



## Criminal Defence Offence Fee Guide

With legal aid funding only available for certain categories of offences and subject to means testing, we have designed a set of fixed fees to help make representation more affordable at a time when you need it most.

The fees outlined below give you an indication of the typical fees we charge. When you get in touch and we understand what is involved in your case, we will be able to provide you with a personalised detailed quote.

### **Police Station services**

All arrested persons are eligible to get free legal advice and in most cases representation at the Police Station. Call us on our 24 Hour number **01530 814166** or ask for us by name at the Police Station and a Solicitor will attend no matter what time of the day or night. If you are on bail and require advice or representations to be made, you may be eligible for legal aid.

If you are not eligible we require an **upfront cover charge of £80 + VAT** to cover up to 4 pieces of work including emails, calls and letters and advising further.

### **Fixed Price Expert Advice**

If you've got questions or concerns about how the law applies to your situation or problem – this service can help you with one-to-one friendly advice and guidance. Perhaps you want some advice but don't want to actually instruct a solicitor to take on the case, at least not yet.

This is your chance to have a 30-minute meeting with one of our Criminal Defence Solicitors accessing their knowledge and experience, on a one-off basis, without all the usual expenses which tend to be associated with using a law firm.

For **just £99 + vat**, we offer our Fixed Price Expert Advice service, designed to give you peace of mind through expert legal advice at an affordable price, to help you decide on the best way forward for you.

## Magistrates Court

We believe in absolute transparency about what we will do for you and the cost to you. For this reason we have always offered fixed fees for criminal cases. These cover the vast majority of our Criminal Defence work. These are set out in the table below:-

Guilty Plea at the first hearing	£400 plus VAT
Half day trial	£600 plus VAT
Full day trial	£1200 plus VAT
Hourly rate (if you prefer or in exceptional cases)	£150 plus VAT

### What does the fee include?

All Criminal Defence cases will be dealt with by one of our partners, or qualified and specialist solicitors all of whom have over 20 years of experience each in crime and motoring. They all spend 100% of their working time on criminal and motoring cases. They all deal with complex cases as well as more standard motoring cases. Two act as the firms criminal supervisors who regularly review and supervise their work to ensure quality

The Fees quoted above do not include VAT which will be charged at 20%

The fee includes all the work carried out by us. This means:

- Initial attendance to advise, discuss procedure and costs, take your instructions
- Obtaining and advising on the evidence in the case, and advice on the likely timescale and outcomes including likely sentences. Identifying any potential defences, or scope for exceptional hardship or special reasons arguments.
- Speaking to any potential defence witnesses
- Instructing any experts. This might mean, for example , instructing a scientist to do a cbreath alcohol calculation , or a doctor to report on medical reasons for a failure to provide a specimen.
- Liaising with the prosecution about the papers, the evidence, the plea and any developments as the case progresses
- Preparing the case for trial if it is a not guilty case, or for plea if it is a guilty plea
- Advising on any supporting evidence for an exceptional hardship argument
- Letters, emails, calls, texts with you throughout to advise, update and answer any questions

- We will explain the court procedure to you so you know what to expect on the day of your hearing
- Attending court with you, meeting you there beforehand to discuss any remaining issues or answer any questions, and representing you in court. Mitigating on a guilty plea case
- Representing you at trial or special reasons hearing
- Advising on appeal
- Travel to any court within Leicestershire

#### **What does it not include?**

- The cost of any expert instructed on your behalf, such as doctors, or scientists, or a road traffic reconstruction expert, or an Intoxilyser expert. We will discuss their instruction with you in advance and obtain a quote for you, which would be payable by you in addition to our fee, and we would request in advance.
- If your case is listed at a court outside Leicestershire then we may ask for travel costs.
- We will advise on appeal, if necessary, as part of the fixed fee. It does not include lodging or conducting the appeal for which we will charge separately.

A half day trial means a case listed for half a day or less. There is no extra charge if in fact we are at court all day.

A full day trial means a case listed to last more than half a day. There is usually no reduction if in fact it finishes more quickly, as we have cleared the diary for the full day.

#### **How long will my criminal case take?**

Say you have received a postal requisition with a court date for criminal case.

If you intend to plead guilty, for example to a minor offence, then it is likely that the case will be dealt with to conclusion on that date. The Key Stages are therefore the initial attendance when we will advise and take your instructions, and then the court appearance itself

If you plead not guilty at the first hearing or in advance by post then the case will be adjourned to a trial date. This will usually be around 2-3 months but varies depending on the Courts commitments and whether we need to obtain expert evidence. The first hearing is included in the fixed fee as well as the trial date. The key work would be

- Initial attendance to take instructions and advise
- Going through the papers once these are available (shortly before or sometimes at the first hearing)

- Sometimes a further attendance to prepare in detail for the trial itself, shortly before the trial date
- Representation at Court for trial.

### **Will my case qualify for a fixed fee?**

The vast majority of criminal cases do.

Some offences, go to the Crown Court and these “Either way” or Indictable offences are therefore excluded as they are more complex. Legal aid may be available, or we can discuss costs on a case by case basis.

There are very rare cases that fall outside the fixed fees, simply because that are lengthy (trial listed over more than a day), or because the preparation involved is too considerable (over 5 hours) , or there are several defence witnesses to statement (more than 2). In the unlikely event your case falls into this category we will let you know at an early stage and give you a detailed estimate of the work involved and the cost.

### **Crown Court**

Legal aid remains almost universally available at the Crown Court subject to a financial contribution made payable to the Legal Aid Agency depending on your means. Those with free disposable income in excess of £37,500 are no longer able to obtain legal aid for Crown Court cases.

If you wish to instruct us to act on your behalf on a private basis we will be happy to discuss costs with you having had the opportunity to review all the papers. Please contact our team for more details