

EXAMPLES OF PRICING FOR PUBLIC ACCESS SERVICES

Introduction

Below are examples of our pricing structure in a number of areas of law in which our members accept Public Access instructions. The details are only a guide. If you want to discuss any instruction or pricing, including individual contractual arrangements, please contact a specialist clerk in one of our four chambers (using the details of the Chambers that is closest to you) and we will be happy to talk through the options with you.

The pricing below includes a deliberately wide range of rates as we have a large number of public access barristers, meaning we can always find the right solution for your case. The areas of work include:-

- Employment
- Financial disputes arising out of divorce
- Inheritance Act Claims
- Personal Injury
- Licensing applications
- Summary Only Motoring Offences

Fees

The fees we will charge are either fixed fees or fees that are fixed by reference to the hourly rates as set out below. We agree the fixed fee with you in advance based on these example hourly rates and fixed fees.

All fees exclude VAT (where applicable).

Fees vary based on the experience of the barrister required for your case and the complexity of the case.

Possible Additional Costs

In addition to the charges below, there may also be additional costs. They can typically include:-

- travel (charged either at the cost of a standard class train ticket or at 45p per mile if counsel drives)
- accommodation (charged at the price of accommodation for a pre-agreed location)
- Court Fees (<https://www.gov.uk/court-fees-what-they-are>)
- expert fees (for example, to assess whether a speed camera is functioning properly or to provide a forensic accountant in a divorce case). Those fees can vary dramatically, depending on the technical nature of the expert required
- photocopying at 10p per page (this is normally only necessary if the court requires paper bundles and evidence).

Any additional costs (including those not identified above) will be set out, along with an explanation as to why they are needed, in advance and agreement will be sought on those costs. Where specific additional costs are required but are refused, this may result in the barrister being unable to continue to work on your case.

Timescales

Timescales for our services may vary depending on factors such as barristers’ availability, the complexity of your case and the need for additional documents. As a guide, written advice on your case will be available within two to four weeks where possible. You may also need representation at short notice. If so, please contact the clerks and our barristers will aim to represent you at the hearing where possible.

This will be discussed with you and agreed in advance. Our clerks are always happy to discuss fees options where you are concerned about the affordability of your representation.

All information is correct as of 1 October 2021, but fees are estimates only. For a quotation, please contact the clerks on the details on the “Contact” page of our website or email clerk@stjohnsbuildings.co.uk.

Specific Examples of Fees

Employment

Our barristers can advise both employees and employers on ordinary unfair dismissal and wrongful dismissal claims. Our barristers can also represent both employees and employers at the Employment Tribunal.

Stage of Case	Range of Hourly Rates (estimates)
Written advice on your claim	£150-£700 approx. 3-5 hours
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of tribunal documents	£150-£700 approx. 3-5 hours
Preliminary hearing	£150-£700 approx. 5 hours (including prep.)
First day’s tribunal appearance	£150-£700 approx. 10-15 hours (including prep.)
Tribunal appearances per day, after the first day	£150-700, approx. 8 hours per day
Remedy hearing (to decide compensation), per day	£150-700, approx. 8 hours per day

Financial Disputes Arising Out of Divorce

Our barristers can advise you if you and your former partner cannot agree on financial matters during, or after, a divorce. For example, you may not be able to agree on how assets should be divided, whether to sell your home or other assets, maintenance payments, or pension sharing.

If you cannot agree, you can apply to a court for a financial order. You may need to attend a number of court hearings – our barristers can represent you in these hearings.

The fees below are for divorces where marital assets are valued up to £300,000. For all other cases please contact our clerks for a more detailed quote.

Stage of Case	Range of Hourly Rates (estimates)
Written advice on your case	£150-£750 approx. 5 hours
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of court documents	£150-£750 approx. 3-10 hours
First Appointment (First court hearing exchanging financial information)	£150-£750 approx. 5 hours (including prep.)
Financial Dispute Resolution Appointment (second court hearing to reach a financial settlement)	£150-£750 approx. 10-15 hours (including prep.)
First day of final hearing (if no settlement was reached at the FDR)	£150-£750 approx. 12-16 hours (including prep.)
Court appearances per day, after the first day of hearing	£150-750, approx. 8 hours per day

Inheritance Act Advices

The Inheritance Act 1975 protects spouses (including former spouses), cohabitants, children and other dependants when a person dies without leaving sufficient money for the dependent's continued wellbeing. Our barristers can provide you with written advice on whether you can make a claim under the Act. Our barristers can also provide you with written advice when a person dies and you are a beneficiary of the estate, but someone else makes a claim under the Act.

We may charge fixed fees, which means that we will charge you a set amount of money for the written advice. Below we provide estimates based on the ranges of fixed fees for barristers in St John's Buildings, where the deceased person's estate is worth less than £300,000. All fees exclude VAT (where applicable).

Stage of Case	Range of Hourly Rates (estimates)
Written advice on making or defending a claim	£175-500 (approx. duration 5-10 hours).

Licensing Applications

Our barristers can advise you on the following licensing applications for your business: the sale or supply of alcohol, change of opening hours, and entertainment purposes. Our barristers can also represent you when your application is heard by the local authority licensing committee, and in any appeal to the Magistrates' Court.

Hearing dates for local authority licensing committees are set in advance, and our barristers will aim to represent you on your preferred hearing date where possible. If the local authority licensing committee refuses your application, appeals must be made to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days.

Stage of Case	Range of Hourly Rates (estimates)
Written advice on your application	£150-£350, approx. 5 hours
Preparation, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting application	£150-£350, approx. 3-10 hours
Licensing Committee Hearing	£150-£350, approx. 2 hours
Appeal to Magistrates Court – initial hearing	£150-£350, approx. 4 hours
Appeal to Magistrates' Court – full hearing	£150-£350, approx. 10 hours

Personal Injury Claims

If you have had an accident which was not your fault and you wish to make a personal injury claim, our barristers can advise and represent you.

Timescales

Timescales for your claim may vary depending on factors such as barristers' availability, the complexity of your claim, the need for additional documents and the other side's approach. However, more straightforward cases will ideally settle within six months of a claim being made. If a trial is required, as a guide the courts tend to have a hearing date within two years of a claim being made.

Fees

We may use conditional fee agreements ("no win, no fee" agreements), which mean that you will only pay your barrister's fees if your claim is successful and you receive compensation. Below we provide fee estimates based on how much your claim is for (generally, up to £25,000), and the ranges of current fees for barristers in St John's Buildings. All fees exclude VAT (where applicable). If we use conditional fee agreements, your fees may be towards the higher end of the range if you need a more experienced barrister and/or you have a more complex claim. If your claim is successful the other side will also normally reimburse your additional costs (medical expert reports, court fees etc).

If your claim is unsuccessful, you will not normally pay your barrister's fees, or the other side's legal fees or costs. However, you will still need to pay your other costs. If you do not already have legal expenses insurance, you may therefore wish to take out an after the event insurance policy to cover these costs.

Stage of Case	Range of Hourly Rates (estimates)
Claim - not more than £5,000	£100-£250
Initial meeting	£100-£250
Written advice on claim	£100-£250
Drafting a statement of case	£100-£250
Trial (if required)	£100-£250
Success fee (if payable)	15%
Claim - more than £5,000 but not more than £9,999	
Initial meeting	£150-£400
Written advice on claim	£150-£400
Drafting a statement of case	£150-£400
Trial (if required)	£150-£400
Success fee (if payable)	15%
Claim – more than £10,000 but not more than £25,000	
Initial meeting	£200-£400
Written advice on claim	£200-£400
Drafting a statement of case	£200-£400
Trial (if required)	£200-£400
Success fee (if payable)	15%

Summary Only Motoring Offences

Our barristers can advise and represent you in court if you are charged with a ‘summary only’ motoring offence. This is a motoring offence which can only be heard in the Magistrates’ Court; for example, driving while disqualified, driving without insurance, careless driving, failing to stop or report, and speeding.

Stage of Case	Range of Hourly Rates (estimates)
Written advice on your case	£150-£350, approx. 5 hours
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of court documents	£150-£350, approx. 3-10 hours
Guilty pleas	£150-£350, approx. 2 hours
First appearance (pre-trial court appearance)	£150-£350, approx. 2 hours
First day of trial	£150-£350, approx. 10 hours
Court appearances per day, after the first day of trial	£150-£350, approx. 8 hours per day