

## **HHB – GUIDE TO MOTORING COSTS**

### **FEES FOR MOTORING OFFENCES**

#### **LEGAL AID**

This firm has a contract with the Legal Aid Agency enabling us to provide advice and assistance at the Police Station for anyone facing a Police interview regarding any offence including motoring matters.

Legal Aid for Police interviews is not means tested, which means that it is available to everyone.

We will be pleased to provide representation at Court under the Legal Aid Scheme where the case is sufficiently serious or complicated and where the client can demonstrate that he or she qualifies for Legal Aid on financial grounds. Please feel free to contact us to discuss whether assistance may be available under the Legal Aid Scheme.

If you are eligible for Legal Aid, we will not require any payment from you for the assistance and representation we provide.

#### **PRIVATE CLIENTS**

If Legal Aid is not available, work carried out by this firm in connection with motoring offences is based on an hourly charging rate of £100.00 per hour for work carried out during usual office hours and £150 per hour for work which has to be carried out at other times. These rates apply to all time engaged on a matter, including preparation, attendances, advocacy, travelling and waiting. Routine outgoing letters and telephone calls are charged at £10.00 per item. Lengthy letters and telephone calls (anything over 12 minutes) will be charged on a time basis at the hourly charging rate. Our fees are subject to VAT at the current rate. Mileage is charged at the rate of £0.45 per mile. Clients are also liable for our parking costs. If we are travelling by public transport, clients are liable for the actual cost of our travel.

So far as straightforward guilty plea hearings at Birmingham Magistrates Court on weekdays are concerned, we are happy to represent clients for a fixed fee of £360.00 inclusive of VAT and travel costs.

The work we will carry out in accordance with the fixed fee will include:-

- Taking your instructions at an initial meeting or telephone call of up to 30 minutes.
- Applying to the police or prosecution for initial disclosure of the case against you.
- Considering the disclosure/evidence and advising you as to whether we consider a guilty plea to be appropriate.
- Advising on whether an exceptional hardship or special reasons argument should be made.
- Explaining the court procedure to you so that you know what to expect on the day of your hearing.
- Advising you about the likely sentence and the other sentencing options available to the Court.
- Attending Birmingham Magistrates Court to represent you on your guilty plea and presenting mitigation on your behalf.
- Confirming the outcome of the hearing to you and providing a brief advice as to whether we consider there are grounds for an appeal.

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The fixed fee does not include instruction of any expert witnesses, taking statements from any witnesses, representation in relation to trials, special reasons or exceptional hardship hearings or any work in relation to any appeal.

The fixed fee also does not include providing representation at any subsequent court hearings.

Although an initial advice on appeal is covered by the fixed fee, any additional work such as the preparation of an appeal is not covered.

We will be happy to agree a fixed fee to provide representation at any court based on the same hourly charging rate, taking into account travelling time and mileage.

We will also be happy to provide an estimate of costs to provide representation in respect of other types of hearing, such as trials, special reasons or exceptional hardship hearings. Please bear in mind that our costs in connection with hearings of this type are likely to be substantially higher, as more detailed instructions and preparation are likely to be required in addition to a longer attendance at Court.

Typical costs for an exceptional hardship or special reasons hearing at Birmingham Magistrates Court will be in the region of £600 to £800 inclusive of VAT and travel costs.

Costs for conducting a trial are likely to be substantially higher.

Where appropriate or where our solicitor has prior commitments preventing him from conducting the hearing in person, we may arrange for another advocate to represent you at Court on this firm's behalf.

You will be responsible for the payment of the fees of the person providing representation, but these may be outweighed by a saving in travel time.

Unless alternative arrangements are agreed, we will require payment of this firm's fixed fees or estimated fees at least 7 days before the Court hearing.