SRA PRICING TRANSPARENCY MAGISTRATES COURT TRAFFIC CASES



Our Charges

Our charges are made up of our fees for the legal work and 'disbursements'. Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to other people, such as barrister's fees. We sometimes handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Where VAT is referred to below, please note that this will be charged at the applicable rate, which is currently set at 20%.

Your case will be handled by a trusted member of our experienced litigation team. We have qualified solicitors in the team as well as experienced paralegals who specialise in the particular area of law. Once we know who will be handling your case, we will introduce you to them and provide you with full details of their background and qualifications.

Regardless of who is working on your case the matter, will be supervised by either Balaal Hussain Khan (PQE: 12 years) or Rabina Ditta (PQE: 11 years).

Our solicitors generally work on a fixed fee hourly basis and their hourly rates, unless there is an alternative funding agreement in place are set out below:

Legal Role.	Hourly Rate
Solicitor with more than 8 years' PQE	£250.00 (plus VAT)
Solicitor with more than 4 years' PQE	£200.00 (plus VAT)
Solicitor with less than 4 years' PQE or Accredited Immigration Caseworker	£150.00 (plus VAT)
Trainee Solicitor / Paralegal	£125.00 (plus VAT)

Magistrates Court Traffic Work

The following staff are in our motoring team:

Rabina Ditta Balaal Hussain Khan Ibrar Hussain Khan Kiran Jabeen Abdul Jabbaar Ahmed

The profiles of the above staff can be downloaded from the our team section of the website.

Price transparency rules only apply in relation to summary only motoring offences under Part I of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and/or s89 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. For example:

- Driving while disqualified;
- Driving without insurance;
- Careless driving;
- Failing to stop or report; and
- Drink driving

The average cost of your case is set out below:

Early guilty plea: £500 plus VAT
 Trial: £1200 plus VAT

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We offer a fixed fee for summary only cases dealt with at a single hearing:

£500 plus VAT

The fixed fee includes:

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

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

Trial

Costs are at a fixed rate set out in our pricing structure. If the case is more complex and proceeds to an appeal, then the costs of your case will likely exceed the fixed price range. The duration of the trial measured by the length of sitting days may also have a bearing on the costs of your case.

Disbursements

You will need to pay for 'disbursements' in addition to our costs as described above. We do not envisage that disbursements outside of our travel costs will be involved in traffic cases, however the instruction of expert witnesses, obtaining medical records and reports, witness statements and any advice in relation to an appeal or special reasons hearing, is not included in our fixed prices above.

In some cases, a medical expert will be required to give opinions. The average cos of instructing a medical expert range from £1500.00 to £2500.00 (Excluding VAT). If your case relates to drink/drug driving an expert may be required to give evidence. The average cost of instructing a drink/drug driving expert ranges from £1500.00 to £2500.00 (Excluding VAT).

If we feel that your case will require any disbursements, we will provide you with a more tailored quote for all stages of your particular case, once we know about your specific circumstances.

Interpreters

At our firm, we have staff members who can speak Urdu, Punjabi, Hindko, Hindi, Pashto and Chinese. If you speak one of these languages, the use of interpreters will only be required for court hearings. For any other language we will need to instruct interpreters the cost of which we will advise you if required. The usual cost is around £25 per hour for interpreters. This will attract VAT at the rate of 20%.

It is difficult to estimate Interpreters fees. The number of hours needed will vary on the complexities of the case. We will give you a more precise cost when we have details of your case. You are welcome to bring a friend or another community figure to come and help interpret. Clients are welcome to instruct their own court approved interpreter.

Key Stages of Your Case

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:

Balaal Khan & Partners Solicitors

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- Meet with your solicitor to provide instructions on what happened.
- We will consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice about the requirements of the Road Traffic Act, Road Traffic Regulation Act and the relevant court procedures.
- Arranging to take any witness statements if necessary (this will have an additional cost, of £250 Plus VAT).
- 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.

How Long Will My Case Take?

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a backlog in court caseload we cannot provide a timescale of when your hearing will take place. This depends on the court centre and the current caseload. From our experience contested cases usually take between 6-9 months to conclude. We will be happy to discuss this with you in person regarding your individual case.

Appeal

We will discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost.

Contact

FREEPHONE: 0800 999 247 2 DIRECT DIAL: 01274 75 11 44

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CJSM: <u>info.bkp@bkp.cjsm.net</u>