

Price and Service Information Motoring Offences

Introduction

As part of our professional rules, we aim to ensure that anyone wishing to use our services has the information they need to make an informed choice of legal services provider, including understanding what the costs may be.

Why instruct GWBHarthillsLLP Solicitors?

GWBHarthillsLLP specialise in criminal defence in all areas of Criminal Law. We undertake both legally aided and privately funded cases. We ensure that our clients have expert assistance at the point of arrest, in the Magistrates and at the Crown Court as well as in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Based in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield our Specialist Team of Barristers, Solicitors, Litigators and Police Station Representatives are here to help. We can offer appointments outside normal working hours and are available 24 hours a day 365 days a year for emergencies and clients who have been arrested.

There are many driving offences which can vary from minor offences to major offences and so can the punishments. We can help with drink/drug driving, mobile phone offences, speeding, dangerous driving and driving without insurance to name a few. At GWBHarthillsLLP we are trained to handle every issue promptly and professionally, to help put your mind at ease.

To assist you, we have set out some examples below to provide an indication of our costs. Please remember that each case is different, and we will always provide you with a quotation tailored to your requirements. Those figures include below are for guidance only.

EXAMPLE

Motoring offence matter, summary only, Guilty Plea

Our Fees

We would normally conduct this work on a fixed fee basis. Each case is different and we will provide you with a quotation tailored to your requirements.

Our fees (from)	£350.00
VAT on above at 20%	£70.00
Totals costs (from)	£420.00

The above represent the starting fees for this type of work and there may be additional factors in your case that increase the fees such as case complexities and locations of courts.

What is included?

- Attendance and/or preparation;
- Considering evidence;
- Taking your instructions;
- Providing advice on likely sentence;
- Attendance and representation at a single hearing at a local Magistrates Court.

What is not included?

- Instruction of any expert witnesses;
- Travel costs: fares, parking charges or mileage at £0.45p per mile (plus £0.09 per mile VAT)
- Taking statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasons or Exceptional Hardship hearing;
- Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal.

Key stages involved

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. They typically include:

- Meet with you to provide instructions on what happened;
- Consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice;
- Arranging to take any witness statements. This would be charged on an hourly rates basis at the charging rates set out in the table below;
- 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;
- Conduct any further preparatory work, obtain further instructions from you, if necessary, and answer any follow up queries you have;
- Attend court on the day, meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate being at court for half a day.
- Discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost.

Additional Costs (Disbursements)

Disbursements are costs related to the matter that are payable to third parties, such as: counsel's fees, courier costs, travel costs, etc. and do not make up our legal fees. We expect client to make a payment on account in advance of us instructing an expert. Typically, experts may be called to conduct alcohol back calculations, lung function tests and drug calculations, for example. Disbursements will vary from matter to matter, some will attract VAT while other may not. On a guilty plea matter, for example, disbursements will usually only include travel costs unless you are specifically told (and agree) to extra disbursements e.g. obtaining medical records or expert reports. On trial matters there be counsel or experts' fees involved as set out below.

For a typical court case we would expect to see some (or all) of the following disbursements:

- Counsel's fees;
- Expert fees;
- Added value service fees (such as fees for expedited trials);
- Photocopying;
- Costs of travel to and from hearings or offsite meetings. Travel costs being fares, parking charges or mileage at £0.45p per mile (plus £0.09 per mile VAT)

Very occasionally an expert report may be required in such cases the likely cost of which is likely to range from £750 - £2000 (plus VAT of £150 - £400 at 20%). Should counsel be instructed to conduct the trial their fees will also be classed as a disbursement and will range from between £500 - £1500 (plus VAT of £100 - £300 at 20%).), depending on the nature and complexity of the matter.

Hourly Rate Matters

Some matters will not be suitable for fixed fee arrangements and we will need to work on an hourly rates basis. We would need to assess your case before we are able to give a more accurate time and cost estimate. An indication of our hourly rates is set out below. The rates that apply will depend on who deals with your matter, the complexity of the case, time estimate and court location. Our fees would not be inclusive of travel, mileage or disbursements, which may include expert reports.

Description	Hourly rate (excl. VAT)	VAT at 20%
Partners, Barristers and Higher Rights Advocates	£250.00	£50.00
Solicitors/Consultants	£200.00	£40.00
Legal Executives	£180.00	£36.00
Trainee Solicitors	£120.00	£24.00
Paralegals	£100.00	£20.00

How long will my case take?

It is very difficult to provide a precise timescale of when your hearing will take place. Summary-only road traffic cases take between one week and three months to conclude depending on the court listings. Most offences of this nature when someone pleads guilty can be dealt with at a single hearing.

Most cases of this nature where a not guilty plea is entered will require two hearings: a plea and case management hearing then the trial itself. Depending on how busy the Court is then your trial may not be listed for 2-3 months.

Payment

It is the Policy of GWBHarthillsLLP to be in receipt of payments in advance of any hearing and prior to undertaking substantive work. Cash and Card payments can be made on the day. We do not accept cheque payments within less than 5 days of a hearing date.

Other Motoring Offences Matters

We have provided an indication of our fees for other motoring offence matters below. Please note that these are indicative figures only and we will always provide you with a quotation tailored to your requirements.

Matter type	Our fees (excl. VAT)	VAT at 20%
Interview, advice and written representation to the Court *to be paid before the appointment*	£300.00	£60.00
Speeding/careless driving - advice and representation at Court	£450.00	£90.00
Over Prescribed Limit (OPL) - advice and representation at Court	£450.00	£90.00
Exceptional Hardship - interview, advice and representation at Court on a guilty plea but where you are liable to disqualification as a "totter" and wish to retain your licence	£600.00	£120.00
Special reasons - interview, advice and representation at Court on a guilty plea, but where you are liable to argue special reasons for not disqualifying *where there are expert reports to be obtained the costs will be added to the fee*	£600.00	£120.00
Taxi Applications: To Local Authority	£450.00	£90.00
Appeals to Magistrates' Court	£600.00	£120.00

Note 1: The above fees do not include travel to and from hearings or offsite meetings. Travel outside Sheffield, Barnsley Rotherham and Doncaster will incur additional travel costs: fares, parking charges or mileage at £0.45p per mile (plus £0.09 per mile VAT)

Magistrates' Court Work

Matter type	Our fees (excl. VAT)	VAT at 20%
Trials anticipated to last up to 3 hours (Half day) This fee will include consideration of the evidence, taking instructions, interviewing witnesses and representation at trial. Where there are expert reports here there are experts reports to be obtained the costs will be added to the fee	£600.00	£120.00
Trials anticipated to last up to 6 hours (Full day) This fee will include consideration of the evidence, taking instructions, interviewing witnesses and representation at trial. Where there are expert reports here there are experts reports to be obtained the costs will be added to the fee	£1200.00	£240.00

Note 1: The above fees do not include travel to and from hearings or offsite meetings. Travel outside Sheffield, Barnsley Rotherham and Doncaster will incur additional travel costs: fares, parking charges or mileage at £0.45p per mile (plus £0.09 per mile VAT)

Note 2: Extra days will be charged at the above rates for Half or Full days as appropriate

Crown Court Work

Matter type	Our fees (excl. VAT)	VAT at 20%
Appeals from Magistrates' Court	£850.00	£170.00
Crown Court (Guilty Plea)	£850.00	£170.00
Crown Court (Trial)	See Note below	
Restoration of Driving Licence	£850.00	£170.00

Note 1: The above fees do not include travel to and from hearings or offsite meetings. Travel outside Sheffield, Barnsley Rotherham and Doncaster will incur additional travel costs: fares, parking charges or mileage at £0.45p per mile (plus £0.09 per mile VAT)

Note 2: Our Crown Court Trial fees will be computed on a case by case basis. A fixed fee arrangement might be available once evidence has been considered. Otherwise an hourly rates basis will apply.

Our Motoring Offences Team

Hester Russell Partner/Solicitor Higher Court Advocate	Qualifying in 1999, Hester has dealt with hundreds of Road Traffic Cases throughout her career. You can expect high quality advice and a bespoke service. Hester is proud of her track record - successfully defending at trial in a full range of road traffic matters and arguing "exceptional hardship" in order to keep clients on the road. Hester is a Duty Solicitor and is based in our Rotherham office.
Louisa Giblin Partner/Solicitor	Louisa has worked as a Solicitor since qualifying in 1999 and is a specialist in complex, technical trials. Louisa also works specifically with Clients who have learning needs and who might require extra support. Louisa is a Duty Solicitor and is based in our Sheffield office.
Richard Adams Partner/Barrister	Called to the Bar in 2006, Richard will help Clients who face more serious charges (e.g. Dangerous Driving, Death by Dangerous Driving) as well as appeals against conviction and sentence. Richard spends most of his time in the Crown Court and heads up our expert in-house team. Richard is supported by a team of expert Crown Court Litigators and works with the in-house team and the independent bar in order to ensure that you have the right representation for your needs.
Rebecca Tanner Solicitor Higher Court Advocate	If your case finds its way to the Crown Court, Rebecca, who qualified as a solicitor in 2003, will ensure that your case is meticulously prepared and presented in order to achieve the best possible outcome. Based in our Sheffield office and accredited as a Duty Solicitor, Rebecca is a Solicitor-Advocate with higher courts rights.
Joanne Robinson Partner/Solicitor	Qualifying as a solicitor in 2007, Joanna is head of the Doncaster Criminal Team and will provide an attentive service. You can expect a high level of client care and expertise from

	Joanna. Joanna has experience in all areas of Road Traffic Law.
Cheryl Dudley Consultant-Solicitor Higher Court Advocate	Qualifying in 1986, Cheryl has a sizeable caseload and a reputation for her tenacity and attention to detail. Cheryl works alongside Richard Adams in the Crown Court covering more complex Road Traffic Cases in addition to her Magistrates' Court caseload. When not in the Criminal Courts Cheryl sits as a Chair in Mental Health Tribunals. Based at our Doncaster office, Cheryl is a Duty Solicitor and has higher rights of audience.
Phil Stables Solicitor	Phil is a hugely experienced Solicitor. Qualifying in 1997, Phil oversees the Barnsley team and provides sensible advice and top-quality representation in the Police Station and Magistrates' Courts. Phil has a wealth of Road Traffic specific expertise.
Mike Jones Consultant-Solicitor	Mike is an empathic Solicitor who will help you with a full range of Magistrates' Court Road Traffic Cases. Having qualified as a solicitor in 1981, Mike carries a wealth of experience and is known for his exceptional patience and client care. Based at our Sheffield office, Mike is a Duty Solicitor.
Sean Fritchley Solicitor Higher Court Advocate	Sean is a key member of the Barnsley Team having joined us in 2023. Sean is a well-known face in the Barnsley Magistrates' and Sheffield Crown Court and prides himself on giving solid, realistic and robust advice and representation in all matters including Road Traffic Law. Qualifying as a Solicitor in 2004, Sean is a Duty Solicitor and holds higher rights of audience.
Amanda Holmes Solicitor	Amanda is a tenacious and hard-working trial lawyer who will make sure that you get the right result. Amanda qualified in 2001 and accredited as a Duty Solicitor. Based at our Doncaster Office Amanda will assist you in the Magistrates' Court in a full range of Motoring Cases.
Gill Page Solicitor	Qualifying in 1991 and accredited as a Duty Solicitor, Gill has a huge wealth of experience and will provide exceptional service in all Magistrates' Court Road Traffic matters. Gill is based in our Doncaster office.
Matthew Shepherd Consultant-Solicitor	Matt particularly enjoys Exceptional Hardship and Plea in Mitigation matters. Qualifying in 2000, and a Duty Solicitor, Matt will guide you through the court process with care and ensure the best possible outcome is achieved.
Chris Peace Solicitor	Qualifying in 2002, Chris brings with her a vast amount of experience and has a keen interest in Youth Justice work. As a Duty Solicitor, Chris is a tenacious lawyer and advocate and has a fearless approach to ensuring that justice is achieved. Chris is based in our Sheffield office.
Connie Coombes Solicitor	Connie trained with GWBHarthills and knows the firm and Clients inside out. Qualifying in 2022 and accredited as a Duty Solicitor, Connie has a high energy approach and will not give up until she achieves the best outcome for her clients. Connie is based in our Rotherham office.
Jade Agheda	Jade qualified in 2023 and is in daily attendance at Court. Jade has handled a full range of road traffic cases including Dangerous Driving.

Matthew Jones Solicitor	Matthew trained with GWBHarthills and qualified in 2023 and has a good degree of experience in Road Traffic Law with a particular interest in Exceptional Hardship cases.
Matthew Sparkes Trainee Solicitor	Matthew has a real eye for detail and will assist in providing support to the advocacy team in more complex Road Traffic cases.
Zoe Walker Trainee Solicitor	Zoe is nearing the end of her Training Contract and has carried out some exceptionally important legal research and support work in support of more complex Road Traffic cases.
Clare Ford Solicitor	Qualifying as a Solicitor in 1991, Clare carries out a supporting role and will assist with initial instructions and specialist legal arguments.
Other team members	In addition to the above we have a team of Solicitors and Police Station representatives who have specialist Road Traffic expertise. Our team of Police Station Lawyers know the system inside out and can provide the best possible assistance at the earliest possible opportunity.

Notes

Summary only	<p>A 'summary only' offence is an offence which can only be tried in the magistrates' court. There are exceptions. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (CJA 1988) offences specified in the Act can be tried on indictment by a jury if they are linked to an offence triable only in the Crown Court. The principal summary only offences are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driving whilst disqualified • careless and inconsiderate driving • failing to give information as to the identity of the driver • failing to stop or report, and • speeding.
Special Reasons	Special Reasons' pertain exclusively to situations where the accused has been found or has pled guilty and now faces disqualification unless he/she can persuade the Court that the circumstances of the offence are such that it would be unjust to impose a ban.
Exceptional Hardship	An 'Exceptional Hardship' hearing is where the accused has been found or has pled guilty and now faces disqualification unless they can persuade the Court that a disqualification would cause them or others exceptional hardship