

Motoring Offences

Motoring offences can happen to any individual. We regularly advise and represent clients at the Magistrates Court in relation to various road traffic offences. We have experienced Solicitors who can provide advice on what happens next and represent you at each stage of the process.

Some of the most common summary offences include:-

- ✚ Drink Driving
- ✚ Speeding
- ✚ Using a Handheld Device
- ✚ Failing to Stop/Report an Accident
- ✚ Careless and Inconsiderate Driving
- ✚ No Insurance or Licence

Pricing

Our fees for dealing with motoring offences will vary depending on whether you offer a Guilty or Not Guilty plea (together with the number of hearings which may be involved). Our fees for dealing with cases that are dealt with at a single hearing can also vary, depending on its complexities. We may also need to charge for any additional travelling to Courts, outside of our locality.

We have detailed below some examples of the services we provide:-

Summary Only Offences

Guilty Plea

Summary only offences are those that can only be dealt with in the Magistrates Court (excluding appeals). In such cases and where an early guilty plea is advisable we will represent you at Court on either a "Fixed Fee" or at our Usual Hourly Rates

OPTION 1 - Fixed Fee - £420.00

We offer a Fixed Fee legal service which is typically £420.00 (*£350.00 plus VAT of £70.00*)

What is included in this Fee?

- ✚ Consideration and review of the evidence
- ✚ Taking your Instructions
- ✚ Providing advice on the plea and likely sentence
- ✚ Consultation and representation at a Single Hearing at the Magistrates Court (during which we shall mitigate on your behalf and liaise with the Probation Service, if necessary)
- ✚ Travelling costs in the Tyne and Wear area (any travel necessary outside of this area will incur a charge of £0.45 per mile).

How long will this take?

The usual timescale for a motoring offence from when we are instructed is between 3-6 months. However, please note we are not always able to provide timescales of when your Hearing will take place, as this will depend on the Court fixtures and Court listings. However, we will keep you apprised of any issues affecting the time it may take to deal with your case.

What is not included?

- ✚ Instructions of any expert witnesses
- ✚ Taking Statements from any witnesses
- ✚ Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasons Hearing (see below)
- ✚ Advice and assistance in relation to any Appeal
- ✚ Adjourned Hearings

Anticipated Disbursements

We do not expect any disbursements unless an Expert Report is required. Costs vary significantly dependent upon the Expert and the nature of the Report. The vast majority of cases do not require an Expert Report.

Key Stages

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.
- ✚ 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 part of either a morning or afternoon session.
- ✚ During the hearing we will make representations on your behalf.
- ✚ We will discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this may carry an additional cost.

Special Reasons Hearing – Fixed Fee of £960.00 (£800.00 plus vat of £160.00)

In some cases you may be able to avoid endorsement of your licence by advancing a Special Reasons argument or you may avoid disqualification under the points accumulation rules (known as ‘totting up’) by advancing an Exceptional Hardship argument.

Both types of argument require a Court Hearing and we can represent you for a fixed fee of £800.00 plus VAT in the Northumberland/Tyne and Wear/Durham areas.

What is included in our Fee?

- ✚ A review of the evidence
- ✚ A Consultation and representation at the hearing
- ✚ Travelling costs in the Tyne and Wear area (any travel necessary outside of this area will incur a charge of £0.45 per mile).

What is not included in our Fee

- ✚ Instructions of any expert witnesses
- ✚ Taking Statements from any witnesses
- ✚ Advice and assistance in relation to any Appeal
- ✚ Adjourned Hearings

Anticipated Disbursements

We do not expect any disbursements unless an Expert Report is required. Costs vary significantly dependent upon the Expert and the nature of the Report. The vast majority of cases do not require an Expert Report.

OPTION 2 - Legal services charged at our usual hourly rates

Alternatively, we can act for you at our usual hourly rates, whereby you will be charged for each hour of work we undertake for you:-

Name	Role	Hourly Rate
Mr Richard Rodger, Solicitor	Director	£217.00
Mr John Donkin, Solicitor	Director	£217.00





All rates are excluding VAT at 20%

Contested or Not Guilty Plea

Any such matters which will be contested at court will be charged at an hourly rate of £217.00 for a Solicitor and £165.00 for a paralegal (if required) plus vat at 20%. Typically, the fee would range between £1,000.00 – £2,000.00 plus vat at 20%. We may be able to agree a fixed fee.

What is included in our fee

The hourly rate will include all preparation of:-

-  Preparation of Witness Statements
-  Attendances
-  Advocacy
-  Waiting and travel. Mileage is charged at 45p per mile plus VAT.

What is not included in our fee:

Advice and assistance in relation to any Appeal.

Anticipated Disbursements

We do not expect any disbursements unless an Expert Report is required. Costs vary significantly dependent upon the Expert and the nature of the Report. The vast majority of cases do not require an Expert Report.

Depending on the type of offence and evidence to be considered, a Fixed Fee may also be available of £800.00 plus vat of 20%, however, we would suggest you telephone our offices to discuss this in more detail.

Legal Aid

Some very serious motoring offences such as dangerous driving and driving whilst disqualified, etc. may attract legal aid depending on your means and the interests of justice test. We will always consider whether legal aid is available in such matters and apply on your behalf.