

Lightfoots

SOLICITORS

PRICING
INFORMATION

Employment
Law for
Employees

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Pricing Information – Employment Law for Employees

The fees set out on this page cover all of the work in relation to the following key stages of a claim:

- Taking your initial instructions, reviewing the papers and advising you on your chances of winning and likely compensation if you win (this is likely to be revisited throughout the matter and subject to change)
- Entering into pre-claim conciliation where this is required to explore whether a settlement can be reached
- Preparing your claim
- Reviewing and advising on response from other party
- Exploring settlement and negotiating settlement at any time throughout the process
- Preparing or considering a 'Schedule of Loss' when required calculating the value of your claim
- Preparing for (and attending) a Preliminary Hearing
- Exchanging documents with the other party
- Taking witness statements, drafting statements and agreeing their content with witnesses
- Agreeing and preparing a file of relevant documents for the Tribunal
- Reviewing and advising on the other party's witness statements
- Agreeing a list of issues, a chronology and/or cast list if required by the Tribunal before the Trial
- Preparation for Trial, including instructions to Barrister
- The stages set out above are an indication and if some of stages above are not required, the fee will be reduced.

How long will my matter take?

- The time it takes from taking your initial instructions to the final conclusion of your matter depends largely on what stage it is at when it's resolved. If a settlement is reached during pre-claim conciliation, then it is likely to be resolved within 1-2 months. If your claim proceeds to a trial, the time will be much longer and largely depends on the complexity of the issues involved and the Courts' availability. Tribunal cases are currently taking around 12-18 months to reach a final hearing. This is just an estimate, however, and we will be able to give you a clearer indication as the matter progresses.
- The Tribunal will give a time estimate once the preliminary issues are established. Most straight forward cases will be listed for 1-2 days at the Tribunal, often with an additional day to decide on compensation. However, if your case is more complex, involves issues of disability for example or involves a number of witnesses then hearings can often last 3-5 days. The Tribunal may give their decision on the final day of the hearing once all the evidence has been heard, however it is increasingly more common for the Tribunal to deliver their decision in writing at a later date.

Lightfoots Solicitors Fees

- A guide of the likely costs if you instruct us to advise and arrange representation for you in a tribunal claim for unfair or wrongful dismissal is provided below. The fees listed are an estimate only not a binding quotation.
- There is no such thing as an average case. Accordingly, after discussing with you the details of your case and what you want to achieve, we will provide you with a written estimate to carry out the work which may differ from the pricing below.
- It can be misleading to estimate total costs to take a case all the way to trial, as most cases are resolved before they reach that stage. However, if a case does go all the way to trial, and you require legal representation throughout (which is not compulsory), we estimate our fees (excluding expenses) as follows:
 - Simple case: £9,000-£12,000 (excluding VAT)
 - Medium complexity case: £13,000- £20,000 (excluding VAT)
 - High complexity case: £21,000 – £30,000 (excluding VAT)

Factors that could make a case more complex

- If once your claim has been issued it is necessary to apply to amend it to include new information or claims
- Making or defending an application for one side in the case to be ordered to pay the other side's legal costs. (In Tribunals this is unusual and only allowed in exceptional circumstances)
- Complex preliminary issues such as whether, if the case includes a claim for disability discrimination, the claimant is disabled (if this is not agreed by the parties)
- The number of witnesses and documents
- If it is a Public Interest Disclosure claim e.g. if you are dismissed as a result of reporting illegal conduct by your employer
- Allegations of discrimination which are linked to the dismissal
- If there are grounds to appeal against the Tribunal's judgment to a higher court

Expenses

- We also charge for expenses such as travel or (in disability discrimination cases) a medical report where necessary. In tribunal claims the largest expenses that you may have to pay are likely to be barristers' fees.
- Barrister's fees are estimated between £1,500 and £3,000 per day (depending on their seniority and experience) for attending a Tribunal Hearing, preparation and advice.

Self-representation

- You may wish to handle the claim yourself and only have our advice in relation to some or all the stages. This can also be arranged based on your individual needs. In these cases, our advice is currently normally likely to be charged at £185-£210 (excluding VAT) per hour.

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