

STA Legal Fee Indication

These estimates are valid from 5 October 2025.

All costs are exclusive of VAT and disbursements, unless otherwise stated.

1. Solicitors costs/charges where judgment is obtained before a Defence is filed

<u>Cost of Issue</u>	<u>Court Fee</u>	<u>Solicitors Fee</u>
(a) Up to but not exceeding £300	£35	£50
(b) Exceeds £300 but not £500	£50	£50
(c) Exceeds £500 but not £1,000	£70	£100
(d) Exceeds £1,000 but not £1,500	£80	£100
(e) Exceeds £1,500 but not £3,000	£115	£250
(f) Exceeds £3,000 but not £5,000	£205	£250
(g) Exceeds £5,000 but not £10,000	£455	£500
(h) Exceeds £10,000 but not £25,000	5% claim value	£750
(i) Exceeds £25,000 but not £50,000	5% claim value	P.O.A
(j) Exceeds £50,000 but not £100,000	5% claim value	P.O.A
(k) Exceeds £100,000 but not £200,000	5% claim value	P.O.A
(l) Exceeds £200,000	£10,000	P.O.A

After issue, proceedings may be concluded in either of the following manners:

- a. if no Defence to the claim is received, we will apply for Judgment in Default. This cost is included in the fee detailed above.
- b. If an Admission in Full to the claim is received, we will draft a consent order and file it with the court. This has a fee of £273 plus VAT, but we request that the Defendant meets this cost. If the Defendant does not meet this cost, we will look to enter judgment on the admitted amount.

If concluded by default judgment or consent order, the case is passed to the Enforcement Team. If the legal proceedings are defended, our costs in pursuing your claim from that point are detailed below.

2. Costs if claims are Defended

If the matter is defended or a full admission is not received, the claim will proceed on an hourly rate basis until conclusion at trial or earlier by settlement. Our hourly rates are:

Paralegal	£145	Solicitor	£265
Senior Paralegal	£165	Supervising Solicitor	£295
Trainee/Apprentice Solicitor	£200	Head of Department	£365

For defended cases, our time accrues in six-minute units. This includes time spent drafting documents, communicating with you, the debtor, the court and other third parties necessary in the pursuit of your claim. We are also required to record our time for internal communications and supervision where that time reduces your overall incurrence of costs (i.e. the Head of Dept. instructing or amending the work of junior lawyers pursuant to your instructions).

Unqualified staff may support a solicitor in the conduct of litigation but cannot conduct it themselves. As such, while your work will be supervised and endorsed by a qualified solicitor, we will use appropriately skilled junior lawyers to aid in the reduction of cost.

You will not be charged before you have agreed to a specific fee arrangement with us.

Fixed Fees (for claims)

In respect of county court claims, we may offer staged fixed fees for the duration of the claim. These are transparently based on claim value and complexity and are relational to the court's pre-determined rules as to the awards of costs. Please contact us if you would like your claim to be considered on a fixed fee basis.

Flat Fee Work

We do charge flat fees for some stages of work or specific pieces of work such as the drafting of Letters Before Action (£350), Legal Advice on jurisdiction or strategy, Statutory Demands (£500) and Winding Up Petitions (£1,000). We may also agree capped fees for stages of claims (such as witness statements or Part 36 Offers), however unless a fixed fee regime is agreed for the entirety of your case, all work outside of any flat fee (i.e. telephone calls and correspondence with you, the defendant, or the court) will remain chargeable on the hourly rate basis.

3. Time Estimates

Each case progresses at its own pace, depending on the court process and the debtor's response. While we cannot prescribe a fixed timeline, we will update you regularly as your case develops. Simple low value cases that proceed to trial may take 15 to 25 hours of chargeable time over several months, while substantial, complex disputes may take 80-100 hours or more. Many cases settle after issue, and most cases settle before trial.

Pre-Action

In most cases the court rules require you to send a CPR compliant Letter of Claim or Statutory Demand before commencing formal legal proceedings, depending on the nature and complexity of the dispute, we usually allow 14 to 21 days for a reply.

If the defendant is an individual, or they raise new or complex issues which we need to assess Under the court rules, you may be required to permit a longer period for a reply.

County Court Claims

Once a claim is issued and the parties have filed their claims and defences, they can better ascertain their prospects of success. This is usually the first opportunity the parties have to settle the matter post-issue. If the matter does not settle, the claim could take six to nine months to conclude, sometimes longer.

Insolvency Proceedings

These usually proceed faster but are only suitable if the debt is undisputed and there is a belief the Defendant is unable to pay their debts. Where Statutory Demands are issued and undisputed, settlement usually comes within 21 days. Otherwise, we receive a defence to the demand. If the defence is arguable, we will likely advise you to withdraw, but this is to protect you from incurring adverse legal costs; often such a defence enables us to pursue other means of debt recovery more effectively. It may be that no response is received to the Statutory Demand, and you would then be entitled to issue a bankruptcy or winding-up petition against the Defendant.

4. Disbursements

During our instruction you may elect to incur additional disbursements in either County Court claims or Insolvency/Bankruptcy petitions. Whether these are appropriate will depend on our advice to you about the best way forward. These fees may include those for process servers, couriers, asset tracing, advocacy, court hearings, experts, land registry searches, address tracing, and interpreters/translators.

5. Costs Recovery

Where you are successful in a court action, the court will make an award for your costs, the size of this award varies depending on the nature and value of your claim, however, even if successful at court, you may not recover the entirety of your out-of-pocket expenses.

Small Claims

On claims under £10,000, there is no automatic entitlement to recover costs other than court fees. At a statutory level, it is recognised that there is an unfair detriment to businesses creditors when pursuing low value debts. To try and bridge this gap, we request that the trial judge makes an award for your legal costs, pursuant to the Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998. This permits the court to make an award of compensatory damages toward the legal fees you have incurred, if successful.

Fast and Intermediate Track Claims

On successful claims between £10,000 and £100,000, there is greater certainty over the award for costs that the court can make. These claims have prescribed costs awards under the court fixed recoverable costs regimes. These are available to view [here](#) and represent the usual awards you are able to obtain for such claims. We can help you navigate these tables or advise you as to the applicable fees upon instruction.

Multi-Track (£100,000+ claims) and Insolvency Litigation

The usual rule is that the loser pays the winner's costs. These are assessed under Civil Procedure Rule 44 on the "Standard Basis", this means you can recover the costs that the court believes are reasonable and proportionate. In some cases, we can obtain awards for costs on the "Indemnity Basis", this simply means that the costs must only be reasonably incurred, rather than having to be 'proportionate' too.

Adverse Costs

If you are unsuccessful on all or part of your claim, you will either receive a lower proportion of your legal costs and/or be required to pay the Defendant's costs. This does not apply on disputes valued under £10,000, however it does on all other matters. The Court may (in any dispute) make costs awards against you if your conduct of the litigation is unreasonable, vexatious, or considered an abuse of process. It is likely that you will not be fully indemnified for all legal costs, even if wholly successful. For this reason, it is important to take a conscientious and commercial approach, avoiding risk where necessary and taking note of our advice because our focus is to ensure you maximise your return and limit unnecessary expense and exposure.

Why STA Legal?

At STA Legal, we combine technical excellence with commercial pragmatism to ensure that every pound you invest in recovery delivers maximum value. We understand that pursuing debts is not just about enforcing rights but about protecting your business and freeing you to focus on growth. Whether you are a start-up navigating your first challenges or a publicly listed company managing complex portfolios, we bring the same care, diligence, and determination to every instruction. Our team is committed to acting swiftly, strategically, and cost-effectively, keeping you fully informed at every stage. By instructing us, you gain a dedicated partner who will safeguard your position, pursue your objectives with determination, and guide you with clarity and confidence.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have on this document or any other aspect of your case. We will not charge for any initial enquiry up to one-hour and find a telephone call after receipt of documents to be most effective.