



## VCW Law

# Information for clients: Motoring Offences

Effective from March 2024

### Introduction

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

### Why instruct VCW Law?

From our offices in Stockton on Tees, we are a long established, niche legal firm specialising in criminal law and family law matters. We represent clients at the police station, Magistrates Court, and Crown Court. Dealing with a range of cases from Murder, Sexual offences, Fraud & Money Laundering, Drug supply, to shop thefts, assaults, criminal damage, and motoring offences.

Most of our clients rely upon their ability to drive, whether it's for work, business, family or pleasure. We also understand the stress and worry caused by driving offences and how often a criminal conviction can end up in the loss of your job, business, reputation and the strain it places on relationships.

In summary-only motoring cases we can offer to deal with your case on a fixed fee basis. To provide you with an idea of our costs we have provide some typical examples of cases we deal with.

### Case Example 1

#### Drink driving offence, guilty plea case

### 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. As a guide, we have provided an indication of ours costs below:

Our fees (from)	£250.00
VAT on above at 20%	£50.00
<b>Totals costs (from)</b>	<b>£300.00</b>

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 if we identify a need to instruct expert witnesses.

### **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;
- Taking statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasons<sup>1</sup> hearing;
- Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal.

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

### **Key stages involved**

The key stages of your matter are based on the presumption that you will enter 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, if necessary (this will have an additional cost which we will discuss with you if it applies).
- 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 about half a day.
- Discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost.

### **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.

## Case Example 2

### Driving without due care and attention, Not guilty trial

#### 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. As a guide, we have provided an indication of our costs below:

Our fees (from)	£500.00
VAT on above at 20%	£100.00
<b>Totals costs (from)</b>	<b>£600.00</b>

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 if we identify a need to instruct expert witnesses.

#### What is included?

- Attendance and/or preparation;
- Considering evidence;
- Taking your instructions;
- Providing advice on the evidence;
- Attendance and representation at a plea hearing and first day of trial at a local Magistrates Court.
- Additional hearings and extra days of trial will attract additional cost;
- In the undesired event of conviction then advice and representation for sentence.

#### What is not included?

- Instruction of any expert witnesses e.g. a road traffic collision report is likely to cost £750 - £1500 (plus VAT of £150 - £300). The cost will vary according to the complexity;
- Taking statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasons<sup>1</sup> hearing;
- Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal.

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

#### Key stages involved

The key stages of your matter typically include:

- Meet with you to provide instructions on what happened;
- Consider prosecution disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice;

- Arranging to take any witness statements, if necessary (this will have an additional cost).
- Explain the court procedure to you so you know what to expect on the days of your hearings, and in the undesirable event of conviction, 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 of plea and the first day of trial, meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate being at court for a day;
- Discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost.

### **How long will my case take?**

It is very difficult to provide a precise timescale of when your hearing will take place. 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.

### **Our Motoring Offences Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
Brett Wildridge	Director/Solicitor and Supervisor	Qualified 1997
Christopher Marley	Director/Solicitor	Qualified 1995
Choi Cheng	Director/Solicitor	Qualified 2002
Nicole Horton	Solicitor	Qualified 2007
Adelle Hurne	Solicitor	Qualified 2018
Belinda Dobson	Solicitor	Qualified 2012
Paul Green	In-House Barrister	Qualified 2005
Nick Ayres	Chartered Legal Executive	Qualified 2019

### **Additional Information**

The fixed fees are referred to above are typical figures, based on hearings at our local court (Teesside/Cleveland Magistrates Court). Courts based further from our base in Stockton on Tees will often incur additional costs.

Please note, we may not be able to offer fixed fee rates in cases which are unusually complex. In such cases we will provide you with an estimate of costs based on our hourly rates along with an estimate of time required to conduct your case.