

How much will it cost?

Every case is different and we appreciate that you will be concerned about costs. We have therefore set out below the likely costs of representation in criminal matters at a Magistrates Court in Somerset in relation to a guilty plea to a summary or either way offence dealt with at a single hearing.

Advice and representation

- Offences such as theft, criminal damage, public order, Average fixed fee £400 + VAT
- More complex cases such as Fraud, Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, Average fixed fee £500 + VAT
- More complex cases such as breach of regulations, Average fixed fee £750 + VAT

PLEASE NOTE: These estimates are an average price based on recent instructions; the actual cost to you will depend on a number of factors which we will discuss with you if you decide to instruct us. The charge is based on our standard fixed fee rates. An increase in fees would normally only occur in complex cases and an example would be where meetings with witnesses are needed or significant pages of papers need to be considered. The fee increase would be based on our average hourly charging rate of £200 + VAT per hour. In some cases you may also have to pay additional fees and charges for the preparation of reports by experts such as doctors reports, psychiatrist reports, cell site analysis, computer analysis. They are likely to be in the region of £2-3000 + VAT where relevant. We may also need details of any relevant medical conditions and your doctor will charge a fee for the preparation of any report

The work will be carried out by our experienced solicitors referred to in the section "Our People"

We understand how important a criminal conviction is and we appreciate the stress involved in dealing with court hearings.

The process would normally take one to two weeks to receive the papers from the prosecuting authority and the work we will carry out on your behalf will include:

- Considering the charge(s) brought and giving you advice on the strengths and weaknesses of the prosecution evidence
- Taking your instructions, advising on plea and procedure
- Advising on likely sentence and options available to the court
- Preparing you for your court attendance
- Attendance at court with you at a single hearing in order to deal with the guilty plea and sentencing.
- Advising on possible appeals (within 1 week of the sentencing hearing). If you appeal, this will entail further costs and we will give you further advice on the costs that are likely to be incurred.

If you decide to plead not guilty there may be a number of hearings before an eventual trial. The trial may take an hour or a few days. You may be the only witness to give live evidence or there may be multiple witnesses including medical or forensic experts. The costs permutations are almost endless and therefore we cannot give a sensible idea of costs without more information. In such cases we would be happy to initially discuss your case without any obligation and we will then be able to provide you with a fixed fee for our services. Our fixed fee will be based on our hourly rate and our estimation of the time needed to prepare and conduct your case. VAT at the current rate will be payable on any agreed fee. Our fees do not include any external costs and charges that may be incurred as part of the process for example Expert reports and you would be responsible for these. We would obtain quotations from any expert and discuss the fees with you before incurring them. If you are convicted you will also be liable to pay fines, compensation, a victims surcharge and Prosecution costs.