

Bhakar Greenfield LLP Fee Information

Last Updated: 1 May 2026

Please note that this fee information is provided in respect of some of our services and are estimates for a standard case. This information is for indicative purposes only and are not binding quotes. Please contact us to discuss your needs, so that we can provide you a case-specific estimate.

This fee information is updated from time to time. Please contact us for the most up-to-date information on fees.

It is very difficult to predict an accurate indication of costs for each and every scenario which we may be asked to deal with, as there may be numerous variables that determine the outcome of a matter, for example, unforeseen complexities in the matter or actions or inactions of others (third parties). When circumstance arise that increase the scope of work, we will endeavor to keep the client updated and provide them with our revised fees.

The prevailing rate of VAT is currently 20%. VAT is charged where appropriate, and this may depend on where the provision of our services takes place. More information can be provided upon receipt of the client's information.

Our Standard Hourly Rates

Hourly Rates

Last Updated: October 2025

Staff Type	
Hannah Catherine Durston – Partner and Head of Probate and Estate Administration	£525 per hour
Arshdeep Bhakar – Partner and Head of Litigation and Commercial Law	£425 per hour
Gemma Greenfield – Partner	£425 per hour
Associate	£325 per hour
Trainee Solicitors	£225 per hour
Paralegal	£175 per hour

Where possible we will use more junior fee earners (supervised by a partner) to keep costs at a minimum.

Our hourly rates may be subject to change from time to time. The Court and other third parties also regularly review their charges/fees and so are also subject to change.



Issuing a Claim at Court

Letter of Claim

The preliminary step, also known as Pre-Action Stage of a debt recovery claim, is to send a Letter of Claim to the debtor in accordance with the relevant Pre-Action Protocol. This letter will outline the basis on which the debt arose, became payable, and by whom.

Typical Fee would be: £1,600-£2,000

Timescale: We will endeavour to produce our first draft of the letter of claim for your review within 14 days of receiving your instructions. Once the letter is sent, and if the relevant Protocol applies, the debtor should be given 30 days to respond to the Letter of Claim. We will also advise you in relation to claiming interest on your debt and, in certain cases, compensation under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 (as amended by the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulation 2013).

If the debtor responds to the Letter of Claim, we will usually enter into negotiations/correspondence on your behalf, at our hourly charges (above) plus VAT.

Uncontested Proceedings

If the debtor decides not to settle the debt, the next step would be to issue a Money Claim against the debtor. This can be done online via the Court Portal system or on paper, depending on the amount of the debt and complexity of the matter.

Typical fee: £1,500-2,000

Timescale: 1-2 weeks to draft and file the claim with the Court

Disbursement

Disbursements are costs related to the matter that are payable to third parties, such as Court Fees or Counsel fees. We would normally ask clients for monies on account in advance to cover the payment of disbursements to ensure a smoother process. These fees are in addition to our fees estimated above.

Court fees

Court fees depend on the value of the debt plus interest, being claimed. You can calculate the Court fees using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-court-claim-for-money/court-fees>

Counsel Fees

It may become necessary to instruct Counsel if the matter escalates to issuing court proceedings. Counsel fees will vary depending on the nature of the claim and the seniority of Counsel required for preparing the claim, providing advice and attending hearings. We will always endeavour to instruct Counsel with the requisite level of experience and knowledge for the case, taking in account the client's budget. The fees of the Counsel will be discussed and agreed upon with the client before instructing Counsel. For further guidance, please see:

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/for-the-public/finding-and-using-a-barrister/barristers-fees.html#be>

Default Judgment

If the debtor, fails to file the Acknowledgment of Service to the Claim Form, we may file an application for Default Judgement.

Typical Fees: £550

Typical timescale: we can apply for Default Judgement after 14 days have lapsed since the service of Claim Form and the Debtor has not filed an acknowledgement of service.

If the Debtor has filed an acknowledgement of service but not the Defence, then we can apply for Default Judgment anytime after 28 days have lapsed since the service of the Claim Form.

Enforcement Action

The method of enforcement (for instance Warrant of Execution, Charging Order against a Property, Third Party Debt Order etc.) and our charges for enforcement action will depend on the debtor's personal circumstances (e.g. if the debtor owns property or is employed). Should it be necessary to take enforcement action against the debtor, we would be pleased to provide a fee estimate for this work.

The timescales for enforcement action will vary depending on the specific facts of a case and the method of enforcement. We will keep you informed as to potential timescales in the light of the circumstances of the matter and how it progresses.

Recovery of Legal Cost

If Default Judgement is entered against the debtor, the Court will award the Client fixed costs which are nominal. The fixed costs regime applies unless the Court orders otherwise, therefore, we may advise you to apply to Court for a different Costs order to recover your legal costs. The Cost Order would then ultimately be made at the Court discretion.

If the Claim is disputed and you are successful at Trial (provided that the debt is more than £10,000) you may be entitled to recover a proportion of the legal costs from the debtor. Please contact us if you would like further information on this.

Contested Proceedings/Debt Claims over £100,000

If the debt claim is over £100k or is disputed, then our fees would be more than the estimated fees above. We would be able to provide a more accurate fee estimate for our scope of work and options available to the client. then.

NB: the above fees and costs are provided as at October 2025 and may be subject to change. We review our hourly rates annually.

Probate and Estate Administration

Our firm can assist in obtaining probate (Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration) as well as with estate administration.

Our Probate Fees

Our fees in respect of probate matters are charged at our hourly rates stated above plus VAT at the prevailing rate (currently 20%), where appropriate. We can confirm if VAT is chargeable following instruction. Disbursements incurred are charged in addition to our fees. We may agree other ways of charging, depending on the matter and your requirements.

The exact number of hours to be spent on your matter will depend on the circumstances of your case, and we can provide an estimate to you once you provide us with all of the information relating to your matter.

Please see our hourly rates mentioned above at page 2.

Applying for Probate

We always aim to provide fair and transparent fees for all matters. For this reason, we price each matter individually depending on the circumstances of your case and will provide you with an estimate of costs at the outset. The exact number of hours to be spent on your matter will depend on the circumstances of your case, including any relevant factors, such as the mixture of assets and liabilities (intangible assets, foreign assets, number of assets/liabilities), tax filings required, residence and domicile issues, and any other complicating factors (such as claims against the estate, and missing beneficiaries etc.).

It is likely that the day-to-day conduct of your case will be dealt with by a senior solicitor charging between £425 per hour (plus VAT at 20%, where appropriate), with support from a junior staff member charging £225 to £325 per hour (plus VAT at 20%, where appropriate).

Full Estate Administration

We offer clients a full estate administration service which typically includes the following key stages:

1. notifying organisations of the death of the deceased;
2. locating and advising on the last valid testamentary documents (if available);
3. identifying the persons eligible to apply for the Grant and the type of application required preparing Inheritance Tax returns;
4. assembling the necessary information to complete the required application settling any Inheritance Tax payable (for an indication of inheritance tax due, the online inheritance tax calculator can be found [here](#));
5. arranging for assets to be cashed in or transferred to beneficiaries as required;
6. payment of any liabilities of the deceased;
7. distributing assets of the estate to the beneficiaries;
8. producing Estate Accounts for approval,

Average costs for Full Estate Administration:

1. This is for estates where: -
 - It is a simple uncontested estate with a Will;
 - There are no foreign assets;
 - There is only one UK property;
 - There are no more than five bank accounts or building society accounts;
 - There are no intangible assets; There are 1 to 5 beneficiaries;
 - There are no disputes regarding division of assets;

- There is no inheritance tax payable, and the Executors do not need to submit a full inheritance tax return to HMRC

Estimated time: 10 to 15 hours of work Average costs: £4250 to £6,375 (plus VAT at 20%, where applicable).

Where an estate has one beneficiary, and one bank account, the costs will be at the lower end of the range. If there are multiple beneficiaries, and/or multiple bank accounts or creditors, costs will be at the higher end.

2. Where an estate has similar aspects as the above, but a full inheritance tax return to HMRC is required, and tax is payable, due to the obtaining of valuations, completion of the necessary forms, and payment of tax, we would anticipate as follows: Estimated time: 20 to 30 hours of work Average costs: £8,500 to £12,750 (plus VAT at 20%, where applicable).
3. Where an estate has similar aspects as either of the above scenarios, but there is no Will (an intestacy), we would anticipate that at a further 3 to 5 hours of work would be required in relation to will searches, tracing family, and verifying the beneficiaries. The above average costs could be expected to increase respectively by an estimated £3,000 to £5,500 (plus VAT at 20%, where applicable).

Other factors that can increase costs include but are not limited to:

- Missing beneficiaries and difficult to trace assets
- Residence and domicile issues
- Competition with international law/where the estate involves assets in several jurisdictions
- Reliance on a foreign Will
- Claims against the estate
- Executors or administrators who have difficulty working together
- The conduct of third parties that increases the work required in dealing with the estate
- Genealogists reports and research

Where there is no valid will or there are assets outside the UK, or where there are disputes between beneficiaries on division of assets, or claims are made against the estate we will have to carefully consider the position with you before giving you any estimation of our fees in relation to that work.

Alternative method of charging: percentage fees based on the value of the Estate

We can usually also undertake this Probate work for you on a percentage fee basis if you prefer. The percentage differs for (a) real estate (which is at a lower rate) and (b) the other assets and the liabilities of the estate. We can advise you of these percentages after determining what are the assets and liabilities.

Disbursements

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

How long will this take?

We are generally in a position to apply for Probate within 2 to 3 months where there is no Inheritance tax to pay, and where there is we are generally in a position to complete the HMRC Forms within 4 to 6

months and we apply for Probate immediately after we receive the HMRC stamp.

Following submission of an application for a Grant, the Probate Registry can take anywhere in the region of six weeks to six months to issue a Grant of Representation.

Administering a simple estate, after the Grant of Representation has been obtained, can take place within 6 months, but it is not unusual for small elements, such as finalising any tax due for the administration period, and finalising Estate Accounts, to take longer than this.

Administering a complex estate, after the Grant of Representation has been obtained, can take more than 6 months, but we will keep you informed of progress and the outstanding elements relating to the administration of the estate.