

## Road traffic offences

*Defined in the transparency rules as:*

The provision of advice and representation at the Magistrates Court in relation to summary only road traffic offences dealt with at a single hearing.

Whether any fees or disbursements attract VAT and if so the amount of VAT they attract.

Our own charges attract VAT at 20%, payable in addition to the charges quoted.

Any disbursement that attracts VAT is identified below, and includes VAT at 20%.

The total cost of the service or, where not practicable, the average cost or range of costs. The basis for our charges, including any hourly rates or fixed fees.

*The charges described here relate only to "road traffic offences" as defined above. Different charges apply if we attend more than one hearing, or a hearing lasting more than a day, or a hearing in the Crown Court, as these services are outside the definition.*

We offer a fixed-fee service. If the single hearing is a trial after a plea of not guilty, the charge is £1,400 (a "trial fee").

If the single hearing is a first plea hearing and it is the only hearing in the case because you plead guilty, the charge is £400, unless it includes deciding whether there are "special reasons" why you should not be disqualified from driving (when the charge would be £800) or whether you would suffer "exceptional hardship" if disqualified (£1,000).

A trial fee includes an initial meeting to go through the paperwork with you and take your instructions. For the other hearings, this consultation meeting is charged at £200.

These charges assume that the hearing takes place in South London. If it is further away we may charge a little more, to allow for travelling time. We will agree our charges with you before we take your case on.

A description of, and the cost of, any likely disbursements, and where the actual cost of a disbursement is not known, the average cost or range of costs.

Sometimes an expert must be instructed to provide evidence in support of your case, such as a general medical practitioner or other professional witnesses to consider the condition of a vehicle or damage sustained in an accident. The charges of professional witnesses are not part of our fees, and have to be paid for separately. We will advise you as early as possible if we think an expert should be instructed.

The charges of professional witnesses can vary enormously, according to the experience or expertise of the particular witness and the nature of his or her professional specialism, and the amount of time spent by the witness in drawing up and submitting a report and preparing to attend the hearing. Typical hourly rates are between £100 and £400, plus VAT.

You may have to pay other expenses we incur in preparing your case and representing you, but we do not charge you for our travelling expenses to court.

Details of what services are

Our services where a "trial fee" is paid include:

<p>included in the price displayed, including the key stages of the matter and likely timescales for each stage, and details of any services that might reasonably be expected to be included in the price displayed but are not</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A meeting with you to go through the paperwork and take your instructions.</li> <li>2. Interviewing defence witnesses and taking their statements.</li> <li>3. Preparing your case for trial.</li> <li>4. Attending any preparatory hearings between your first plea hearing and trial, such as case management hearings, or a hearings where argument on points of law are dealt with. These are a few examples, though for some kinds of hearing there may be additional charges.</li> <li>5. Attending court to represent you on the day of the trial.</li> </ol> <p>The trial fee does not include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Representing you at any first hearing to enter your plea.</li> <li>2. Any separate sentencing hearing.</li> <li>3. Attending a trial that has been adjourned to another date.</li> <li>4. Attending the conclusion of a trial on a subsequent day to the first.</li> </ol>
<p>The experience and qualifications of anyone carrying out the work, and of their supervisors</p>	<p>Details of the lawyers who do this kind of work can be found in <i>Our people</i>. Criminal law work, including road traffic offences, is supervised by Mark Bagshaw, who is a partner.</p>
<p>If we use conditional fee or damages based agreements, we are required to tell you the circumstances in which clients may have to make any payments themselves for our services (including from any damages). These agreements do not apply to criminal law work.</p>	