

# Motoring offences: costs information

## **Motoring offences (summary offences)**

Such offences can include:

- Careless driving
- Drink driving
- Drug driving
- Speeding
- Smoking in a car
- Mobile phones and driving

The key stages upon instruction will be

- taking instructions
- preparing a proof of evidence
- advice on plea and sentence
- collating evidence in support of the plea
- advising on options at Court and
- representation at Magistrates Court

For each of the stages identified above we would estimate the likely time spent at 1 hour per stage.

However this is for guidance only as is not practicable to be precise as to the time spent at each stage nor provide a total cost, as this will depend upon the individual circumstances, the plea to be entered and the evidence that will need to be collated.

We would ordinarily charge for this work on an hourly rate basis, although fixed fees can be negotiated for multiple instructions and bulk contracts. Estimates will be provided on instruction for time spent and likely cost.

Our hourly rates are as follows:

- A Solicitors and legal executives with over 8 years' experience £217
- B Solicitors and legal executives with over 4 years' experience £192
- C Other solicitors or legal executives and fee earners of equivalent experience £161
- D Trainee solicitors, paralegals and other fee earners £118

All hourly rates are exclusive of Vat, and will attract vat where appropriate at 20%.

The work will ordinarily be carried out by a solicitor up to 4 years' experience or a legal executive/trainee/paralegal supervised by a partner. In the more complex matter solicitors/partners with over 8 years' experience would handle the matter

The range of total costs will be between £1,000 up to £10,000 plus Vat for the most complex matter involving counsel and expert evidence. Although there may be exceptional cases where this fee may be exceeded.

Additional disbursements may be incurred to include counsel's fee for representation at court or expert evidence, for example accident reconstruction or toxicology. Counsel and expert fees can range in total up to £5,000 inclusive of VAT but are included within the range of overall total cost as above.

The initial advice on plea and evidence gathering can take up to 6 months and the matter may then take a further 6 months or so to get to court dependent upon court delays and timetable.