

Motoring Offences

At Donald Race & Newton our specialist motoring team understands that the consequences of committing a motoring offence can be disastrous. This applies not only on a financial level but on a personal level too. Accordingly, it is essential that professional legal representation and the cost of such representation should be weighed against the disastrous personal consequences a disqualification could have on your life.

At Donald Race & Newton we specialize in a whole range of motoring matters. We have a dedicated Web page "how to keep my licence". Fees are generally decided on a case by case basis depending upon the issues involved and your particular circumstances. We aim to be transparent about our fees and normally will be able to undertake matters on a fixed fee basis.

After instructing us we will keep you informed on all steps throughout your case. Our motoring advice solicitors have many years experience in dealing with matters before the Magistrates and Crown Court.

Upon receipt of a summons/postal requisition we can deal with matters in a number of ways. This can include:

1. A detailed initial consultation
2. A letter of representation
3. Guilty pleas
4. Not guilty pleas
5. Special reasons
6. Exceptional hardship

Payment methods:

Legal Aid otherwise known as public funding is generally not available for road traffic or transport law cases. We can explore with you the benefit additionally of legal expenses insurance if this applies.

1. Detailed initial consultation

Upon receipt of a postal requisition/summons we will attend upon you and advise you as to the nature of the offence and advise as to the best way of dealing with that summons whether that be to admit or deny the offence. Our initial consultation fee for consideration of matters limited to thirty minutes face to face discussion is £120.00 plus VAT.

2. Letter of representation

We can quite often assist in matters if an issue arises early in your case. We can do so by writing a letter of representation to the responsible body whether that be a court or other authority. The cost of carrying out this work could amount up to £400.00 plus VAT.

3. Guilty pleas

If you accept you have committed a motoring offence entering a guilty plea at the first available opportunity and putting forward strong mitigation quite often minimises the potential that could be imposed.

Donald Race and Newton will assist you by advising you as to whether or not you should enter a guilty plea. This can be achieved

by: initial consultation advice by phone/person, following a review of the charge summons and evidence including providing advice.

We will advise as to why your guilty plea should be entered and indicate the sentencing options available to the court. This could also include attendance at court on the day. Our fees are based on the fact that Magistrates Courts quite often involve lengthy waiting time. After the conclusion of your case we will advise as to whether or not the sentence is satisfactory and/or whether or not an appeal should follow. If an advice on appeal is required this will carry an additional cost.

Our fee includes:

- Attending upon you either on the phone or in person
- A minimum of two hours attendance and preparation
- Consideration of evidence.
- Providing advice in respect of plea and sentence
- Full representation up to and including sentencing hearing
- Providing assistance in obtaining evidence and mitigating any penalties that could be imposed
- Appropriate advice on whether exceptional hardship or special reasons follow
- Barrister's fees
- Representation at single hearing for no more than half a day
- Car-parking, mileage or other travelling expenses.

Our fees do not include:

- Instruction of any expert witnesses
- Taking statements from any witnesses
- Advice and assistance in relation to any special reasons hearing
- Representation at any exceptional hardship hearing and dealing with appropriate documentation
- Advice and assistance in relation to any appeal
- Any fine imposed by the courts, surcharge or order for costs made in favour of the prosecution.

The fees for our service can vary dependent upon a number of factors including:

- Additional time
- contacting witnesses/third parties
- Liaising with courts
- Trials running over half a day
- Location of the trial
- Number of witnesses involved
- Number of offences.

Timescales – proceeds are usually issued within six months of the offence dates however, sometimes it can take up to twelve months in the case of an either way offence.

The above mentioned fee is provided on a fixed fee price quoted. We do not expect to carry out work outside of this quote but would notify you if there were any unusual circumstances apply.

4. Not guilty pleas

If you decide following our initial consultation that you will enter a not guilty plea at the Magistrates' Court then we will work with you to prepare a thorough case and represent you at a Magistrates' Court trial.

As indicated in our advice on guilty pleas this will involve initial consultation, review of evidence, further consultation either on the telephone or in person explaining your defence, explaining court procedure, further preparatory work both in relation to preparation of your case and any follow up advice. Attendance at court and advocacy. Following representation at court advice on the outcome.

Our fee includes:

- Attendance upon you in person.
- Consideration of evidence including preparation for trial and advice on likely sentence, prospect of success.
- Providing advice in relation to plea and likely sentence.
- Written plea and written case management.
- Full representation at court provided no more than half a day.
- Providing assistance in relation to any sentence and advice on mitigation.
- Where appropriate advice in relation to exceptional hardship/special reasons.

Our fees do not include:

- Instruction of any expert witnesses
- Taking statements from any witnesses
- Advice and assistance in relation to any special reasons hearing.
- Representation at any exceptional hardship hearing and dealing with appropriate documentation
- Advice and assistance in relation to any appeal
- Any fine imposed by the courts, surcharge or order for costs made in favour of the prosecution.

The fees for our service can vary dependent upon a number of factors including:

- Complexity.
- Additional time required.
- Need to contact witnesses/third parties.
- If the trial runs over half a day.
- The location of the trial.
- Number of witnesses involved.

Timescales – proceeds are usually issued within six months of the offence dates however, sometimes it can take up to twelve months in the case of an either way offence.

The above mentioned fee is provided on a fixed fee price quoted. We do not expect to carry out work outside of this quote but would notify you if there were any unusual circumstances apply.

Not guilty plea - one offence £1,000.00 up to £3,000.00 inclusive of VAT.

5. Special Reasons and 6. Exceptional Hardship

Between £500.00 up to £2,500.00.

Although you may accept that you were guilty of an offence thereafter there may be other issues including whether or not this renders you liable to disqualification under the totting up procedure and/or whether special circumstances apply for you avoiding a penalty. Our experienced team of solicitors have extensive knowledge in arguing exceptional hardships/special reasons.

Stages of process:

- Initial consultation advice by phone/person.
- Review of charge, summons and evidence including provision of advice.
- Further consultation by phone/in person regarding defence.
- Explanation of the court procedure and sentencing options.
- Conduct of any further preparatory work including obtaining further instructions from you and any further follow up queries.
- Timescales of cases cannot be provided.
- We will attend the court on the day and meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate the case lasting no more than half a day.

Our fee includes:

- Attendance upon you in person.
- Consideration of evidence including preparation for trial and advice on likely sentence.
- Prospect of success.
- Providing advice in relation to plea and likely sentence.
- Written plea and written case management.
- Full representation at court provided no more than half a day.
- Providing assistance in relation to any sentence and advice on mitigation.
- Where appropriate advice in relation to exceptional hardship/special reasons.

Our fees do not include:

- Instruction of any expert witnesses.
- Taking statements from any witnesses.
- Advice and assistance in relation to a special reasons hearing.
- Representation at any exceptional hardship hearing and dealing with appropriate documentation.
- Advice and assistance in relation to any appeal.
- Any fine imposed by the courts, surcharge or order for costs made in favour of the prosecution.
- Following the hearing we will discuss the outcome after the court hearing with you and if the advice is required on appeal this will carry an additional cost.
- Attendance at more than one hearing.
- If the court adjourns to another date.
- Attendance at more than one hearing.
- If the court adjourns to another date requiring us to re-schedule a date of attendance
- Any work following the conclusion of your final hearing or appeal.
- Costs in relation to transfer proceedings.
- Any fine imposed by the court, surcharge or order for costs in favour of the prosecution.

We are a team of Solicitors with extensive experience in Motoring Offences.



David Lawson



David Leach



Keith Rennison



Nick Cassidy



Nick Dearing



Laura Heywood