

## Motoring Offences pricing – May 2020

### Summary Table

Type of case	Fixed Fee	Estimate at hourly rates
Category 1 – Guilty Plea - Single Justice Procedure	£500	£250 - £400
Category 2 – Guilty Plea in the Magistrates' Court	£1,000	£750 - £900
Category 3 – Guilty Plea in the Crown Court	£2,000	£1,200 - £1.900
Category 4 – Not Guilty Pleas	on request	£1,500 - £4,500

### Category 1 cases

Category 1 cases are those where you are eligible and choose to be dealt with through the entry of a guilty plea under the “single justice procedure”. Under this procedure you will be required to submit information in writing but it will not be necessary for there to be a court hearing.

Estimated charge at applicable hourly rates: £250 to £400.00 plus VAT.

Fixed fee option: £500 plus VAT.

### Category 2 cases

Category 2 cases are those in which you enter a guilty plea and your case is dealt with in the Magistrates Court at a sentencing hearing. Usually, you will be required to attend with us at a hearing. Sometimes we will be able to deal with the hearing in your absence.

Estimated charge at applicable hourly rates: £750 to £900.00 plus VAT and travel costs where applicable.

Fixed fee option: £1,000 plus VAT and travel costs where applicable.

### Category 3 cases

Category 3 cases are those in which you enter a Guilty plea in the Crown Court. They involve more serious offences and sometimes there is a risk of imprisonment.

Estimated charge at applicable hourly rates: £1,200 to £1,900.00 plus VAT and travel costs where applicable.

Fixed fee option: £2,000 plus VAT and travel costs where applicable.

### Category 4 cases

Category 4 cases are those in which you enter a Not Guilty plea either in the Magistrates' or in the Crown Court. They involve more serious offences and sometimes there is a risk of imprisonment. It is very difficult to estimate the cost of these cases without knowing more about them.

Estimated charge at applicable hourly rates: £1,500 to £4,500.00 plus VAT and travel costs where applicable.

Fixed fee option available on request in appropriate cases.

### **Additional Hearings**

Occasionally, it is not possible for a case to be concluded at the first hearing. Where that is the case, we will charge an additional sum for attendance at subsequent hearings. This sum will be calculated at the applicable hourly rate or, if you prefer, we will apply a fixed fee of £500.00 in the Magistrates' Court and £750.00 in the Crown Court.

### **Travel and Disbursements**

We do not charge for travel to courts in South East Wales. Outside that area, we charge for travel at the rate of £75 per hour. Where it is more cost effective, we will, subject to your agreement, instruct a local agent to attend with you at courts outside South East Wales.

### **Legal Aid**

We do not undertake legal aid work. Usually, legal aid is not available for motoring offences. In some cases, where there is a real risk of imprisonment, you may be eligible for legal aid. In the event that you wish to take up legal aid we will refer you to one of our partner firms within our the Legal Connect Wales or Legal Connect London networks.

### **Scope**

The fees set out above include:

#### Category 1 cases

- obtaining and considering the prosecution evidence
- considering your evidence
- providing advice in relation to plea and likely sentence
- advising on whether the single justice procedure is appropriate
- working with you to collate and submit written representations and means information to the court
- advising you on the appropriateness of the sentence imposed and whether an appeal is advisable

#### Category 2 and 3 cases

- obtaining and considering the prosecution evidence
- considering your evidence
- providing advice in relation to plea and likely sentence
- advising where appropriate on whether an exceptional hardship, or special reasons argument should be made

- working with you to collate written representations and means information for presentation to the court
- representation at court
- advising you on the appropriateness of the sentence imposed and whether an appeal is advisable

### Details of lawyers who may work on the matter

Lawyer	Qualification	Experience	Work undertaken	Hourly rate
Caius Mills	Paralegal	Caius is a paralegal. He holds a law degree and will commence his Legal Practice Course in September 2019.	Preparation work in all categories.	£150
Justin Davies	Solicitor	Justin is a solicitor with more than ten years' post-qualification experience. He conducts advocacy on a nearly daily basis. He holds higher court advocacy rights and is qualified to conduct trials through the medium of the Welsh language.  He is the lead trainer for the Driver and Vehicle Services Agency.	Justin deals with all categories of case.	£240
Martin Jones	Solicitor	Martin Jones is a partner and the head of the Regulatory Department. He has more than 20 years' post qualification experience. He has dealt with motoring law throughout that period.	Martin deals with all categories of case.	£300

### Details of supervisors

Martin Jones undertakes supervision of matters conducted by our other lawyers.

### Timescales

In motoring offence cases, the length of the case is dictated by the court. If you enter a

Guilty plea and the case is dealt with in the Magistrates' Court, the case will usually be dealt with in about six weeks.

Guilty plea cases in the Crown Court often take ten weeks.

The time occupied by Not Guilty plea cases varies so widely that it is not possible to estimate very accurately but a timetable will be set by the court at an early stage.

### Disbursements

It is not usually necessary for us to pay any money to third-parties. In exceptional cases, we may advise you to obtain evidence from an expert witness (such as a road accident investigator). In these cases we will consult you in relation to the proposed expert's fees before entering into any obligation to pay them.