

Our charges

Our overall fees vary depending upon how complex your case is and what you would like us to do. For a free quote specifically tailored to your circumstances please email info@bmalaw.co.uk

To give you an idea of how we charge however, and to comply the SRA price transparency rules, we have set out below details of our typical hourly rates and fees for unfair and wrongful dismissal claims.

Our charges are made up of:

- a) our fees for the legal work.
- b) 'disbursements' - disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to other people, such as fees for a barrister's opinion or help at Court. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Where VAT is referred to below please note that this will be charged at the applicable rate, which is currently 20%.

Our fees

Our fees will either be agreed with you as a fixed sum at the start of your case or based on how much time it takes to deal with your case. Our standard hourly rates for Members and Non-Members are:

BMA Law Member Rates	
Partner	£308
Consultant	£242
Associate	£242
Solicitor	£198
Trainee	£132

BMA Law Non-Member Rates	
Partner	£350
Consultant	£313
Associate	£275
Solicitor	£250
Trainee	£150

These rates are exclusive of VAT, currently set at 20% and which will be an additional charge.

To give a very general idea of how much our fees (excluding 'disbursements' – see below) tend to be where a BMA Law member brings a claim for unfair or wrongful dismissal the ranges tend to be:

- Simple cases: £10,000 - £12,000 (excluding VAT);
- Medium complexity cases: £12,000 - £15,000 (excluding VAT);
- High complexity cases: £15,000 - £20,000 + (excluding VAT).

For a BMA Law non-member bringing a claim for unfair or wrongful dismissal or an employer defending a claim for unfair or wrongful dismissal the ranges will be higher:

- Simple cases: £12,000 - £15,000 (excluding VAT);
- Medium complexity cases: £15,000 - £18,000 (excluding VAT);
- High complexity cases: £18,000 - £25,000 (excluding VAT).

Fixed fees would typically fall within these ballpark estimates also.

As can be seen from the above, the time spent on a case and our costs can vary significantly depending upon how complex a case is. A case is likely to be more complex (and so incur more time) if:

- It is necessary to attend a long hearing;
- it is necessary to make or defend applications to amend claims or to provide further information about an existing claim;
- it is necessary to defend claims that are brought by litigants in person
- it is necessary to make or defend a costs application
- there are complex preliminary issues such as whether the claimant is disabled (if this is not agreed by the parties)
- the number of witnesses and documents is high
- it is an automatic unfair dismissal claim e.g. if you are dismissed after blowing the whistle on your employer
- there are allegations of discrimination which are linked to the dismissal

Similarly though, other employment law cases such as employee settlement agreements would be much simpler and cost much less (and may be paid by the employer). Call us on [INSERT DETAILS] if you are not sure what sort of case yours is and we can guide you further.

Disbursements

You will need to pay for ‘disbursements’ in addition to our fees as described above. In an unfair or wrongful dismissal claim the most common disbursements are for barrister’s fees. A barrister is often used to deal with a Tribunal hearing if your case is not settled before this time (which can often occur). Barrister’s fees tend to be in the region of £2,000 - £4,500 plus VAT at 20% per day. We will however guide you on this as and when external costs need to be incurred.

Other costs to consider

Normally you do not have to pay your opponent’s costs in an employment claim but we will guide you further if we feel that you are at risk of this at any stage.

Examples of our charges

The table below is a typical example (for illustration only) of the legal costs of bringing an employment Tribunal claim by a BMA Law member which is relatively simple and settles within 6 weeks:

In this example the work to be undertaken would include:

- Taking your initial instructions, reviewing the papers, and advising you on your prospects of success in the claim and the likely compensation, although this is likely to be revisited throughout the case and subject to change.
- Entering into pre-claim conciliation with ACAS where this is mandatory to explore whether a settlement can be reached.
- Preparing your claim or response.

• Our legal fees of £3,500 plus VAT	£3,500 plus VAT charges at 20%
• Counsel’s Fees	0

TOTAL:	£3,500 plus VAT at 20%
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Whereas the table below is a typical example (again, for illustration only) of the legal costs of bringing an employment Tribunal claim by a BMA Law member in a medium complexity case which results in a 3 day hearing before conclusion:

• Our legal fees of £15,000 plus VAT	£15,000 plus VAT at 20%
• Counsel's Fees (based on a daily rate of £3,000)	£15,000 plus VAT at 20%
TOTAL:	£30,000 plus VAT at 20%

Key stages of your claim

The examples of typical costs above cover all of the work in relation to the following key stages of an unfair dismissal or wrongful dismissal case:

- Taking your initial instructions, reviewing the papers, and advising you on your prospects of success in the claim and the likely compensation, although this is likely to be revisited throughout the case and subject to change.
- Entering into pre-claim conciliation with ACAS where this is mandatory to explore whether a settlement can be reached.
- Preparing your claim or response.
- Reviewing and advising on the claim or response from the other party.
- Exploring settlement and negotiating a 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 bundles of documents for the final hearing.
- Reviewing and advising on the other party's witness statements.
- Agreeing a list of issues, a chronology and/or cast list.
- Preparation and instructions to the barrister (if this is not being done in-house by us) for the final hearing.

The stages set out above are an indication only and if some of the stages are not required, the fee may be reduced. Some clients may wish to attempt to handle some parts of a very straight-forward matter themselves and only have our advice in relation to some of the stages. This can also reduce the cost if your case is one where we're comfortable that this is a sensible approach to take.

It would not normally be necessary to undertake other work or incur other costs other than those described above. However, we would be very happy to provide you with a more tailored quote for all stages of your particular case once we know about your specific circumstances.

How long will my case take?

The time it takes from your initial instructions to the end of your case depends largely on the stage at which it is resolved. If a settlement is reached during pre-claim discussions, your case is likely to take 3 - 4 weeks. If your claim proceeds to a final hearing, your case is likely to take 18 - 36 weeks. This is just an illustration and we will be able to give you a more accurate timescale once we have more information from you and as the case progresses.

Who will be dealing with my case?

Your case will be handled by a trusted member of our experienced team. We have a number of qualified lawyers in the team as well as experienced paralegals specialised in this area of law. Once we know who will be handling your case for you, we will introduce you to them and provide you with full details of their background and qualifications.