

Criminal Defence 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.

VAT will be charged at the prevailing rate.

Police Station services

All arrested persons are eligible to get free legal advice and in most cases representation at the Police Station. Email judithbrennan@burtonlaw.co.uk 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 or released under investigation 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 £100 + VAT** to covers up to 4 pieces of work including emails, calls and letters and advising further.

Ask the expert

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 lawyer to take on the case, at least not yet.

This is your chance to have a 45 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, we offer a unique Ask the Legal Expert 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

Guilty Pleas

If you intend to plead guilty and the case can be resolved at one hearing the fee is **£500 + VAT** and disbursements.

Any subsequent hearing will attract a separate fee. This includes a meeting before the hearing and all correspondence required.

Cases involving complex issues or a large amount of evidence will attract an additional fee.

Disbursements: Please note if the case is outside of Lincoln a travel surcharge of 45p per mile and parking charges may also apply. All fees are payable 7 days before any hearing date.

Not Guilty Pleas

We offer fixed fees for Magistrates Trials starting at **£1,000 + VAT** for half a day trial.

Our fee for a full day trial starts at **£1,500 + VAT** with **£150 + VAT**.

Our fees for trials will vary depending on the amount of work and expertise required to conduct the case. Please contact our team for more details. A payment on account is required upon instruction with the balance due 14 days before the trial. We are more than happy to accept payment by instalments as long as the balance is paid 14 days before the trial.

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.

Road Traffic Offences are dealt with at a single hearing.

e.g. drink driving offence and speeding – a fixed fee of **£500 + VAT** and disbursements.

Fee includes:

- Attendance/preparation:
 - considering evidence
 - taking your instructions
 - providing advice on likely sentence
- Attendance and representation at a single hearing at the Magistrates Court

Disbursements: Please note if the case is outside of Lincoln a travel surcharge of 45p per mile and parking charges may also apply. All fees are payable 7 days before any hearing date.

The fee does 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

The key stages of your matter are based on the presumption that you have entered a guilty plea and have a date for your hearing.

- Meet with your solicitor to provide instructions on what happened.
- We will consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice.
- Arranging to take any witness statements if necessary (this will have an additional cost, of X).
- 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 [e.g. half a day].
- We will discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost.

Exceptional hardship & special reasons cases

Such cases will attract a fixed fee of **£700 + VAT** and disbursements.

In all cases above, the fixed fee quoted are based on hearings at the Local Magistrates Court. Cases in other courts will attract an additional supplement fee.

Consideration of papers & written advice only

Fixed fees start at **£200 + VAT** depending upon extent of paperwork to be considered.