

Costs Price Information

At Griffiths & Hughes Parry we fully appreciate that legal costs are a very important factor for clients.

Whilst we consider that we are very competitive when it comes to costs, we also would say that costs should not be the only factor for potential clients to consider. As with many things, the cheapest is certainly not always the best and it is a matter of the level of service, experience and expertise provided. We pride ourselves in providing an excellent, committed and friendly service to all our clients.

We also strive to be fully open as to costs.

Some of the work we carry out involves fixed fees which we set out to our clients at the outset.

Other work will generally be based on time spent and hourly rates. Details of the applicable hourly rate(s) will be provided to clients. We will also provide an estimate of likely overall costs so far as possible and will review/update costs estimates as the matter progresses if required. We do not want any surprises for our clients.

For litigation matters we are sometimes able to offer 'alternative' funding options, for example 'no win no fee' or similar arrangements. Whether we are able to offer something will depend on the case. We would need to consider many factors to include the realistic value of a claim, the merits, risks and likely recoverability. Any specific funding terms offered will be based on a case by case assessment. Our offer will be set out in clear terms to the client and it is then the client's decision whether to accept.

Examples as to costs in respect of some common areas of the law are as follows.

You should always check for your self the availability of legal cost funding from other sources such as home or motor vehicle Insurances.

Conveyancing (residential)

Conveyancing is a very competitive sector and we definitely would say that it is one where the cheapest is often far from the best. If a service provider is offering particularly low prices it has to afford to do so. This often involves having relatively inexperienced practitioners taking on 'bulk' work, which in turn can lead to a poor overall service. We regularly hear stories of clients going for the cheapest option and then discovering that a matter is progressing very slowly or isn't at all, that they don't know what is happening, that they can't get hold of the person dealing with the case or they end up speaking to different individuals with differing knowledge of the case. We also hear about 'hidden' fees arising which mean the work was not as cheap as originally envisaged. Some quotes for conveyancing costs may include an element of the solicitor paying for the referral from a third party. We do not have any referral fee agreements with local Estate Agents.

At Griffiths & Hughes Parry we pride ourselves in the service we provide. We are a small firm and all of our practitioners are very experienced. We deal with cases efficiently, on a personal level and we keep our clients fully abreast as to costs and what is happening and when.

For most standard residential conveyancing transactions we are able to charge fixed fees for our work. In this respect we band our fees based upon the value of the property and the nature of the transaction. By all means call us and we will give you a quote.

The 'fixed fee' range is as follows: -

GRIFFITHS & HUGHES PARRY - CONVEYANCING COSTS June 2019

SALE

Up to £99,999	-	£495.00
£100,000 - £149,999	-	£525.00
£150,000 - £199,999	-	£575.00
£200,000 - £249,999	-	£625.00
£250,000 - £299,999	-	£645.00
£300,000 - £349,999	-	£695.00
£350,000 - £399,999	-	£795.00
£400,000.00 upwards	-	£800.00 upwards (please telephone for a quote)

ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IF LEASEHOLD - £120.00

PURCHASE

Up to £99,999	-	£525.00
£100,000 - £149,999	-	£575.00
£150,000 - £199,999	-	£625.00
£200,000 - £249,999	-	£685.00
£250,000 - £299,999	-	£725.00
£300,000 - £349,999	-	£765.00
£350,000 - £399,999	-	£795.00
£400,000.00 upwards	-	£800.00 upwards (please telephone for a quote)

ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IF LEASEHOLD £250.00

ADDITIONAL AMOUNT RE HELP TO BUY ISA £50 each

There may be further additional charges applicable for transactions with specific complexities or requirements. If so, clients will be notified in advance with our quote.

Commercial Remortgage

£500.00 upwards (please telephone for a quote e.g. Land Registry fees)

Electronic Transfer of Funds

Where we electronically transfer monies to yourselves or a third party we charge an administration fee of £30.00 plus VAT for this service to cover a similar charge made to us by our bank.

Transfers of Equity	£250.00 - £500.00 plus VAT (call for a quote)
Residential Deeds of Gift	£250.00 - £500.00 plus VAT (call for a quote)
Re-mortgage	£450.00 - £595.00 (depending on Lender's requirements)

N.B. ALL FIGURES ABOVE ARE EXCLUSIVE OF VAT & DISBURSEMENTS

Notes: -

- VAT on legal services is currently 20%
- The above are general guidelines. We reserve the right to vary these. For example we may discount these if we are dealing with two or more related transactions. Alternatively some transactions are 'outside the norm' and can have complications.
- The figures provided are our profit costs. They do not contain any adjustment to accommodate any Introducer fee payable to Estate Agents.

Depending on the nature of the transaction there may well be disbursements payable, particularly if you are purchasing a property. Common disbursements include search fees and Land Registry fees. The precise cost of specific disbursements will depend on a number of factors, for example the purchase price of a property determines the Land Registry fee and different properties will require different types of searches. We will set out details of likely disbursement costs to you at the outset.

Land Registry fees are periodically set by the Land Registry and range from £20 to £540.

Search fees generally range from £250 to £300 (Inclusive of VAT).

Upon the purchase of a property there may be Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT)/Land Transaction Tax (in Wales) payable. This again depends on a number of factors but when chargeable it is based upon the purchase price. The amount of tax is determined by the government rules at the relevant time. We will provide details of any tax which will be due.

The great majority of transactions are 'standard'. However it is important to appreciate that some transactions are not standard and/or unforeseen circumstances can arise during the course of a transaction. Examples include defects in title which need remedying, there being a need for third party cooperation/consent to proceed, issues arising from search results which require specific action and issues which may lead to the need for an indemnity insurance policy to be taken out. If it clear from the outset that a transaction is not standard we will inform you and provide a costs estimate as appropriate. If unforeseen work comes up during the course of a transaction we will advise you of any additional costs/disbursements that will be due in advance of carrying out that work.

Probate (uncontested)

Costs are dependant on how involved you wish us to be in the administration of an estate.

We typically charge between £550.00 to £1000.00 plus VAT for an application for a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration only. In addition there will commonly be expenses of £5 to £9 per executor / administrator plus a Probate Registry Fee of £155 plus 50p for each copy of the probate required.

If you wish us to be deal with all aspects of the administration and collecting in of an estate then our costs will be based on an hourly rate. Details of the hourly rate will be provided at the outset but will typically be between £150-200 plus VAT per hour dependant on which case worker conducts the matter. The overall costs will depend on the complexity of the estate and we will provide costs estimate(s). In addition to the expenses referred to above, there may be additional disbursements payable. Examples include valuation fees and contractor bills, e.g. for securing/clearing properties.

The legal costs of administering an estate are an expense of the estate, meaning that ultimately the costs are paid by the estate as long as there are sufficient monies within the estate.

Employment tribunals

We are sometimes able to consider 'alternative' funding options for employment law claims, e.g. a 'no win no fee' arrangement or similar. Whether this is available will depend on the case. We would need to consider many factors to include the realistic value of a claim, the merits, risks and likely recoverability. Any specific funding terms offered will be based on a case by case assessment. Our offer will be set out in clear terms to the client and it is then the client's decision whether to accept.

Otherwise our costs of dealing with employment law claims will be based on an hourly rate. As always, the applicable hourly rate(s) will be set out to clients at the outset within our terms of business leaving it for the client to decide whether to proceed. The hourly rate will typically be between £150-200 plus VAT per hour dependant on which case worker conducts the matter. We will also provide a costs estimate so far as possible at the same time. The costs estimate will depend on the specific facts and what is being claimed. The total costs of Employment Tribunal proceedings vary greatly. For example a claim for one remedy which has just one or two contested issues for a Tribunal to determine will be substantially less costly than a claim based on multiple areas of the law with a large number of disputed facts/issues for the Tribunal to rule on. By way of example, some Employment Tribunal claims can be disposed of at a hearing of just a few hours whereas others

require many witnesses, complex legal arguments, interim hearing(s) and the final hearing can last a number of days.

As for likely disbursements, there are no longer Tribunal fees upon issuing a claim to an Employment Tribunal. There may be Counsel's fees which will depend on the level of involvement needed and the seniority of Counsel. We will provide estimates as to likely Counsel's fees in advance of instructing Counsel. There could be other disbursements, e.g. expert/medical report fees, again dependant on the nature of a claim and we will notify clients in advance of incurring disbursements and in any event at the earliest stage we can identify that a particular disbursement may be required.

We will never incur any substantial disbursements without our clients being aware and agreeing in advance.

Although there are exceptions, the general rule in Employment Tribunals is that the successful party does not recover his costs from the unsuccessful party. For that reason proportionality, i.e. the amount it will cost to pursue a claim as compared to the realistic value, is an important factor. We will always advise clients on proportionality throughout a case.

It is important to realise that the general rule as to not being able to recover costs applies to both sides. This means both sides must consider how much it will cost to fight a case and they will often weigh that up with consideration as to what it will take to settle it. As a result many employment law claims are settled without the need to go to a final hearing but obviously this cannot be guaranteed.

As for the time it will take to bring a claim to a conclusion, this unfortunately is similar to asking a general question of how long it will take to build a house. Of course it depends on the size of the house, its location, the availability of third parties/materials etc. The same applies in employment law claims. A complex claim requiring a lengthy final hearing, possible expert evidence, potentially a pre-hearing review will take substantially longer than a limited issue claim which can be disposed of in half a day. We will always carry out work required by us promptly and can provide time estimates so far as possible dependent on the specific case, though it is important to appreciate that there are often factors beyond our control (e.g. Tribunal, witness or expert availability).

Debt Recovery (up to £100,000)

We are sometimes able to consider 'alternative' funding options for debt recovery claims, e.g. a 'no win no fee' arrangement or similar. Whether this is available will depend on the case. We would need to consider many factors to include the realistic value of a claim, the merits, risks and likely recoverability. Any specific funding terms offered will be based on a case by case assessment. Our offer will be set out in clear terms to the client and it is then the client's decision whether to accept.

We also may be able to offer fixed fee terms to clients for debt recovery matters. Any fixed fee funding terms offered will be based on a case by case assessment and will depend on what work is likely to be required from us. Our offer will be set out in clear terms to the client and it is then the client's decision whether to accept.

Otherwise our costs of dealing with debt recovery matters will be based on an hourly rate. As always, the applicable hourly rate(s) will be set out to clients at the outset within our terms of business leaving it for the client to decide whether to proceed. The hourly rate will typically be between £150-200 plus VAT per hour dependant on which case worker conducts the matter. We will also provide a costs estimate so far as possible at the same time.

Court Fees and Disbursements

If a claim is brought in the County Court there will be a court issue fee. The fee depends on the value of the claim. If a matter is defended then there may be further court fees, for example a hearing fee. The amount of the court fees very much depends on the value and which track any defended claim is allocated to. Court fees are changed by the government periodically and are published in their EX50 document which can be viewed easily for free on line. We will provide details of expected court fees as soon as we can identify the likely fee(s).

If enforcement of a judgment is required then there also will likely be court fees payable. The fee will depend on the mechanism for enforcement. We will of course advise our clients in advance of any applicable court fees.

If a claim is contested then there may be Counsel's fees payable, particularly if the case goes all the way to trial. Any Counsel fees will depend on the level of involvement needed and the seniority of Counsel. We will provide estimates as to likely Counsel's fees in advance of instructing Counsel.

There may be other disbursements required if a case is defended. This depends on the issues the Court have to determine; for example there may be a requirement for expert evidence. We will provide details of likely other disbursements as soon as we become aware that a particular disbursement may be needed.

We will never incur any substantial disbursements without our clients being aware and agreeing in advance.

In debt recovery matters it is usually possible to claim some (and on occasions all) of the legal costs in any action. This depends on the specific case and when/how it is resolved. For example, different costs rules apply to different allocation tracks and sometimes only fixed costs can be claimed. Obviously whether any costs are successfully claimed depends on the ultimate outcome of the case and there are many other factors which can affect the court's decision on costs, to include previous offers made or rejected. We will of course advise clients throughout on what costs can potentially be claimed, the risks, merits and options/tactics.

As for the time it will take to bring a claim to a conclusion, this greatly depends on whether a claim is defended. If a county court claim is not defended then a judgment can be secured quite swiftly, perhaps within two months of us being instructed.

If a claim is defended then, as with employment tribunal claims, the likely timescales will vary greatly. Estimated timescales depend on numerous factors to include the issues in dispute, the value, the allocation of the case, whether any directions/review hearings are needed, the potential of ADR, the length of the final hearing, court availability etc. We will always carry out work required by us promptly and can provide time estimates so far as possible dependent on the specific case, though it is important to appreciate that there are often factors beyond our control, e.g. court availability and processing times.

Licensing applications (business premises)

The costs of applying for a new premises licence or to vary a premises licence can vary depending upon the particular needs of the establishment in question. It will be appreciated that the variety of establishments can differ massively in respect of the type and size of premises, what licensable activities will be taking place, whether it is located in a residential area and so on.

We may sometimes be able to offer clients a fixed fee for licence applications and will of course set out the offer at the outset leaving the client to decide whether to proceed.

Otherwise our costs will be based on an hourly rate. The applicable hourly rate(s) will be set out to clients at the outset within our terms of business leaving it for the client to decide whether to proceed. The hourly rate will typically be between £150-200 plus VAT per hour dependant on which case worker conducts the matter. We will also provide costs estimates so far as possible.