

Boyce & Co

Criminal & Motoring Solicitors

MOTURING OFFENCES FEE GUIDELINES

Advice and representation at a Magistrates' Court in Somerset in relation to a guilty plea to a summary only road traffic offence dealt with at a single hearing;

- We charge a fixed fee of ~~£400~~⁴⁵⁰ + VAT on average for offences such as drink driving or simple speeding cases.
- We charge a fixed fee of ~~£500~~⁶⁰⁰ + VAT on average for more complex cases motoring cases such as when a client is likely to obtain a minimum of 12 points and would therefore become a "totter" and we need to argue that a disqualification would cause "exceptional hardship" to them or others.
- We charge a fixed fee of ~~£750~~¹⁰⁰⁰ + VAT on average for more complex cases motoring cases that would involve a "special reasons" argument such as "spiked" drink driving cases or "shortness of distance" drink drive cases.
- This estimate is just an average price based on recent instructions; the actual cost to you will depend on a number of factors which we will discuss with you if you decide to instruct us.
- An increase in fees would normally only occur in complex cases and an example would be where meetings with witnesses are needed or significant pages of papers need to be considered. The fee increase would be based on our average hourly charging rate of ~~£180~~²⁰⁰ + VAT per hour.
- The charge is based on our standard fixed fee rates.
- There may be other costs on top. These are fees and charges we will need to pay on your behalf as part of the process, such as alcohol technical defence reports including BAC (blood alcohol concentration) calculations and assessments of the viability of spiked drink and hip flask defences. These fees are rare in simple motoring cases. They are likely to be in the region of £180 + VAT where relevant.
- Our people involved in doing the work will include

Edward Boyce

Philip Boyce

Chris Baddoo

~~Jack Dray~~ Steph Keohane.

We understand how important a driving licence is and therefore we appreciate the stress involved in dealing with a motoring offence. The work we will carry out will involve:

- Considering the charge brought and giving you advice on the strengths and weaknesses of the prosecution evidence (within approximately 1- 2 weeks of receiving all the papers from the prosecution authority)
- Taking your instructions, advising on plea and procedure and whether there should be an exceptional hardship or special reasons argument (approximately 1 -2 weeks)
- Advising on likely sentence and options available to the court
- Preparing you for your court attendance
- Attendance at court with you at a single hearing in order to deal with the guilty plea and the sentencing hearing (1 day)
- Advising on possible appeals (within 1 week of the sentencing hearing)

If you decide to plead not guilty then there may be numerous hearings before an eventual trial. The trial may take an hour or a few days. You may be the only witness to give live evidence or there may be multiple witnesses including medical or forensic experts. The costs permutations are almost endless and therefore we cannot give a sensible idea of costs without more information. In such cases we would be happy to initially discuss your case without any obligation and we will then be able to provide you with a fixed fee for our services. Our fixed fee will be based on our hourly rate of ~~£100~~^{£250} + VAT per hour together with our estimation of the time needed to prepare and conduct your case.

Obviously, our fees do not include any external costs and charges that may be incurred as part of the process (eg. Expert report, fines, penalties, criminal liabilities). Further, if you appeal, this will entail further cost. You will also be responsible for these items.

[Click here to contact us](#) to discuss your case or email enquiries@somersetlaw.co.uk