

# Lightfoots

## SOLICITORS

**PRICING  
INFORMATION**

**Probate &  
Estate  
Administration**

[www.lightfoots.co.uk](http://www.lightfoots.co.uk)



# Pricing Information – Probate & Estate Administration

Our experienced probate team is made up of Solicitors with over 100 years' combined experience in this area of law; a senior legal assistant (with over 30 years' experience); and experienced support staff (one of which is STEP qualified). The team is supervised by Charles Fraser, a solicitor who is STEP qualified and a member of the Association of Lifetime Lawyers (previously known as Solicitors for the Elderly) and has over 25 years' experience working in wills and probate, tax and trusts.

The particular team member(s) who will be on hand to assist you will depend on your needs.

See [Our People](#) for individual biographies.

## **Uncontested wills with all assets in the UK**

Lightfoots provide services to support families going through bereavement by helping them deal with the legal work needed to gain access to their loved one's assets and carry out their last wishes. How much this will cost depends on the type of estate and the level of complexity.

The following scenarios provide guidance as to what might be expected for standard probate cases, i.e. the administration of uncontested wills with all assets in the UK and is dependent on how much work the family wish to do themselves. Please read these carefully as some aspects of the work will not be carried out without specific instructions and additional expense. We will be happy to provide further information upon enquiry.

Our fees are charged on a time spent basis, you can find our hourly rates on the penultimate page of this document.

# Scenario 1 – Simple Estate, Preparation of Probate Court Documents only

The family/executors will provide all the financial information relating to the estate's assets and liabilities. We will prepare all the necessary paperwork leading to the Grant of Probate. The exact fee will depend on the individual circumstances of the estate. For example, if there is one beneficiary, no property to be sold, and only one or two assets, the costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries and assets, the costs will be at the higher end of the range.

This scenario assumes the following:-

- There is a valid will or simple Intestacy distribution applies
- There is no more than one property
- There are no more than 5 bank or building society accounts
- There are no family disputes or possible claims against the estate which could lead to significant additional costs
- There is no inheritance tax payable and the Executors do not need to submit a full account to HMRC for any other reason.
- The executors will deal with the collection of the assets and distribution of the estate after receipt of the Grant of Probate
- There is no will trust to be implemented

# Scenario 1 – Simple Estate, Preparation of Probate Court Documents only

## How long will it take?

On average estates of this nature will be dealt with 4-6 months. Typically obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 16 weeks once the paperwork is submitted to the Probate Registry. Gathering all relevant information from the executors will be the lead time for this type of case.

## Price range £2,000 – £2,800 plus VAT at 20%

Fee Description	Fee (£)	VAT at 20% (£)
Lightfoots Legal Fee	2,000 – 2,800	400 – 560
Probate Application Fee	300	N/A
Creditors Search Fee (Optional – To protect Executors from Unexpected Claims)	Approx. 350	N/A
Additional Sealed Copies of the Grant	1.50 per Copy	N/A
Bankruptcy Search Fees	7 per Beneficiary	1.40
Land Registry Search fees	6 per Property	1.20
Our fee for ID Verification Per Person*	12 - 20	2.40 - 4.00

\*ID Fee – the fee payable for ID verification depends on the method of ID verification and includes the application/service provider's cost. Such verification is necessary to satisfy our ongoing anti-money laundering and professional conduct obligations. For returning clients, we are obliged to refresh the ID verification process in certain circumstances, including if we last verified your ID over a year ago, so you will be charged accordingly.

# Scenario 2 – Preparation of Inheritance Tax and Probate Court Documents only

The family/executors will provide all the information as for Scenario 1 but the Estate is larger or more complex and may involve the payment of Inheritance Tax or the completion of a full account to HMRC for another reason. This could be as a result of lifetime gifts or claiming various inheritance tax allowances or reliefs.

Typically the estate will not pass to a surviving spouse but to a person's family, friends, or to charity. It may include a share portfolio, property and accounts.

This scenario assumes the following:-

- There are no more than 10 bank or building society accounts
- There are no family disputes or possible claims against the estate which could lead to significant additional costs
- The executors will deal with the collection of the assets and distribution of the estate after receipt of the Grant of Probate
- There is no will Trust to be implemented
- There is a valid will or simple Intestacy distribution applies

# Scenario 2 – Preparation of Inheritance Tax and Probate Court Documents only

## How long will it take?

On average estates of this nature will be dealt within 6-12 months. The payment of part of any Inheritance Tax that is due and obtaining the relevant receipt from HMRC has to be carried out before the application can be submitted to the Probate Registry. On average this receipt may take up to one month to obtain. Typically obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 16 weeks once the paperwork is submitted to the Probate Registry. Gathering all relevant information from the executors will be the lead time for this type of case.

# Scenario 2 – Preparation of Inheritance Tax and Probate Court Documents only

**Price range £3,250 plus VAT – £5,600 plus VAT at 20%**

Fee Description	Fee (£)	VAT at 20% (£)
Lightfoots Legal Fee	3,250 – 5,600	650 – 1,120
Probate Application Fee	300	N/A
Creditors Search Fee (Optional – To protect Executors from Unexpected Claims)	Approx. 350	N/A
Additional Sealed Copies of the Grant	1.50 per Copy	N/A
Bankruptcy Search Fees	7 per Beneficiary	1.40
Land Registry Search fees	6 per Property	1.20
Our fee for ID Verification Per Person*	12 - 20	2.40 - 4.00

\*ID Fee – the fee payable for ID verification depends on the method of ID verification and includes the application/service provider's cost. Such verification is necessary to satisfy our ongoing anti-money laundering and professional conduct obligations. For returning clients, we are obliged to refresh the ID verification process in certain circumstances, including if we last verified your ID over a year ago, so you will be charged accordingly.

# Scenario 3 – Full Service

We will obtain all the information about the estate, complete all necessary forms leading to the Grant of Probate including the full account (IHT400) for Inheritance Tax and the payment of Inheritance Tax where relevant. After receipt of the Grant, we will collect in the assets of the estate, pay liabilities, prepare estate accounts and distribute the remaining estate and distribute them in accordance with the terms of the Will or the rules of intestacy if there is no valid will.

This scenario assumes the following:-

- There is a valid will or simple Intestacy distribution applies
- There are no family disputes or possible claims against the estate which could lead to significant additional costs
- There is no Will Trust to be implemented



# Scenario 3 – Full Service

## **How long will it take?**

On average estates of this nature will be dealt within 6-12 months but for more complex estates may take longer where property is to be sold before final distribution of the estate can take place. The payment of Inheritance Tax and obtaining the relevant receipt from HMRC has to be carried out before the application can be submitted to the Probate Registry. On average this may take up to one month to obtain. Typically obtaining the Grant of Probate takes 16 weeks once the paperwork is submitted to the Probate Registry. Gathering all relevant valuation information from the asset holders will govern the speed of administration.

# Scenario 3 – Full Service

**Price Range £5,500 – £17,000 plus VAT at 20%**

Fee Description	Fee (£)	VAT at 20% (£)
Lightfoots Legal Fee	5,500 – 17,000	1,100 – 3,400
Probate Application Fee	300	N/A
Creditors Search Fee (Optional – To protect Executors from Unexpected Claims)	Approx. 350	N/A
Additional Sealed Copies of the Grant	1.50 per Copy	N/A
Bankruptcy Search Fees	7 per Beneficiary	1.40
Land Registry Search fees	6 per Property	1.20
Any fees charged by Share Registrars to deal with share transfers	Variable	Variable
Our fee for ID Verification Per Person*	12 - 20	2.40 - 4.00

\*ID Fee – the fee payable for ID verification depends on the method of ID verification and includes the application/service provider's cost. Such verification is necessary to satisfy our ongoing anti-money laundering and professional conduct obligations. For returning clients, we are obliged to refresh the ID verification process in certain circumstances, including if we last verified your ID over a year ago, so you will be charged accordingly.

# Complex Estates

For the most complex estates, involving multiple properties, farming or business properties, complex assets and numerous beneficiaries, we will provide a tailor-made estimate once the facts of the estate are known. However, as a guide, the fees for Scenario 3 would be a starting point. It is likely that such work will only be undertaken or supervised by a Partner or Senior Solicitor.

## **PLEASE NOTE – ADDITIONAL FEES**

Additional fees may be charged at our hourly rates for work that falls outside of these scenarios including for example advice on the rules where no valid will is found, preparing additional documents needed by the Probate Registry such as a Renunciation of Probate, obtaining medical reports if an executor lacks capacity and other unforeseen complications.

Where property is to be sold or transferred, please obtain a separate estimate of fees from the Residential Conveyancing team.

# Hourly rates

Our experienced probate team is made up of Solicitors with over 100 years' combined experience in this area of law; a senior legal assistant (with over 30 years' experience); and experienced support staff (one of which is STEP qualified). The team is supervised by Charles Fraser, a solicitor who is STEP qualified and a member of the Association of Lifetime Lawyers (previously known as Solicitors for the Elderly) and has over 25 years' experience working in wills and probate, tax and trusts."Click on the fee earners name to view their detailed experience.

**The particular team member(s) who will be on hand to assist you will depend on your needs.**

Name	Job Title	Year of qualification	Year joining Lightfoots	Hourly Rate
<a href="#">Charles Fraser</a>	Head of Wills & Probate	1997	2024	£300 + VAT at 20%
<a href="#">Monica Havers</a>	Partner	1999	2005	£300 + VAT at 20%
<a href="#">Sarah Ellis</a>	Solicitor	2002	2021	£250 + VAT at 20%
<a href="#">Shreena Wara</a>	Solicitor	2021	2021	£240 + VAT at 20%
<a href="#">Monica Wickert</a>	Senior Legal Assistant	N/A	1987	£230 + VAT at 20%
<a href="#">Megan Tiddy</a>	Solicitor	2022	2017	£220 + VAT at 20%
Probate Assistants				£160 - £210 + VAT at 20%

Private Client Department:

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