

Employment - bringing and defending claims for unfair or wrongful dismissal in an Employment Tribunal

Range of costs

Our pricing for bringing and defending claims for unfair or wrongful dismissal in an Employment Tribunal is as follows:

- Simple case: £9,500 - £14,500 (excluding VAT)
- Medium complexity case: £14,000-£30,000 (excluding VAT)
- High complexity case: £24,000-£50,000 (excluding VAT)

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 or defence
- Defending claims that are brought by litigants in person
- Making or defending a costs application
- Complex preliminary issues such as whether the claimant is an employee, worker or self-employed or whether the claimant has made a protected disclosure (e.g. he has blown the whistle on his employer)
- The number of witnesses and documents
- If it is an automatic unfair dismissal claim (e.g. if an employee is dismissed after blowing the whistle on your employer)
- Allegations of discrimination which are linked to the dismissal
- The number of days allocated to the hearings
- Whether a hearing is required to determine the amount of compensation due to a claimant

There will be an additional charge for attending a Tribunal Hearing of £1,500 per day (excluding VAT). Generally, we would allow 1 to 5 days depending on the complexity of your case.

Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as Counsel's fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

Counsel's fees usually start at £1,250 (excluding VAT) for a preliminary hearing or a simple 1-day hearing (including preparation). Counsel's fees vary depending on Counsel's experience, the complexity of the claim and the number of Hearing days. We will give you an estimate of Counsel's fees well in advance of any Hearings.

Funding your claim

If you are an individual bringing a claim for unfair dismissal or wrongful dismissal, you may be entitled to have the some or all of your litigation costs paid for by your insurance provider. We will advise you if this is an option available to you. Please note that we do not provide our services on a no-win, no-fee basis.

In some circumstances, it may be possible to agree a fixed-fee for dealing with your claim or defence and we will discuss this possibility with you, where appropriate.

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 likelihood of success and likely compensation (this is likely to be revisited throughout the matter and subject to change)
- 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 bundles 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
- Preparation and attendance at Remedies Hearing, if any, including instructions to Counsel
- In some cases, reparation and attendance at Costs Hearing, including instructions to Counsel.

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 or defence is likely to take 2 to 6 weeks. If your claim proceeds to a Final Hearing, your case or defence may take 3 to 24 months. This is just an estimate depending on the availability of the parties, their witnesses and the Tribunal and we will, of course, be able to give you a more accurate timescale once we have more information and as the matter progresses.