a barrister and the first day of the hearing (known as the brief fee) will be in the region of £1,000.00 - £3,000 plus VAT (£1,200.00 – £3,600.00 Inc. VAT). Each subsequent day would be an additional £500 - £1,500 plus VAT (£600 - £1800 Inc. VAT).

- If you want a very experienced barrister, then the cost is likely to be more. You may also incur additional charges such as travel costs for us to attend meetings and hearings.
- Medical report fees/ other experts fees (if applicable) – on occasion an expert report may be required in our experience a cost of these reports range from £750.00 - £2,000.00 plus VAT (£900.00 - £2,400.00 Inc. VAT).

Stages of the Process

The precise stages involved may vary according to the circumstances of your matter.

The key stages are based on the presumption that you have entered a guilty plea and have a date for your hearing and are as follows: -

- Meet your solicitor and instruct them to act for you
- We will consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice.
- Witness statements – if needed and agreed. Where we have agreed a fixed fee with you prior to the hearing, this will have an additional cost, as noted above, and this will carry an additional cost on hourly basis of £250.00 plus VAT (£300.00 inc. VAT) per hour and we will advise you of the full charge when we have identified the number of type of witnesses and who will take the statement(s).
- We will explain the court procedure to you so you know what to expect on the day of your hearing, and the sentencing options available to the court.
- We will conduct any further preparatory work, obtain further instructions from you if necessary and answer any follow-up queries you have.
- We cannot provide a timescale of when your hearing will take place, as this depends on the court listing for that day.
- We will attend court on the day and meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate being at court for either half a day / or a full day.
- We will discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost, at our hourly rate.

Timescales

Most summary motoring offences are dealt with at the first hearing and usually within one month of the date of receipt of the postal requisition or the date of charge.

If you're entering a guilty plea, the case is often concluded at the first hearing. This might be adjourned (although usually for no more than four to six weeks) if a special reasons or exceptional hardship argument is to be heard and which therefore needs a separate listing.

If you're entering a not guilty plea, the case will be adjourned for a trial which usually takes place within three months.

Summary only motoring matters are considered of low priority by the court and are more likely to be adjourned if they are listed on a trial day with other higher priority trials.

We will however advise you of estimated time scales when we have the details of your matter.

Who Will Handle Your Case

The following fee earners handle Motoring Offence Matters:

Road traffic matters are generally handled by Shazia Ali, a solicitor who qualified in 2005 and Managing Partner at Scarsdale Solicitors. Shazia has over 25 years' experience in representing clients across a broad range of road traffic matters, with significant experience in preparing road traffic matters for trial, holding detailed knowledge of the statutory process.

Questions

If you have any questions relating to our services and our fees, please contact us on 0161 660 6050 or make an enquiry via our [contact us page](#).