

# Transparency

**This document details the services we provide and how we charge for them.**

## Services

The various members of Central Court Chambers specialise in different areas of law which they outline on their individual profile pages.

The services which they provide in their particular areas of expertise typically include the following:

- Advocacy services before all Courts and tribunals.
- Drafting correspondence, statements of case, applications, skeleton arguments, position statements, non-contentious advice and drafting and occasional assistance drafting witness statements.
- Advisory services in their qualified jurisdictions.

## Charges

How and how much a barrister charges varies. There are broadly speaking three ways that a barrister may charge for privately funded work:

- Hourly rate;
- Fixed fee;
- Framework agreement.

**Hourly Rate** – If a barrister works for an hourly rate they will charge you that hourly rate for the number of hours they work to complete the work they have been instructed to complete. On top of that hourly rate, there will also be VAT payable.

**Fixed fee** – a fixed fee is agreed in advance of work being completed. It is sometimes calculated by an estimate of the amount of work likely to be need to complete the defined task. The fee will not change according to the number hours the barrister needs to work on the task to complete it unless the scope of the work changes significantly. There will be VAT payable on fixed fees.

Fees will vary from barrister-to-barrister depending on a variety of different factors. The primary factor will be their seniority (sometime judged by their year of call). Rates will also depend on a barristers area of expertise, the extent and nature of the work, the difficulty of the work and their standing within the profession. Fees may also vary depending on prevailing market forces.

A barrister may choose to change the rate they charge. This will usually not happen during the course of your case however it may happen if the case is a long running one. You will always have the option of instructing another barrister if this happens.

The barristers at Central Court Chambers are always willing to work with you to provide as accurate a quotation as possible and the best option for your situation and case. Our clerks

and members are happy to provide you with fee information and estimations based on a case by case basis provided you are able to provide them with sufficient information to enable them to form an opinion as to the amount of work required. It is also at this stage that the barrister will be able to provide you with a time estimate having regard to the urgency of the work.

Where a barrister provides a quotation, this does not oblige them to accept the instructions. A barrister must then consider whether they are able under the Code of Conduct to accept your instructions.

Where a barrister frequently provides services to a specific client they may choose to enter into a framework agreement which will govern fees. These type of agreement must be discussed and agreed with the individual barrister.

### **Timetables**

If your case is urgent or you have a specific deadline, you must tell the barrister as the earliest opportunity so that account can be taken of that deadline and chambers will be able to ensure that a particular barrister will be able to complete the work in time.

In some instances these deadlines will be obvious and governed by the rules of court or a court order. However, a barrister will agree the time in which completion of a task must take place.

### **Disbursements**

There may be situations where a barrister incurs costs for providing their services. These include:

- Travel costs;
- Hotel costs;
- Photocopying costs;
- Search or database costs.

Such costs will likely need to be paid to counsel. They will likely be agreed in advance unless time pressures dictate this impractical.

### **VAT**

All members of chambers are registered for VAT and it will be applicable on all barrister fees.

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All members of Field Court Chambers are required to be registered for VAT, so VAT will be charged as applicable on all barristers' fees.

### **Public funding**

Your case may be capable of being funded with public funding and you will need to investigate with a solicitor whether you are eligible for Legal Aid. A barrister is unable to accept instructions directly from a legally aided party.

You are able to find out more about public funding here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid>

### **Conditional fee agreements**

A barrister may agree to represent you on a 'no win, no fee' basis. However, they are not obliged to. A fee will only be payable in these types of arrangements where the case achieves 'success'.

It will generally be a condition of a conditional fee agreement that the barrister receives an uplift on their fees should they be successful. Although their fee will usually be recoverable from the other side, subject to adjustment by the Court, the uplift may possibly be recoverable from a third party in some circumstances.

A barrister may also agree to enter into a Damages Based Agreement where they would be entitled to a proportion of the damages rather than be paid a fee.

For specific details around the different terms of these agreements and whether they are suitable for your case please get in touch so that we may better advise you whether such an arrangement is feasible. A barrister will need to assess whether the case is worth the risk depending on the individual facts.

### **Cost orders and insurance**

A Court may at the end of a trial order the other side to pay your costs. This may either be a summary assessment or a detailed assessment where a judge will consider whether the costs incurred are reasonable. It is never guaranteed that an opponent will be ordered to pay your costs and this must be kept in mind and discussed with your barrister as you progress through a case.

You may be able to obtain a policy of after the event insurance ("ATE" insurance). An ATE insurer may even be able to assist with interim costs such as application fees and the availability of such policies should be discussed with your barrister.

It should also be remembered that some policies of home or motor insurance will agree to cover some or all of your legal costs. Options can be discussed with your barrister and often this information will not be charged for.

### **Public Access**

Public Access qualified barristers are able to accept instructions directly from you without the need for a solicitor. Fees for this type of arrangement will be set out in the terms of engagement letter that is agreed before commencement of the work.

Arrangements in public access cases will often involve a fixed fee which may be required to be paid in advance. Barristers are not able to hold client money like a solicitor can, but advance payments for fixed pieces of work are permissible.

Fixed fees will usually refer to a fixed piece of work as barristers are not able to guarantee their availability. It must be remembered that in situations such as this, because a barrister is instructed, does not mean all of your legal needs will be automatically handled.

A fee may be adjusted up in the case of public access work to take account of the increase in work that a barrister must undertake in a public access case. However, even where this occurs the client will usually make a saving over instructing both a solicitor and barrister.

### **Indication of fees for certain types of work**

Below are some likely hourly rate ranges that our members of chambers may charge in relation to certain types of work. Precise costs will depend on experience and agreement with the barrister. All fees below exclusive of VAT.

- Employment tribunal claims - £150-£500 per hour for providing advice and representation to employees and employers;
- Immigration work - £250-£400 per hour for providing advice and representation;
- Personal injury claims - £200-£350 per hour for providing advice and representation (additional price transparency guidelines only apply to sub-£25,000 claims allocated to the fast track);
- Winding-up petitions – £150-£400 per hour for advice and representation.

We do not accept financial disputes arising out of divorce under the public access scheme, inheritance act advice, licencing applications, and summary only motoring offences.