



**HECKFORD
NORTON**
SOLICITORS

Summary Only Motoring Offences Under Part I Road Traffic Act 1988 and Section 89 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Cost Information

There are a number of different offences listed under Part I of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and section 89 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, including Speeding offences. As such cases can vary considerably in terms of their complexity, length and the likely costs involved.

Our usual fixed fee for a guilty plea, where the case concludes with only one attendance at the Magistrates Court, is £600 + VAT.

This fee would include:

- Endeavouring to obtain the Initial Details of the Prosecution Case in advance and considering the same;
- Attending upon you at Court, taking your instructions and advising as to the strength of evidence and all preliminary matters including credit for entering a guilty plea, costs, right to trial, trial procedure and trial in absence;
- Advising as to the Court procedure so that you know what to expect during your hearing and the sentencing options available to the Court;
- Conduct of all advocacy before the Magistrates;
- Reporting to you thereafter, including advising as to an Appeal

This fee does not include:

- Attending upon your prior to the hearing date itself (this will have an additional cost of £250 + VAT per hour);
- Sourcing and instructing an Expert;
- The taking of statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and representation with regard to any Special Reasons or Exceptional Hardship argument;
- Attendance at any Appeal hearing at the Crown Court

Our usual fixed fee does cover our attendance at the Magistrates Court where a not guilty plea is entered. However, as the case is unlikely to conclude with one attendance, further fees will be payable, should you require representation, for the preparation and conduct of your Trial.

Accordingly our guidance with regard to the likely legal fees for the preparation and conduct of Trials within the Magistrates Court is as follows:

*VAT is currently set at 20%

Standard case: £1,500 - £2,500 + VAT

Medium complexity case: £2,600 - £3,500 + VAT

High complexity case: £3,600 - £5,000 + VAT

Factors that could make a case more complex (this list is not exhaustive):

- Legal arguments which may need to be advanced on your behalf such as, no case to answer, Abuse of Process and applications made under s.8 CPIA 1996 and the drafting of all relevant documentation;
- The number of witnesses foreseen to be called to give evidence and the drafting of any witness statements;
- The volume of evidence to be considered;
- The number of Court attendances required;
- The length of the Trial itself

Where your case is to be heard at the Crown Court alternative funding arrangements may be necessary depending on whether Counsel is instructed or whether the matter is to be dealt with by the Firm's Solicitor-Advocate.

Don't forget that you might have the benefit of legal expenses insurance, which could cover your legal fees.

Disbursements:

Disbursements are costs and expenses related to your matter that are payable to third parties, including, for example, fees for Barristers or Expert Witnesses. Barrister's fees can range from £300 - £500 + VAT for a plea hearing depending on the experience of that individual. Fees for the instruction of Counsel for trials in the Magistrates Court will be a lot more and dependent on the work involved in the preparation and/or conduct of the matter itself. It is likely that VAT will also be payable on all work conducted by Expert Witnesses on your behalf. You will be responsible for payment of all such disbursements to us, but we handle the payment to those parties on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

How long will my matter take?

The time frame for concluding your matter will depend on a number of variables including the Court listing schedule.

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