
Information for clients: **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 Robinson's Solicitors?

From our offices in 58 Grammar School Yard, Hull, HU1 1SE, Robinson's Solicitors provides the very best advice and representation in Criminal Law cases, both Legal Aid and privately funded.

Our Criminal Defence Team has been defending successfully in serious, complex and high-profile criminal cases including murder and fraud for over 30 years, establishing a superb reputation in criminal defence work. We provide a quality service from the Police Station to the Court of Appeal in Legal Aid and privately funded cases.

We have a huge amount of experience of advising and representing people accused of offences ranging from Speeding to Causing Death by Dangerous Driving. Our proven track record in helping people keep their licences has enabled us to build a strong reputation in this area of law. We will fight for you where others won't. Unlike many national firms, we will not refer work to self-employed agents. We will allocate you a specialist lawyer who will be available to you throughout the process.

Motoring offence, summary only¹ - Guilty Plea

Our Fees

Fixed Fee: £350 + vat

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 the Magistrates Court.

What is not included?

- Instruction of any expert witnesses;
- Taking statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasons² 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;
- 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 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.

Please note we cannot provide a timescale of when your hearing will take place, as this depends on the court listing for that day.

Motoring offence, summary only - Trial

Our fees in contested motoring cases

We do not offer a fixed fee where you intend to deny the allegations that you face and the case will proceed to a summary trial (or a Special Reasons hearing) in the Magistrates' Court. In this situation you will be represented at Court by one of the firm's qualified solicitors, unless it is agreed with you that an independent advocate should be instructed.

The hourly rate will be £210 per hour + VAT. We will require a payment on account of costs to be made upon instruction, the amount of which will depend on our assessment of the work that is likely to be required to deal with your case to completion. In cases in which there is a trial lasting 3 hours, we expect that the case is likely to require 6 or 7 hours work in total.

What is included?

- Attendance on you (in person or on the telephone, as required)
- Considering the prosecution evidence
- Taking your instructions
- Instructing expert witnesses
- Taking statements from defence witnesses
- Representation at a first hearing where a plea is entered
- Preparation for trial
- Attendance and representation at a trial hearing before the Hull or Beverley Magistrates' Court
- Representation at a sentencing hearing if convicted
- Correspondence with you, the Court and the Crown Prosecution Service as necessary

What is not included?

- Disbursements, such as the cost of instructing an expert witness to prepare a report for use in Court
- Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal
- Key stages involved

The key stages of your matter are based on the presumption that the allegations that you face are denied and will proceed to a contested trial fixed after your first appearance at Court. They typically include:

- Discussing the case with you so that you can provide instructions on what happened
 - Considering initial disclosure, and any other evidence and providing advice
 - Explaining the court procedure to you so you know what to expect both on the day of the initial hearing (when you enter your plea(s) of Not Guilty) and the trial hearing itself. In the event that you are convicted after trial, what is likely to happen at the sentencing hearing and the options available to the Court
 - Conducting any further preparatory work, obtaining further instructions from you if necessary and answering any follow up queries you have as appropriate
 - Attending Court at the first listing and trial hearing and meeting with you before going before the court. We anticipate being at court for up to half a day in straightforward contested summary-only motoring cases
 - Discussing the outcome with you. If detailed advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost
 - Please note we cannot provide a timescale of when your hearing will take place, as this depends on the court listing for that day.
- 1 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:
 - 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
 - 2 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.