

Our pricing for bringing and defending claims for unfair or wrongful dismissal

Simple case: £20,000-£30,000 (excluding VAT at 20%)

Medium complexity case: £30,000-£50,000 (excluding VAT at 20%)

High complexity case: £50,000-£100,000 (excluding VAT at 20%)

Our charges are based on time spent. The hourly rate of Stephanie Whitchurch is £280 plus VAT at 20%.

Factors that could make a case more complex:

- If it is necessary to make or defend applications to amend claims or to provide further information about an existing claim
- Defending claims that are brought by litigants in person
- Making or defending a costs application
- Complex preliminary issues such as whether the claimant is disabled (if this is not agreed by the parties)
- The number of witnesses and documents
- If it is an automatic unfair dismissal claim, e.g. if you are dismissed after blowing the whistle on your employer
- Allegations of discrimination which are linked to the dismissal
- Entering into pre-claim conciliation where this is mandatory to explore whether a settlement can be reached
- Preparing claim or response
- Reviewing and advising on claim or response from other party
- Exploring settlement and negotiating settlement throughout the process
- Preparing or considering a schedule of loss
- Preparing for (and attending) a Preliminary Hearing
- Exchanging documents with the other party and agreeing a bundle of documents
- Taking witness statements, drafting statements and agreeing their content with witnesses
- Preparing bundle of documents
- Reviewing and advising on the other party's witness statements
- Agreeing a list of issues, a chronology and/or cast list
- Preparation and attendance at Final Hearing, including instructions to Counsel

There will be an additional charge for attending a Tribunal Hearing of £1,680 – £2,240 per day (excluding VAT at 20%), depending on the fee earner dealing with the case. Generally, we would allow 1–10 days depending on the complexity of your case.

Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties. In Employment Tribunal matters, this may include Counsel's fees for representation at hearings. We handle the payment of disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process. There are currently no court or tribunal fees payable in most Employment Tribunal cases.

Counsel's fees estimated between £750 to £5,000 per day (depending on experience of the advocate) for attending a Tribunal Hearing (including preparation).

Key stages

The fees set out above 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 merits and likely compensation (this is likely to be revisited throughout the matter and subject to change)

The stages set out above are an indication and if some of stages above are not required, the fee will be reduced. You may wish to handle the claim yourself and only have our advice in relation to some of the stages. This can also be arranged on your individual needs.

How long will my matter take?

The time that it takes from taking your initial instructions to the final resolution of your matter depends largely on the stage at which your case is resolved. If a settlement is reached during pre-claim conciliation, your case is likely to take 4-12 weeks. If your claim proceeds to a Final Hearing, your case is likely to take at least 12 months. This is just an estimate and we will of course be able to give you a more accurate timescale once we have more information, and as the matter progresses.

Who will deal with my matter?

Our employment matters are handled by partner Stephanie Whitchurch.