

Road Traffic offences

Our likely fees set out below relate only to offences being dealt with in the Magistrates Court at a single hearing such as driving without due care and attention, speeding or excess alcohol. If the matter is adjourned over to a second hearing the charges outlined below will not apply.

The details below do not cover indictable offences or those triable either way. These will include serious motoring offences such as causing death by dangerous driving. Likewise, the fees below will not apply to a disqualification hearing where the offender has amassed 12 or more penalty points on his/her driving licence.

Our fees and the disbursements for this work

All our fees are exclusive of VAT which is applied at the rate applicable at the time and is currently 20%.

Our Fees

Our fees for Summary offences dealt with on a first appearance in the Magistrates' Court range from £750 to £950 plus VAT of £150 to £190 and disbursements.

This structure is for hearings which are finalised by 1pm on the first hearing date. If the case is held over to the afternoon of the first day the cost will increase by £250 plus VAT of £50.

This covers:

- Taking initial instructions on the circumstances of the offence
- Obtaining and reading the prosecution's evidence
- Advice on the law and plea to be entered
- Obtaining expert evidence if appropriate, e.g. analysis report on excess alcohol
- Liaising with the prosecution and raising relevant enquiries
- Preparing mitigation
- Attending court: Entering plea and finalised on date of first hearing.

A second hearing takes us outside the above fee structure for which we will provide separate details of our charges and which will be based on our hourly rates which range from £180 to £325, plus VAT of £36 to £65 depending on the person who deals with the matter and the complexities involved.

For example, on a straightforward matter dealt with at a single hearing in the morning where our fees are £750, VAT would be £150, making a total of £900 in respect of our fees.

In addition to our fees there may be certain disbursements.

Disbursements

The likely disbursements, or expenses, will be travel expenses from our offices (mileage/parking/rail fare) in attending Court depending on the locality of the Court. Currently, our mileage rate is £0.45 per mile for car travel.

Other possible disbursements may be an expert's report on the analysis of the excess alcohol alleged. The cost for such reports usually starts from around £350, plus VAT of £70 for a straightforward matter, but can be more where more complex issues are involved. We will obtain individual quotes for your review and acceptance before instructing the expert.

VAT may be payable on the disbursements and we will advise you accordingly if this is relevant to your matter.

Dated last reviewed: Thursday, 15 April 2021. DCT.