

Licensing Applications (Business Premises) – Pricing Information

In line with the SRA's Transparency Rules, we are required to publish information on prices and services we offer as part of our licensing applications (business premises) service. This is to ensure that you have the information you need in order to make an informed choice when it comes to your legal services provider, including providing you with a better understanding of what the costs may be.

From alcohol and entertainment licenses, to licenses issued by trade bodies or certification schemes, many businesses depend on specialist licenses to operate. Without the correct one, you may suffer the consequences of not being able to offer certain services, or may be forced to close altogether.

We have the knowledge, insight and commercial awareness to help you navigate this complex process and meet your licensing requirements.

We anticipate potential hurdles early in the process to avoid unexpected and potentially expensive delays. We regularly engage in pre-application negotiations with the relevant authorities to deliver, where possible, a cost-effective solution for your business. The following pricing information relates only to licensing applications conducted in relation to business premises and in particular, for the following types of applications and cases:

- Application for the grant or renewal of a personal licence;
- Temporary event notice;
- Application for a provisional statement where premises being built etc;
- Application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor;
- Application for transfer of premises licence;
- Appealing the decision of a licensing authority;
- Dealing with breaching the conditions of your licence and prosecutions.

For further information on pricing for licensing matters please contact [Lachlan Nisbet](#), a solicitor with twenty-two years post qualification experience or [Charlotte McRae](#), a solicitor with seven years post qualification experience. Lachlan is a Partner within the firm and leads the Regulatory and Professional Conduct Team. Charlotte McRae is a Senior Associate Solicitor and is supervised by Lachlan.

Fee ranges

The majority of our licensing cases take between 2 to 15 hours of legal work. The hourly rates for our core Regulatory team are currently between £240 and £495 per hour meaning that the fees for the majority of our cases typically range between £625 and £4,687.50. Based on our experience, we can on most occasions, provide you with a more specific fee estimate once we have undertaken an initial assessment to determine the scope of the work involved in your case and the type of application or appeal required.

There are times where a case may fall outside of the scope of our standard fee range, perhaps where there is a complex licensing history, a history of previous failed applications or other circumstances which warrant a senior member of the team to lead on the case. For such cases, our fees typically range between £3,000 and £7,500.

All our fees and disbursements are quoted exclusive of Value Added Tax (at the prevailing rate which is currently 20%) where applicable.

Legal work on the majority of our cases includes:

- Attending on you and taking your detailed instructions;

- Considering the circumstances of your business, advising in relation to any local licensing schemes;
- Preparing and submitting your application on your behalf, along with your supporting evidence;

- Attending appeal hearings with you, where relevant;
- Notifying you of the timelines involved;
- Advising you on the outcome of the application or case and any further steps which may need to be taken.

VAT

We confirm that VAT (at a rate of 20%) is payable when we have been instructed and will assess if VAT is properly chargeable.

Disbursements

Many cases incur disbursements. These are essentially, costs which are payable to a third party. We will always try to notify you of these at the outset of your case based on the information you provide to us. Where your circumstances change, other disbursements may be necessary. In the majority of cases disbursements include:

- Licensing Application Fees (paid directly to the Licensing Authority as part of the application process);
- Barrister's fees;
- Appeal fees.

Where we are required to travel, expenses such as mileage, train fares, taxi fares etc. may also be applicable to your case.

How long will the case take?

We cannot guarantee how long the Licensing Authority will take to process your application. However, the consultation period for a new premises licence is currently 28 days and if no objections are received within the consultation period, the premises licence will be granted.

We will normally be able to submit this type of application within 5 working days of you providing us with everything we need, providing nothing remains outstanding but we will let you know at the earliest opportunity if it is likely to take longer than this.

Please note the anticipated number of hours and fees are an estimate based on the facts above. All applications are likely to vary and of course, we can give you a more accurate estimate once we have more information about your specific case.

Other options – general advice and reviews of applications

We can provide you with advice on a certain aspects of the Licensing Application process or more general licensing advice. This is usually charged at a minimum of £300 (plus VAT, where applicable) however, we can provide you with a specific fee estimate once we know more about your particular requirements.

Contact us

If you require any licensing advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our [Regulatory team](#).