

## **PRICING AND FEES FOR:**

### **MOTORING OFFENCES**

This document sets out the pricing guidance for Motoring Offences Matters. This document provides the information required by the SRA Transparency Rules in relation to the work associated with this work. We are committed to price transparency in all our work and for all instructions we will endeavour to provide estimates at the outset based on the specific circumstances of the matter.

### **WHY INSTRUCT WELLS BURCOMBE LLP?**

Wells Burcombe LLP specialise in criminal defence in all areas of Criminal Law. We undertake work for both legally aided clients and those who are privately funded. We strive to ensure our clients have expert assistance at the point of arrest, the Magistrates and Crown Court as well as in the appellate courts should a case be appealed.

Based in St Albans and West Drayton, our approach to clients is one of friendliness and efficiency. Our clients are made to feel welcome but also confident that their legal issues are dealt with in a manner that both expedient and competent. We strive to create the right impression by being as available and as approachable as possible. 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. We feel it important that our clients to have access to a solicitor at all times and we ensure that as a firm we work as efficiently as possible to deliver an excellent service to all our clients.

Losing your driving licence through disqualification can have serious consequences for both your home and professional life. We provide advice on all types of driving offences including speeding, dangerous driving, careless driving, disqualified driving, drink driving, construction and use offences, as well as the most serious matters of this nature such as causing death by dangerous driving. Given the potential complexities of these types of cases, and the potential impact a conviction may have, taking advice at the earliest opportunity is vital. We can also advise on whether or not you qualify for assistance through the Legal Aid Scheme.

At Wells Burcombe LLP we are used to handling every issue promptly and professionally, to help put your mind at ease.

### **MOTORING OFFENCES, SUMMARY ONLY<sup>i</sup>, GUILTY PLEA**

#### **OUR FEES**

Fixed Fee: From £350 - £400 + VAT (currently at 20%) depending on location.

In addition, we may also charge our travel costs being fares or mileage at £0.45p per mile, together with VAT.

#### **WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

- Attendance at court;
- Considering evidence;
- Taking your instructions;
- Providing advice on likely sentence;
- 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 Reasons<sup>ii</sup> or exceptional hardship hearing;
- Advice or assistance in relation to any Appeal.

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 OFFENCES, SUMMARY ONLY, TRIAL AND SPECIAL REASONS/EXCEPTIONAL HARDSHIP HEARINGS**

##### **OUR FEES**

We are happy to provide a fixed fee quote for a trial or special reasons/exceptional hardship hearing which will start from £650 plus VAT and disbursements, and which will depend on the nature and duration of the case and matters such as the number of witnesses involved and the general complexity of the case.

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.

Disbursements will vary from matter to matter, some will attract VAT while other may not.

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.

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. Should counsel be instructed to conduct the trial their fees will also be classed as a disbursement and will range between from £500 - £1500 plus VAT, depending on the nature and complexity of the case.

The key stages of your matter are based on the presumption that there will be a further contested hearing:

- Considering initial disclosure, any other evidence and provide advice.
- Arranging to take any witness statements, if necessary (this will involve an additional cost which we can discuss with you and which depends on the work required).
- Explain the court procedure to you so you know what to expect during the 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 [e.g., half a day].
- Discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will involve an additional cost.

#### **HOW LONG WILL THE MATTER TAKE?**

The time that it takes from taking initial instructions to finalise your claim will depend on the complexity of your case and the documents involved, the number of witnesses required and their availability for court and the time it will require for the court to hear the matter. If the matter goes to court, we cannot guarantee how long the process may then take.

Therefore, we give all clients an initial engagement letter detailing an estimate of costs, which is considered as accurate as it can be at that time, and of course if the case takes a different course which will involve further costs, we will keep you fully informed and advise you of this.

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- i 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.
- ii 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.