STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2025 No. 198

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Civil Legal Services (Remuneration) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025

Made - - - -	*12th December 2025*
Coming into operation	*7th January 2026*

The Department of Justice makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 12(3) and 47 of the Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003(a), and now vested in it(b).

In accordance with Article 47(2)(a) of the 2003 Order, the Department has consulted with the Lady Chief Justice, the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland.

In accordance with Article 47(1) of the 2003 Order, the Department has had regard to the matters specified in that provision.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Civil Legal Services (Remuneration) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 and shall come into operation on 7th January 2026.

Interpretation

2. In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires—

"the 2003 Order" means the Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003;

"the 2015 Order" means the Civil Legal Services (Remuneration) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015(c);

"advice", "assistance" and "representation" have the respective meanings given by Article 2(2) of the 2003 Order;

"certificate" means a certificate granted under the General Regulations;

"civil legal services" has the meaning given by Article 10 of the 2003 Order;

"costs" means, in the case of a solicitor, the remuneration and disbursements payable under Article 12(3) of the 2003 Order and, in the case of counsel, the remuneration payable under that provision;

(**a**) S.I. 2003/435 (N.I. 10); Article 12(3) was substituted by the Legal Aid and Coroner's Courts Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c.11)
(**b**) S.I. 2010/976
(**c**) S.R. 2015 No. 201

"counsel" means counsel authorised by the Director under regulation 31 of the General Regulations and selected to act for an assisted person;

"the Department" means the Department of Justice;

"the Director" means the Director of Legal Aid Casework designated by the Department under section 2 of the Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Act (Northern Ireland) 2014(a);

"disbursements" means travelling and witness expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred by a solicitor in providing civil legal services;

"fee-earner" means a solicitor or any clerk who regularly does work for which it is appropriate to make a direct charge to the client;

"the Financial Regulations" means the Civil Legal Services (Financial) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015(b);

"the General Regulations" means the Civil Legal Services (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015(c);

"representation (higher courts)" and "representation (lower courts)" have the respective meanings given by regulation 2 of the General Regulations; and

"representative" means a solicitor or counsel.

Application of this Order

3.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6) and Article 4 this Order shall apply for the determination of the remuneration payable to representatives in respect of providing civil legal services—

(a) where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 1st December 2024; or

(b) where the work is done under a certificate granted under the General Regulations on or after 1st December 2024.

(2) The rates set out in Schedule 1, Part 3, Table 1 shall apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 1 December 2024 but before 15th May 2025.

(3) The rates set out in Schedule 1, Part 3, Table 2 shall apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 15th May 2025.

(4) The rates set out in Schedule 1, Part 4, Table 1 shall apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 1 December 2024 but before 8th April 2025.

(5) The rates set out in Schedule 1, Part 4, Table 2 shall apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 8th April 2025.

(6) The rates set out in Schedule 2, Part 3, Table 7 shall apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services where the certificate for civil legal services under the General Regulations is granted on or after 1 December 2024 but before 15th May 2025.

(**a**) 2014 c.11 (NI)
(**b**) 2015 S.R. No. 196
(**c**) 2015 S.R. No. 195

(7) The rates set out in Schedule 3, Part 6, shall apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services where the certificate for civil legal services under the General Regulations is granted on or after 8 April 2025.

Application of the 2015 Order

4. The 2015 Order shall continue to apply for the determination of remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services as set out in Article 3 of that Order.

Amendment of the 2015 Order

5. For Article 3 of the 2015 Order substitute –

> **"Application**
>
> **3.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) this Order shall apply for the determination of the remuneration payable to representatives in respect of providing civil legal services—
>
> (a) where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 1st April 2015; or
>
> (b) where the work is done under a certificate granted under the General Regulations on or after 1st April 2015.
>
> (2) This Order shall not apply to the determination of remuneration payable to representatives in respect of providing civil legal services to which the Civil Legal Services (Remuneration) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 applies (see Articles 3, 20 and 21 of that Order)."

General

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the remuneration payable to representatives in respect of work done providing civil legal services to which this Order applies shall be determined by the Department in accordance with this Order and having regard to such directions and guidance as may be issued by the Department.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to:

(a) proceedings in the County Court, where the costs payable to the representative have been taxed by a district judge;

(b) proceedings in the High Court or Court of Appeal, where the costs payable to the representative have been taxed by the taxing master;

(c) proceedings in the Supreme Court, where the costs payable to the representative have been assessed by the Registrar to the Supreme Court.

Interim payments

7.—(1) Paragraphs (1) to (9) of this Article apply only to—

(a) work which is being funded by way of advice and assistance; or

(b) proceedings which are being funded by way of representation (lower courts).

(2) A solicitor may submit a claim to the Department for payment of a disbursement for which the solicitor has incurred liability in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

(3) A claim for payment may be made where—

(a) the disbursement falls within any guidance issued by the Department in respect of advice and assistance or representation (lower courts), or the solicitor has obtained prior authority from the Director under the General Regulations to incur the expenditure;

(b) subject to paragraph (4), the total liability for such disbursement exceeds £250; and

(c) the solicitor has incurred such liability.

(4) For the purposes of this Article, where a liability has been incurred as a result of the joint instruction of an expert, sub-paragraph (3)(b) shall be deemed to be satisfied provided that the total cost as between those jointly instructing that expert exceeds £250.

(5) Without prejudice to Article 11(4), a claim under paragraph (2) shall not exceed £3,500 or the maximum fee authorised under the prior authority, whichever is the greater.

(6) A claim for payment under paragraph (2) may be made at any time before the solicitor submits a claim for remuneration under Article 9(2).

(7) A claim under paragraph (2) shall be submitted to the Department in such form and manner as it may direct and shall be accompanied by the authority to incur the expenditure (if applicable) and any invoices or other documents in support of the claim.

(8) The Department shall allow the disbursement, subject to the limit in paragraph (5), if it appears to have been reasonably incurred and discharged in accordance with the guidance or prior authority.

(9) Where the Department allows the disbursement, it shall notify the solicitor and authorise payment to the solicitor accordingly.

(10) Paragraphs (11) and (12) of this Article apply only to a case which is being funded by way of representation (higher courts).

(11) A representative acting for an assisted person may apply to the Department for the payment of a sum on account of costs incurred or to be incurred in connection with the proceedings to which the certificate relates.

(12) On considering the application, the Department may authorise an interim payment to the representative of the amount applied for or of such other sum as the Department considers appropriate in the circumstances pending the assessment by the Department or, as the case may be, the taxation of such costs.

(13) Articles 14 to 16 (redetermination etc.) shall not apply to a payment under this Article.

Interim disbursements and final determination of costs

8.—(1) On a final determination of costs, Articles 9(2) and (5)(e) and 11 shall apply notwithstanding that a payment has been made under Article 7.

(2) Where the amount found to be due under Article 11 in respect of a disbursement is less than the amount paid under Article 7 ("the interim disbursement"), the Department shall deduct the difference from the sum otherwise payable to the solicitor on the determination of costs, and where the amount due under Article 11 exceeds the interim disbursement, the Department shall add the difference to the amount otherwise payable to the solicitor.

Claims for costs by representatives

9.—(1) Subject to Article 6(2), claims for remuneration by representatives shall be made and determined in accordance with the provisions of this Article and Schedules 1 to 4 to this Order, as applicable.

(2) Claims for disbursements by solicitors shall be made and determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 11.

(3) Subject to Article 18, no claim by a representative for costs in respect of work provided by way of civil legal services shall be entertained unless it is submitted within three months from the date on which the advice and assistance was given or, as applicable, the conclusion of the proceedings to which the certificate relates.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), a claim for costs shall be submitted to the Department in such form and manner as it may direct and shall be accompanied by any receipts or other documents in support of any disbursement claimed.

(5) A claim in respect of a case to which Schedule 3 applies shall—

(a) summarise, where appropriate, the items of work done by the representative or other fee-earner in respect of which fees are claimed;

(b) state the dates on which the items of work were done, the time taken where appropriate, the sums claimed and whether the work was done for more than one assisted person;

(c) specify, where appropriate, the representative or other fee-earner who undertook each of the items of work claimed;

(d) give particulars of any work done in relation to more than one claim or set of proceedings; and

(e) specify any disbursements claimed, the circumstances in which they were incurred and the amounts claimed in respect of them.

(6) Where there are any special circumstances which should be drawn to the attention of the Department, the representative shall specify them.

(7) The representative shall supply such further particulars, information and documents as the Department may require.

Determination of representatives' remuneration

10.—(1) The Department shall consider the claim, any further particulars, information or documents submitted by the representative under Article 9 and any other relevant information and shall allow such work as appears to it to have been reasonably undertaken and properly done.

(2) The Department shall allow remuneration for work allowed by it under this Article in accordance with the provisions of Schedules 1 to 4 to this Order, as applicable.

Determination of solicitors' disbursements

11.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Article, the Department shall allow such disbursements claimed under Article 9 as appear to it to have been actually and reasonably incurred.

(2) No question as to the propriety of any step or act in relation to which prior authority has been obtained under this Order shall be raised on any determination of costs, unless the solicitor knew or ought reasonably to have known that the purpose for which the authority was given had failed or had become irrelevant or unnecessary before the costs were incurred.

(3) Where costs are reasonably incurred in accordance with and subject to the limit imposed by a prior authority given under this Order, no question shall be raised on any determination of costs as to the amount of the payment to be allowed for the step or act in relation to which the authority was given.

(4) Where costs are incurred in taking any steps or doing any act for which authority may be given under this Order, without such authority having been given or in excess of any fee so authorised, payment in respect of those costs may nevertheless be allowed on a determination of costs.

Payment of remuneration

12.—(1) Having determined the remuneration payable to a representative in accordance with this Order, the Department shall notify the representative of the costs payable and, subject to paragraph (2), authorise payment accordingly.

(2) For proceedings falling within Article 6(2), the sum authorised for payment by the Department shall be the full amount allowed on taxation of the costs on account of disbursements and in respect of the representative's remuneration.

(3) Where the costs payable under paragraphs (1) or (2) are varied as a result of any review, redetermination or appeal made or brought pursuant to this Order or the relevant court rules, as applicable, then—

(a) where the costs are increased, the Department shall authorise payment of the increase;

(b) where the costs are decreased, the representative shall repay the amount of such decrease; and

(c) where the payment of any costs to the representative is ordered under Article 15(15) or 16(9), the Department shall authorise such payment.

Reasons for Department's decisions

13.—(1) Where a representative is dissatisfied with the calculation of the remuneration payable under Schedules 1 to 4, as applicable, the representative may request the Department to give reasons in writing for its decision and the Department shall comply with any such request.

(2) Subject to Article 18, the request shall be made—

(a) within 21 days of receiving notification of the costs payable under Article 12; and

(b) in such form and manner as the Department may direct.

(3) Clerical mistakes or errors arising from any accidental slip or omission, in the calculation of the remuneration under Article 10 or the determination of disbursements under Article 11 may be corrected by the Department without a redetermination under Article 14 or an appeal under Article 15, where applicable.

Redetermination of costs by Department

14.—(1) Where a representative is dissatisfied with the calculation of the remuneration payable under Schedules 1 to 4, as applicable, the representative may apply to the Department to redetermine those costs.

(2) Subject to Article 18, the application shall be made within 21 days of receiving notification of the remuneration payable under Article 12, by giving notice in writing to the Department specifying the matters in respect of which the application is made and the grounds of objection and shall be made in such form and manner as the Department may direct.

(3) The notice of application shall be accompanied by the particulars, information and documents supplied under Article 9.

(4) The applicant shall supply such further particulars, information and documents as the Department may require.

(5) If the Department considers it necessary to receive oral representations, the Department shall inform the applicant of the date of any hearing and, subject to the provisions of this Article, may give directions as to the conduct of the hearing.

(6) The Department shall redetermine the costs, whether by way of confirmation, or increase or decrease in the amount previously determined, in the light of the objections made by, or on behalf of, the applicant and shall notify the applicant of its decision.

(7) The applicant may request the Department to give reasons in writing for its decision and the Department shall comply with any such request.

(8) Subject to Article 18, any request under paragraph (7) shall be made within 21 days of receiving notification of the decision.

Appeals to the taxing master

15.—(1) This Article applies only to claims in respect of proceedings to which Schedule 3 applies and the remuneration payable has been determined by the Department under Article 6(1).

(2) Where the Department has given its reasons for its decision under Article 14, a representative who is dissatisfied with that decision may appeal to the taxing master.

(3) Subject to Article 18, an appeal shall be instituted within 21 days of receiving the Department's reasons, by giving notice in writing to the taxing master.

(4) The appellant shall send a copy of any notice given under paragraph (3) to the Department.

(5) The notice of appeal shall be accompanied by—

(a) a copy of the written representations given under Article 14(2);

(b) the Department's reasons for its decision given under Article 14(7); and

(c) the particulars, information and documents supplied to the Department under Article 14.

(6) The notice of appeal shall—

(a) be in such form as the taxing master may direct;

(b) specify separately each item appealed against, showing (where appropriate) the amount claimed for the item, the amount determined and the grounds of the objection to the determination; and

(c) state whether the appellant wishes to appear or to be represented or whether they will accept a decision given in their absence.

(7) The taxing master may, and if so directed by the Department either generally or in a particular case shall, send to the Department a copy of the notice of appeal together with copies of such other documents as the Department may require.

(8) With a view to ensuring that the public interest is taken into account, the Department may arrange for written or oral representations to be made on its behalf and, if it intends to do so, the Department shall inform the taxing master and the appellant.

(9) Any written representations made on behalf of the Department under paragraph (8) shall be sent to the taxing master and the appellant and, in the case of oral representations, the taxing master and the appellant shall be informed of the grounds on which such representations will be made.

(10) The appellant shall be permitted a reasonable opportunity to make representations in reply.

(11) The taxing master shall inform the appellant (or their representative) and the Department, where representations have been or are to be made on its behalf, of the date of any hearing and, subject to the provisions of this Article, may give directions as to the conduct of the appeal.

(12) The taxing master may consult the trial judge or the Department and may require the appellant to provide any further information required for the purpose of the appeal and, unless the taxing master otherwise directs, no further evidence shall be received on the hearing of the appeal and no ground of objection shall be valid which was not raised under Article 14.

(13) The taxing master shall have the same powers as the Department under this Order and, in the exercise of such powers, may alter the redetermination of the Department in respect of any sum allowed, whether by increase or decrease.

(14) The taxing master shall communicate the decision and the reasons for it in writing to the appellant, the Department and the Legal Services Agency.

(15) Except where the taxing master confirms or decreases the sums redetermined under Article 14, the taxing master may allow the appellant a sum in respect of part or all of any reasonable costs (including any fee payable in respect of an appeal) incurred by the appellant in connection with the appeal.

Appeals to the High Court

16.—(1) This Article applies only to claims in respect of proceedings to which Schedule 3 applies and the remuneration payable has been determined by the Department under Article 6(1).

(2) A representative who is dissatisfied with the decision of the taxing master on an appeal under Article 15 may apply to the taxing master to certify a point of principle of general importance; provided that, if the taxing master refuses such application, the representative may renew the application before a judge of the High Court.

(3) Subject to Article 18, an application under paragraph (2) shall be made within 21 days of receiving notification of the taxing master's decision under Article 15(14).

(4) Where the taxing master or judge certifies a point of principle of general importance, the representative may appeal to the High Court against the decision of the taxing master on an appeal under Article 15, and the Department shall be a respondent to such an appeal.

(5) Subject to Article 18, an appeal under paragraph (4) shall be instituted within 21 days of receiving the certificate under paragraph (2)

(6) Where the Department is dissatisfied with the decision of the taxing master on an appeal under Article 15, it may, if no appeal has been made by the representative under paragraph (4), appeal to the High Court against that decision, and the representative shall be a respondent to the appeal.

(7) Subject to Article 18, an appeal under paragraph (6) shall be instituted within 21 days of receiving notification of the taxing master's decision under Article 15(14).

(8) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under paragraphs (2), (4) or (6) shall be final.

(9) The judge shall have the same powers as the Department and the taxing master under this Order and may reverse, affirm or amend the decision appealed against or make such other order as the judge thinks fit.

Restriction on payment

17. Where a certificate has been granted in respect of any proceedings to which this Order applies, a representative shall not receive or be a party to the making of any payment for work done in connection with those proceedings except such payments as may be made—

(a) by the Department; or

(b) in respect of any expenses or fees incurred in preparing, obtaining or considering any report, opinion or further evidence, whether provided by an expert witness or otherwise, where an application under the General Regulations for an authority to incur such expenses or fees has been refused by the Director.

Time limits

18.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the time limit within which any act is required or authorised to be done under this Order may, for good reason, be extended—

(a) in the case of acts required or authorised to be done under Article 15 or 16, by the taxing master or the High Court as the case may be; and

(b) in the case of acts required or authorised to be done by a representative under any other Article, by the Department.

(2) Where a representative without good reason has failed (or, if an extension were not granted, would fail) to comply with a time limit, the Department, the taxing master or the High Court, as the case may be, may, in exceptional circumstances, extend the time limit and shall consider whether it is reasonable in the circumstances to reduce the remuneration, provided that the remuneration shall not be reduced unless the representative has been permitted a reasonable opportunity to show cause orally or in writing why the remuneration should not be reduced.

(3) In carrying out the functions described in this Article, the Department, the taxing master or the High Court, as the case may be, shall have regard to any guidance given by the Department about the carrying out of those functions.

(4) A representative may appeal to the taxing master against a decision made under this Article by the Department and such an appeal shall be instituted within 21 days of receiving notification of the decision by giving notice in writing to the taxing master specifying the grounds of appeal.

Interim fees

19.—(1) This Article applies where it appears to the Department that a certificate has been granted, or may be granted, under the General Regulations for certain proceedings falling within civil legal services and the provisions of this Order do not include an appropriate fee for the work done, or any part of the work done, under that certificate.

(2) The Department must set an interim fee for those services pending a fee ("the prescribed fee") being prescribed by the Department under this Order.

(3) If the prescribed fee exceeds the interim fee, the Department shall pay the outstanding balance to any representative who was paid the interim fee set under paragraph (2).

(4) If the prescribed fee is less than the interim fee, the Department shall recover the overpayment from the representative under this Article.

Transitional provisions

20. Where, before the coming into operation of this Order, a representative has submitted a claim for payment under the 2015 Order for work done under a certificate to which this Order applies, the Department shall determine the remuneration payable for that work under this Order even though the claim was submitted under the 2015 Order.

21. Where before the coming into operation of this Order, the Department has determined the remuneration payable to a representative for work done under a legal aid certificate to which this Order applies, the Department shall redetermine the remuneration payable to the representative as if the application had been made under this Order and shall make a supplementary payment of such amount, or, as the case may be, recover from the representative a payment of such amount that the total amount of remuneration paid to the representative is the amount due under the provisions of this Order.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Justice on 12th December 2025

L.S.

Naomi R Long
Minister of Justice

SCHEDULE 1

Article 10

Advice and Assistance

PART 1

General

1. This Schedule applies to the determination of the remuneration payable to solicitors for providing advice and assistance, including those matters in which the Director has granted an extension under regulation 32 of the General Regulations.

2. Where the remuneration or fees properly chargeable for the advice and assistance including charges for disbursements exceed any contribution payable by the client to the solicitor under Part 3 of the Financial Regulations together with the value of any charge arising under Article 17(7) of the 2003 Order, the solicitor shall submit a claim to the Department requesting payment of the deficiency.

3.—(1) The Department shall determine the claim submitted under Article 9 in accordance with the rates or fees set out in Part 2, 3 or 4 of this Schedule, as applicable, and pay the assessed deficiency, if any, to the solicitor.

(2) In this paragraph "assessed deficiency" means the amount by which the sum allowed to the solicitor by the Department in assessing the claim under sub-paragraph (1) exceeds any contribution payable by the client to the solicitor under Part 3 of the Financial Regulations together with the value of any charge arising under Article 17(7) of the 2003 Order.

(3) In respect of any claims for costs made for work done under Tables 2 and 3 of Part 2 of this Schedule, a solicitor may claim for mileage only at the rate of 45p per mile. No claim shall be entertained for travel and waiting time.

(4) Unless otherwise prescribed by this Schedule, travel and waiting time may be claimed at the rate of £60 per hour and mileage may be claimed at the rate of 45p per mile for matters falling within this Schedule.

PART 2

Matters other than those relating to PACE, Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 or Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, and immigration and asylum*

*For the purposes of this Part and Part 4, advice and assistance on immigration and asylum includes any advice and assistance provided to a person on the law as it applies to their situation as an immigrant, as a person seeking asylum, as a victim of human trafficking, slavery or servitude or compulsory labour and on related matters, including advice as to the steps that they might take and assistance to take those steps.

Table 1 - Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Work Type	*Rate*
Advice	£51 per hour
Letters/Emails/Telephone Calls	£3.89 per item/call

Guide to Case Management in Public Law Children Order Proceedings (Article 50)

Table 2 - Solicitor – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Composite Fee*
Advice given to parent in relation to Letter Before Proceedings (LBP)	£168
Preparation and Attendance with Parent at Pre-Proceedings Meeting (PPM)	£403

All preparation work up to, and including, review of case by a single Parole Commissioner under Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

Table 3 - Solicitor – Standard Fees

Work Type – Stage 1	*Standard Fee*
Prisoner serving a Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)	£675
Prisoner serving an Extended Custodial sentence (ECS)	£875
Prisoner serving an Indeterminate Custodial Sentence (ICS)	£1225

PART 3

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) matters, Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 or Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019

Table 1 - Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 1 December 2024 but before 15th May 2025

Work Type[(1)]	*Rate*

Normal Hours	
Advice	£61 per hour
Letters/emails/telephone calls	£4.66 per item
Telephone advice	£28 per call
Travel and waiting time	£60 per hour
Mileage rate	45p per mile
Unsocial hours(2)	
Advice	£81 per hour
Letters/emails/telephone calls	£6.22 per item
Telephone advice	£37 per call
Travel and waiting time	£85 per hour
Mileage rate	45p per mile

(1) This work relates to interviews conducted under the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) 1989 – S.I. 1989/1341 (N.I. 12), Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (c.11) or Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 (c.3)

(2) Unsocial hours are defined as between 7.00pm and 9.00am on any weekday, or any time on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday

Table 2 - Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 15th May 2025

Work Type(1)	*Rate*
Normal Hours	
Advice	£120 per hour
Letters/emails/telephone calls	£9 per item
Telephone advice	£55 per call
Travel and waiting time	£60 per hour
Mileage rate	45p per mile
Unsocial hours(2)	
Advice	£160 per hour
Letters/emails/telephone calls	£12 per item
Telephone advice	£73 per call
Travel and waiting time	£85 per hour
Mileage rate	45p per mile

(1) This work relates to interviews conducted under the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) 1989 – S.I. 1989/1341 (N.I. 12), Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (c.11) or Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 (c.3)

(2) Unsocial hours are defined as between 7.00pm and 9.00am on any weekday, or any time on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday

PART 4

Immigration and Asylum*

*For the purposes of this Part and Part 2, advice and assistance on immigration and asylum includes all advice and assistance provided to a person on the law as it applies to their situation as an immigrant, as a person seeking asylum, as a victim of human trafficking, slavery or servitude or compulsory labour and on related matters, including advice as to the steps that they might take and assistance to take those steps.

Table 1 - Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 1 December 2024 but before 8th April 2025

Column header	
Advice	£51 per hour
Letters/emails/telephone calls	£3.89 per item/call

Table 2 - Solicitor - Hourly Rates

Where the date of initial advice for an application for advice and assistance under the General Regulations is on or after 8th April 2025

Column header	
Advice	£65 per hour
Letters/emails/telephone calls	£5.84 per item/call

SCHEDULE 2

Article 10

Representation (lower courts)

PART 1

General

1. This Schedule applies to the determination of the remuneration payable to representatives for providing representation (lower courts).

2. Where the remuneration or fees properly chargeable for the representation including charges for disbursements exceed any contribution payable by the client to the solicitor under Part 3 of the Financial Regulations together with the value of any charge arising under Article 17(7) of the 2003 Order, the representative shall submit a claim to the Department requesting payment of the deficiency.

3.—(1) The Department shall determine the claim submitted under Article 9 in accordance with the rates or fees set out in the relevant Table in Part 2 or 3 of this Schedule, as applicable, and pay the assessed deficiency, if any, to the representative.

(2) In this paragraph "assessed deficiency" means the amount by which the sum allowed to the representative by the Department in assessing the claim under sub-paragraph (1) exceeds any contribution payable by the client to the solicitor under Part 3 of the Financial Regulations together with the value of any charge arising under Article 17(7) of the 2003 Order.

4. In this Schedule, any reference to "letter" or "letters" shall be taken to include reference to emails.

5. In respect of claims for costs made under Table 2 of Part 2 of this Schedule, a solicitor may claim for mileage only at the rate of 45p per mile. No claim shall be entertained for travel and waiting time.

6. In respect of claims for costs made under Table 5 of Part 2 of this Schedule, no claim shall be entertained for waiting time.

7. In respect of claims for costs made under Tables 7 and 8 of Part 2 of this Schedule, travel time may be claimed by solicitors at the rate of £60 per hour and no claim shall be entertained for waiting time.

8. In respect of claims for costs made under Tables 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 11 in Part 3 of this Schedule, travel time may be claimed by solicitors at the rate of £60 per hour.

9. In respect of claims for costs made under Tables 3 and 5 only in Part 3 of this Schedule, waiting time may be claimed by solicitors at the rate of £60 per hour. No other claims for waiting time by solicitors shall be entertained for proceedings in Part 3 of this Schedule.

10. In respect of claims for costs made under Tables 7 and 8 in Part 3 of this Schedule, a solicitor may claim for mileage only at the rate of 45p per mile. No claim shall be entertained for travel and waiting time.

11. Unless otherwise prescribed by this Schedule, travel and waiting time, where payable may be claimed by solicitors at the rate of £60 per hour and mileage, where payable may be claimed at the rate of 45p per mile for proceedings falling within this Schedule.

12. Unless otherwise prescribed by this Schedule, travel time, where payable may be claimed by authorised counsel at the rate of £60 per hour and mileage, where payable may be claimed at the rate of 45p per mile for proceedings falling within this Schedule.

13. For the proceedings listed in Part 2 of this Schedule, any claim by a solicitor for travelling and mileage to attend Court shall be from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates. Any claim by Counsel for travelling and mileage to attend Court shall be from the Bar Library, 91 Chichester Street Belfast BT1 3JQ.

14. For the proceedings listed in Part 3 of this Schedule, any claim by a solicitor for travelling and mileage to attend Court, Tribunal or hearing venue as applicable shall be from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates. Any claim by Counsel for travelling and mileage to attend Court, Tribunal or hearing venue shall be from the Bar Library, 91 Chichester Street Belfast BT1 3JQ.

PART 2

Family and Children Order Proceedings

Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or Article 31B of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

Solicitor's remuneration can be claimed on the basis of either Table 1 (Hourly Rates) or Table 2 (Composite Fees) at the election of the solicitor

Table 1 - Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Work Type	*Rate*
Consultation (other than with Counsel) and Preparation	£68 per hour
Letters written	£4.23 per item
Letters received	£2.15 per item
Telephone calls	£4.23 per item
Non Standard telephone calls (over 5 minutes)	£68 per hour
Advocacy – solicitor alone	£75 per hour
Consultation with Counsel	£38 per hour
Advocacy – solicitor attending Counsel	£38 per hour

Table 2 - Solicitor – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Composite fee*
Private law	£290
Public law	£464

Table 3 - Counsel – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Fee*
On an unopposed application or a procedural issue	Standard £89

	Maximum £148
On the trial of a cause or matter, or the hearing of an application:	
- Where the hearing lasts for up to half a day	Standard £163
	Maximum £311
- Full Day	Standard £369
	Maximum £590
- Refresher	Each additional day £163
Consultation and Preparation	£42 per hour
Complex items of work (opinion, affidavits)	£96 per item
All other written work	£59 per item

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

Solicitor's remuneration can be claimed on the basis of either Table 4 (Hourly Rates) or Table 5 (Composite Fees) at the election of the solicitor

Table 4 - Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Work Type	*Rate*
Consultation (other than with Counsel) and Preparation	£68 per hour
Letters written	£4.23 per item
Letters received	£2.15 per item
Telephone calls	£4.23 per item
Non Standard telephone calls (over 5 minutes)	£68 per hour
Advocacy – solicitor alone	£75 per hour
Consultation with Counsel	£38 per hour
Advocacy – solicitor attending Counsel	£38 per hour

Table 5 - Solicitor – Composite Fees

Work type	*Composite Fee*
Non-Molestation Order	£409
Occupation Order	£409
Non-Molestation/Occupation application withdrawn with undertakings	£409
Non-molestation and Occupation Order	£483
Second Hearing – Contested	£223
Second Hearing – Uncontested	£112
Variation/Discharge – Contested	£409
Variation/Discharge – Uncontested	£223
Adjournments	£35
Nominal Adjournment Fee – no court attendance	£18
Withdrawn	£35
Summons not served	£35
Letters written	£4.23 per item
Letters received	£2.15 per item
Telephone calls	£4.23 per call
Non-routine telephone calls in excess of 5 minutes	£67.28 per hour

Table 6 - Counsel – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Fee*
On an unopposed application or a procedural issue	Standard £89
	Maximum £148
On the trial of a cause or matter, or the hearing of an application:	
- Where the hearing lasts for up to half a day	Standard £163
	Maximum £311
- Full Day	Standard £369
	Maximum £590
- Refresher	Each additional day £163
Consultation and Preparation	£42 per hour
Complex items of work (opinion, affidavits)	£96 per item
All other written work	£59 per item

Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980

Table 7 - Solicitor – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Composite Fee*
Separation and Maintenance	£163
Variation of Maintenance	£97
Case withdrawn at any stage before hearing and up to strikeout	£77
Part Hearings	£34
Adjourned Hearings	
– less than 20 minutes	£18
– in excess of 20 minutes	£34
Nominal Adjournment – no court attendance	£14
Dismissed Cases	£145
Letters and telephone calls (not included in the basic fee)	£3.89 per item
Discontinued cases (no proceedings issued)	
– advice less than one hour	£53
– advice of one hour	£58
– advice in excess of one hour	£64

Table 8 - Counsel – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Fee*
On an unopposed application or a procedural issue	Standard £89
	Maximum £148
On the trial of a cause or matter, or the hearing of an application:	
- Where the hearing lasts for up to half a day	Standard £163
	Maximum £311
- Full Day	Standard £369
	Maximum £590
- Refresher	Each additional day £163
Consultation and Preparation	£42 per hour
Complex items of work (opinion, affidavits)	£96 per item
All other written work	£59 per item

PART 3

Other Proceedings

Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and Terrorism Act 2000

Table 1 - Solicitor – Composite Fees

Work type	*Composite Fee*
All Proceedings	£408

Proceedings before the Mental Health Review Tribunal

Table 2 - Solicitor – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Composite Fee*
Preparation and Negotiation	£383
Representation at Tribunal	£430 (per half day, or part thereof)
Adjourned Hearing	£88

Hearings held under Article 10 or 11 of the Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001

Table 3 - Solicitor – Hourly Rate

	Fee
Hourly fees for all work	£116 per hour up to a maximum of £928(1)

(1) If additional hours are authorised by the Department, they are payable at the same rate.

Table 4 - Counsel – Composite Fees

	Junior Counsel	*Senior Counsel*
Composite Fee	£3,093	£4,640

Other hearings before the Parole Commissioners

Table 5 - Solicitor - Hourly Rate

	Fee
Hourly fees for all work	£116 per hour up to a maximum of £928(1)

(1) If additional hours are authorised by the Department, they are payable at the same rate.

Table 6

Counsel - Composite Fee

	Junior Counsel	*Senior Counsel*
Composite Fee	£3,480	£5,220

Oral hearing before the Parole Commissioners under the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

Table 7 - Solicitor - Composite Fees

Where the certificate for civil legal services under the General Regulations is granted on or after 1 December 2024 but before 15 May 2025

Work Type - Stage 2	*Composite Fee*
All Case Types	£290

Table 8 - Solicitor Fees – Composite Fees

Where the certificate for civil legal services under the General Regulations is granted on or after 15 May 2025

Stage 2	*Composite Fee*
Prisoner serving a Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)	£750
Prisoner serving an Extended Custodial Sentence (ECS)	£1150

Prisoner serving an Indeterminate Custodial Sentence (ICS)	£750
Other case type	£290

Proceedings under sections 295, 297, 298, 301 or 302 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Table 9 - Solicitor - Composite Fees

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£409(1)
Second Hearing	£223
Adjournment	£35
Nominal Adjournment Fee – no court attendance	£18
Withdrawn	£35
Letters and telephone calls	£4.23 per item/call
Non routine telephone calls (over 5 minutes)	£67.28 per hour

(1) The Composite Fee will remunerate a solicitor for all work associated with the particular case, excluding disbursements and VAT. The fee is taken to include up to the first 7 letters and telephone calls under 5 minutes. Any further letters or telephone calls can be claimed in addition to the composite fee provided that they are itemised.

Table 10 - Counsel - Composite Fees

Work Type	*Fee*
On the trial of a cause or matter, or the hearing of an application	
— where the hearing lasts for up to half a day	£163 Standard
	£311 Maximum
— full day	£369 Standard
	£590 Maximum
Part Hearing (standard)	£89
Part Hearing (maximum)	£148
Refresher	£163 for each additional day
Consultation and Preparation	£42 per hour
Complex items of work (opinions, affidavits)	£96 per item
All other written work	£59 per item

Proceedings regarding an order under sections 89, 90, 97, 100, 104, 108, 109, 114, 118, 123, 125 or 126 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, Proceedings under Articles 3 and 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, Proceedings before the Care Tribunal under Article 11, 12, 42 or 43 of the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 or regulation 10 of the Education (Prohibition from Teaching or Working with Children) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, Proceedings under Part 13A of the Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (Northern Ireland) 1995, Proceedings under paragraph 2, 6 or 7 of Schedule 3 to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, Proceedings under section 57, 60 or 61 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

Table 11 - Interim Fees

	Solicitor	*Junior Counsel*
All proceedings	£209	£209

SCHEDULE 3

Article 10

Representation (higher courts)

PART 1

General

1. This Schedule applies to the determination of the remuneration payable to representatives for providing representation (higher courts).

2. The Department shall determine the claim submitted under Article 9 in accordance with the rates or fees set out in the relevant Table in Parts 2 to 6 of this Schedule, as applicable, and pay the assessed remuneration to the representative.

3. For proceedings listed within Part 2 of this Schedule, where a representative considers that the sum allowable under Table 1 or Table 2, as applicable, would not provide reasonable remuneration according to the work reasonably undertaken and properly done, the representative may apply to the judge before whom the proceedings took place for a certificate that for any reason including the exceptional length, difficulty or complexity of the proceedings the limitation on the sums allowable under Table 1 or Table 2, as applicable, shall not apply and where such certificate is granted the Department shall allow remuneration under Table 3 to 19, as applicable.

4. Where a judge has granted a certificate under paragraph 3, and there is a combination of proceedings heard together, the highest applicable composite fee will be payable with an additional payment of 30% of the composite fee in respect of the first related proceedings and an additional payment of 20% of the composite fee in respect of the second related proceedings.

5. For proceedings listed within Part 3 of this Schedule, where the costs have been taxed by a district judge, the Department will pay remuneration to the solicitor on foot of the taxed bill. If the proceedings are withdrawn, abandoned or discontinued the representative's claim will be assessed by the Department in accordance with Tables 1 to 4, as applicable.

6. For proceedings listed within Parts 4, 5 and 6 of this Schedule, the sums allowed to representatives in any proceedings shall, subject to Article 6(2)(a) and (b), be assessed by the Department in accordance with the Tables set out in the relevant Part, as applicable to the nature of the proceedings and the items of work in question.

7. In this Schedule, any reference to "Letters" or "letters" shall be taken to include reference to emails.

8. For the proceedings listed in Part 2 of this Schedule, any claim by a solicitor for travelling and mileage to attend Court shall be from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates. Any claim by Counsel for travelling and mileage to attend Court shall be from the Bar Library, 91 Chichester Street Belfast BT1 3JQ.

9. For proceedings falling to be remunerated under Tables 3 to 11 of Part 2 of this Schedule, no claims for waiting time shall be entertained.

10. For proceedings falling within Table 1 of Part 3, no claim for mileage shall be entertained. Any claim by a solicitor for travelling to attend Court shall be from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates.

11.—(1) For proceedings listed within Tables 2, 3 and 4 of Part 3 of this Schedule and proceedings listed within Part 4 of this Schedule, travel may be claimed as follows and claims shall not be entertained for mileage or waiting—

(a) Counsel travelling to attend a court—

(i) 20 to 50 miles from the Head Post Office, Belfast, is entitled to an additional sum of £60;

(ii) More than 50 miles from the Head Post Office, Belfast, is entitled to an additional sum of £120.

(b) Solicitor travelling to attend court—

(i) 20 to 50 miles from the solicitor's office, or where the solicitor's firm practises from more than one office, from the office which dealt with the proceedings is entitled to an additional sum of £60;

(ii) More than 50 miles from the solicitor's office, or where the solicitor's firm practises from more than one office, from the office which dealt with the proceedings is entitled to an additional sum of £120.

(2) Where a solicitor or counsel has conducted more than one case in the same day at the same venue, the fee set out in sub-paragraph (1) may be claimed once only and the fee shall be divided proportionately over the number of cases conducted by the solicitor or counsel.

12. In any proceedings listed in Part 5 of this Schedule to which travel and mileage are payable, any claim by a solicitor for travelling and mileage to attend Court shall be from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates and any claim by Counsel for travelling and mileage to attend Court shall be from the Bar Library, 91 Chichester Street Belfast BT1 3JQ.

13. In respect of claims for costs made under Table 1 of Part 5 of this Schedule, travel may be claimed by solicitor only from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates at the rate of £60 per hour and mileage at the rate of 45p per mile. No claim shall be entertained for waiting time.

14. In respect of any claim for costs made under Table 2 of Part 5 of this Schedule, no claim for travelling or waiting time or mileage shall be entertained.

15. In respect of any claim for costs made under Table 3 of Part 5 of this Schedule, no claim for mileage shall be entertained.

16. For the proceedings listed in Part 6 of this Schedule, a solicitor may claim for mileage only from the solicitor's office to which the certificate relates at the rate of 45p per mile. No claim shall be entertained for travel and waiting time.

17. Unless otherwise prescribed by this Schedule, travel and waiting time where payable, may be claimed by solicitors at the rate of £60 per hour and mileage where payable may be claimed at the rate of 45p per mile for proceedings falling within this Schedule.

18. Unless otherwise prescribed by this Schedule, travel time where payable may be claimed by authorised counsel at the rate of £60 per hour and mileage where payable may be claimed at the rate of 45p per mile for proceedings falling within this Schedule.

PART 2

Family and Children Order Proceedings – Family Care Centre

All proceedings including appeals from the Family Proceedings Court and Domestic Proceedings Court

Table 1 - Solicitor - Hourly Rates

Work Type	*Fee*
Preparation	£68 per hour
Letters Written	£4.23 per item
Letters Received	£2.15 per item
Telephone Calls	£4.23 per call
Non Standard Telephone Call (over 5 minutes)	£68 per hour
Advocacy – Solicitor Alone	£75 per hour

Consultation with Counsel	£38 per hour
Advocacy – Solicitor with Counsel	£38 per hour

Table 2 - Counsel – Composite Fees

Work Type	*Fee*
On an unopposed application or a procedural issue	Standard £89 Maximum £148
On the trial of a cause or matter, or the hearing of an application:	
— Where the hearing lasts for up to half a day	Standard £163 Maximum £311
— Full day	Standard £369 Maximum £590
— Refresher	£163 for each additional day
Consultation and Preparation	£42 per hour
Complex Items of Work (opinions, affidavits)	£96 per item
All other written work	£59 per item

Table 3 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Children Order – Proceedings under Articles 44 and 50

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£4,060
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£1,421
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£812

Table 4 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Children Order – All Other Proceedings

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£2,320
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£812
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£464

Table 5 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Appeals from the Family Proceedings Court – Proceedings under Articles 44 and 50

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£1,624
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£569
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or	£325

Transferred (at first directions hearing)	

Table 6 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Appeals from the Family Proceedings Court - Re Other Proceedings

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£928
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£325
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£186

Table 7 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Proceedings under the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 – Freeing Order

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£4,060
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£1,421
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£812

Table 8 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Combined Proceedings – Freeing Order and Article 50

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£5,800
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£2,030
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£1,160

Table 9 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Adoption Order - Contested

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£4,060
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£1,421
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£812

Table 10 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Adoption Order – Uncontested

Work Type	*Fee*

Composite Fee	£464
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£163
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£93

Table 11 - Solicitor Composite Fees – Proceedings under the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 – Non-Molestation/Occupation Order

Work Type	*Fee*
Composite Fee	£613
Additional Full Day	£464
Additional Half Day	£232
Judgment Fee	£174
35% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£215
20% of Composite Fee – Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£123

Table 12 - Counsel Composite Fees – Children Order – All Proceedings

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£2,320	£3,480
Directions and Written Work	£905	£1,358
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£812	£1,218
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£464	£696

Table 13 - Counsel Composite Fees – Appeals from the Family Proceedings Court and Domestic Proceedings Court – No New Evidence

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£928	£1,392
Directions and Written Work	£227	£340
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£325	£488
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£186	£279

Table 14 - Counsel Composite Fees – Appeals from the Family Proceedings Court and Domestic Proceedings Court – New Evidence

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£1,740	£2,610

Directions and Written Work	£362	£543
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£609	£914
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£348	£522

Table 15 - Counsel Composite Fees – Proceedings under the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 – Freeing Order

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£2,900	£4,350
Directions and Written Work	£905	£1,358
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£1,015	£1,523
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£580	£870

Table 16 - Counsel Composite Fees – Combined Proceedings – Freeing Order and Article 50

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£4,084	£6,125
Directions and Written Work	£1,358	£2,036
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£1,430	£2,144
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£817	£1,225

Table 17 - Counsel Composite Fees – Adoption Order – Contested

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£2,900	£4,350
Directions and Written Work	£905	£1,358
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£1,015	£1,523
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£580	£870

Table 18 - Counsel Composite Fees – Adoption Order – Uncontested

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£1,334	£2,001
Directions and Written Work	£362	£543

Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£467	£701
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£267	£401

Table 19 - Counsel Composite Fees – Proceedings under the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 – Non-molestation/Occupation Order

Work Type	*Junior Counsel*	*Senior Counsel*
Brief fee	£1,740	£2,610
Directions and Written Work	£905	£1,358
Refresher – Full Day	£464	£696
Refresher – Half Day	£232	£348
Judgment Fee	£174	£261
35% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (following first directions hearing but before a final hearing date is set)	£609	£913
20% Brief Fee ─ Case Withdrawn or Transferred (at first directions hearing)	£348	£522

PART 3

Divorce and other Family Proceedings in the County Court

Table 1

Solicitors Hourly Rate – Divorce, Nullity and other Matrimonial Suits – Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (Withdrawn/Abandoned/Discontinued Proceedings)

Work Type	*Rate*
Consultation and Preparation	£35 per hour
Travel and Waiting	£60 per hour
Letters and Telephone Calls	£3.89 per item
Non Standard telephone calls (over 5 minutes)	£34.80 per hour

Table 2

Solicitor and Counsel – Composite Fee - Committal Proceedings

Work Type(1)	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Composite Fee(2)	£698	£258
Case withdrawn on morning of hearing	25% deduction applied	25% deduction applied

(1) Where a case is withdrawn before a hearing date has been set, a time-based assessment of work carried out will be undertaken for the solicitor. Hourly rates - £34.80, letters and telephone calls - £3.89 per item, non-standard telephone calls (over 5 minutes) - £34.80 per hour.

(2) For each day or part of a day on which a hearing is continued after the first day, both solicitor and counsel in attendance are entitled to an additional sum equivalent to one third of counsel's fee.

Table 3

Solicitor and Counsel Standard Fee - Adoption Proceedings

Work Type	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*

Standard Fee(1)	£225	£150
Adjournments	£60	£38

(1) An uplift of 50% on the basic fee will be payable to both solicitor and counsel for each additional child involved with the same proceedings.

Table 4

Solicitor and Counsel Standard Fee - Appeals from the Family Proceedings Court

Work Type	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Standard Fee – irrespective of full or half day	£490	£128
Case withdrawn at hearing	£403	£128
Case withdrawn prior to hearing	£245	£64
Adjournments	£60	£40

PART 4

Other proceedings in the County Court

Table 1

Ordinary Civil Bill Scales – Plaintiff's and Defendant's Remuneration

Department's assessment of value of the claim	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Does not exceed £1,000	£538	£180
Exceeds £1,000 but does not exceed £2,500	£1,136	£263
Exceeds £2,500 but does not exceed £5,000	£1,614	£383
Exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £7,500	£2,092	£478
Exceeds £7,500 but does not exceed £10,000	£2,391	£562
Exceeds £10,000 but does not exceed £12,500	£2,630	£640
Exceeds £12,500 but does not exceed £1500	£2,869	£718
Exceeds £15,000 but does not exceed £20,000	£3,876	£842
Exceeds £20,000 but does not exceed £25,000	£4,253	£953
Exceeds £25,000	£4,692	£1,060
Drafting notice for, or replies to notice for, particulars – payable to either the solicitor or counsel	£43	
Drafting interrogatories, or answers to interrogatories, as certified by the judge	£70	£70
Additional days	50% of solicitor's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate, not exceeding £600	50% of counsel's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate

Table 2

Equity Civil Bill Scales – Plaintiff's and Defendant's Remuneration

Where the value of the personalty and/or lands	*Solicitor's fee*	*Counsel's fee – for advising proceedings/defence, settling the equity civil bill and advising proofs*	*Counsel's fee – on hearing of equity civil bill or petition*
Does not exceed £5,000	£538	£92	£267
Exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £10,000	£1,136	£124	£342
Exceeds £10,000 but does not exceed £15,000	£1,614	£152	£458
Exceeds £15,000 but does not exceed £20,000	£2,092	£200	£534
Exceeds £20,000 but does not exceed £25,000	£2,391	£230	£612
Exceeds £25,000 but does not exceed £35,000	£2,630	£301	£763
Exceeds £35,000	£2,869	£369	£917
Additional days	50% of solicitor's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate, not exceeding £600	Not applicable	50% of counsel's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate

Table 3

Ejectment proceedings for the recovery of property – plaintiff's and defendant's remuneration

Item of work	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Proceedings for the recovery of possession of premises by a statutory body	£132	£64
In other cases where the valuation does not exceed £4,710	£321	£123
In other cases where the valuation exceeds £4,710	£458	£230
Additional days	50% of solicitor's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate, not exceeding £600	50% of counsel's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate

Table 4

Plaintiff's remuneration in remitted actions

Amount decreed (or value of cases as assessed by Department)	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Does not exceed £1,000	£538	£180
Exceeds £1,000 but does not exceed £2,500	£1,136	£263

Exceeds £2,500 but does not exceed £5,000	£1,614	£383
Exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £7,500	£2,092	£478
Exceeds £7,500 but does not exceed £10,000	£2,391	£562
Exceeds £10,000 but does not exceed £12,500	£2,630	£640
Exceeds £12,500 but does not exceed £1500	£2,869	£718
Exceeds £15,000 but does not exceed £20,000	£3,876	£842
Exceeds £20,000 but does not exceed £25,000	£4,253	£953
Exceeds £25,000	£4,692	£1,060
Drafting notice for, or replies to notice for, particulars – payable to either the solicitor or counsel	£43	
Drafting interrogatories, or answers to interrogatories, as certified by the judge	£70	£70
Additional days	50% of solicitor's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate, not exceeding £600	50% of counsel's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate

Table 5

Defendant's remuneration in remitted actions

Item of work	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Fee payable	£2,869	£718
Drafting notice for, or replies to notice for, particulars – payable to either the solicitor or counsel, as certified by the judge	£43	
Additional days	50% of solicitor's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate, not exceeding £600	50% of counsel's scale fee on the amount claimed or decreed, as appropriate

Table 6

Interlocutory applications

Item of work	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Instruction, drawing notice of motion etc.	£118.56	£118.56
Attending before judge on notice or ex-parte	£59.28	£59.28
Drawing up list of documents under Order 15	£42.07	£42.07

Table 7

Occasional costs

Item of work	*Rate*
Affidavit of service	£2.72
Other affidavit	£1.12
Preparing recognizance	£3.12
Drawing, issuing and serving a witness summons	£9.10
Drawing costs and copies	£6.74 per page
Attending taxation	£11.39 per hour

Table 8

Limited Certificates

Item of Work	*Solicitor*	*Counsel*
Counsel's opinion	£87	£35
- up to five pages	£87	£58
- up to 7 pages	£87	£76
Engineer's report	£116	Not applicable
Engineer's report (no details provided)	£87	Not applicable
Medical report	£58	Not applicable
Issue and service of civil bill, replies and discovery	£232	Not applicable
Stamp duty	£58	Not applicable
Stamp duty with other limitation	£116	Not applicable
Discovery	£58	Not applicable

Table 9

Proceedings which have been withdrawn, abandoned or discontinued – full certificates solicitor

Work type	*Rate*
Consultation, preparation, waiting and attending court	£30 per hour
Letters and telephone calls	£3.35 per item
Non-standard telephone calls	£30 per hour

PART 5

High Court Proceedings

Table 1

High Court Bail applications and variation applications – standard fees

Solicitor	*Counsel*
£209	£209

Table 2

Proceedings which have been withdrawn, abandoned or discontinued

Solicitor's remuneration can be claimed on the basis of either Table 2 (composite fees) or Table 3 (hourly rate) at the election of the solicitor

Department's assessment	*After writ*	*After statement of*	*After defence*	*After warned list*	*Within 21 days of trial*

of the value of the claim		*claim*			
Does not exceed £14,999	£2,515	£3,165	£3,565	£4,320	£4,885
£15,000 - £19,999	£2,910	£3,565	£3,960	£4,755	£5,680
£20,000 - £24,999	£3,435	£4,090	£4,485	£5,012	£6,075
£25,000 - £29,999	£3,690	£4,360	£4,755	£5,410	£6,470
£30,000 - £34,999	£3,960	£4,620	£5,155	£5,805	£6,870
£35,000 - £39,999	£4,320	£4,885	£5,410	£6,205	£7,260
£40,000 - £44,999	£4,485	£5,155	£5,805	£6,600	£7,655
£45,000 - £49,999	£4,720	£5,410	£6,205	£7,000	£8,050
£50,000 - £54,999	£5,015	£5,680	£6,600	£7,395	£8,450
£55,000 - £59,999	£5,280	£5,940	£7,000	£7,795	£8,845
£60,000 - £64,999	£5,550	£6,205	£7,395	£8,190	£9,245
£65,000 - £69,999	£5,805	£6,470	£7,795	£8,580	£9,640
£70,000 - £74,999	£6,075	£6,730	£8,190	£8,975	£10,035
£75,000 - £79,999	£6,330	£6,985	£8,580	£9,370	£10,435
£80,000 - £84,999	£6,600	£7,290	£8,975	£9,770	£10,830
£85,000 - £89,999	£6,870	£7,525	£9,370	£10,165	£11,220
£90,000 - £94,999	£7,130	£7,795	£9,770	£10,560	£11,615
Exceeds £95,000	£7,395	£8,050	£10,165	£10,960	£12,010

Table 3

Solicitor – Hourly Rates

Item of work	*Rate*
Consultation and preparation	£110 per hour
Travel and waiting	£60 per hour
Letters and telephone calls	£11 per item
Non-standard telephone calls	£110 per hour

Counsel's fees – pleadings and interlocutory matters

Table 4

Chancery division

Item of work	
Writ	£47

Statement of claim	£174
Defence	£174
Defence and counterclaim	£203
Reply to defence and counterclaim	£116
Reply	£41

Table 5

Originating proceedings

Item of work	
Originating summons or notice of motion	£76
Brief on hearing of summons or ex-parte application	£116
Minute of judgment	£82
Motion for judgment	£145

Table 6

Proceedings by petition (not including divorce)

Item of work	
Petition of answer	£99
Other pleadings	£76
Brief on hearing of summons or motion	£116

Table 7

King's bench division

Item of work	
Writ (generally endorsed)	£41
Writ (specially endorsed)	£87
Statement of claim (all cases)	£174
Defence	£174
Defence with particulars	£93
Defence and counterclaim	£203
Reply and defence of counterclaim	£116
Reply	£35
Third party notice	£88
Brief on ex-parte hearing	£116
Brief on hearing of summons or motion	£116
Special appointments hearing in motion court	£232

Table 8

Family division - probate

Item of work	
Motion paper	£105
Motion	£105
Writ	£53
Brief on ex-parte hearing	£116
Brief on hearing of summons or motion	£116
Statement of claim or defence	£174
Defence and counterclaim	£203
Reply and defence to counterclaim	£116
Reply	£35

Table 9

Bankruptcy

Item of work	
Examination of witnesses	£151

Table 10

Judicial Review

Item of work	
Ex-parte docket	£53
Order 53 statement	£105
Certificate of urgency	£35
Substantive affidavit	£145

Table 11

Ancillary relief

Item of work	
Summons	£53
Affidavit of means	£145

Table 12

General

Item of work	
Affidavits (general)	£70
Affidavits (exceptional)	£145
Notice of motion/summons	£76
Notice for particulars or answer thereto	£70
Notice to admit to facts	£76
Replies to notice to admit to facts	£87
Interrogatories and answers	£116
Proofs (liability admitted) – senior counsel(1)	£290
Proofs (liability admitted) – junior counsel(1)	£232
Proofs (liability denied) – senior counsel(1)	£348
Proofs (liability denied) – junior counsel(1)	£290
Supplementary advice, where necessary – senior counsel	£267
Supplementary advice, where necessary – junior counsel	£232
Opinion – liability and quantum(1)	£232
Opinion – liability only(1)	£174
Opinion – quantum only(1)	£174
Opinion – further(1)	£93
Notice of appeal(1)	£99
Consultation (including joint negotiations) up to one hour – senior counsel	£215
Thereafter per hour – senior counsel	£93
Consultation (including joint negotiations) up to one hour – junior counsel attending on senior	£145
Thereafter per hour – junior counsel attending on senior	£64
Consultation (including joint negotiations) up to one hour – junior counsel without senior	£174
Thereafter per hour – junior counsel without senior	£70
Appearance at review/application/mention hearing(1)	

- less than 30 minutes	£116 (attended) £145 (unattended)
- up to one hour	£174
Core issues	£145
Skeleton argument	£145

(1) to include consultation (if any)

PART 6

Other Proceedings

Asylum and Immigration Proceedings Before the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal under Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016; section 40A of the British Nationality Act 1981; Part 5 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002; or regulation 26 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006

Table 1 - Solicitor – composite fees

Item of work	*Composite fee*
Representation at a case management review hearing for first-tier tribunal	£263
First-tier tribunal (including first leave application)	£1,800
Onward hearing in upper tribunal (to include second leave application)	£1,800
Adjourned hearings which are part heard or re-listed to be concluded on a separate date	£255
Asylum and immigration bail hearing	£600

SCHEDULE 4

Article 10

Inquests

PART 1

General

1. This Schedule applies to the determination of the remuneration payable to representatives for providing civil legal services in relation to inquests funded under Article 12A of the 2003 Order.

2. The Department shall determine the claim submitted under Article 9 in accordance with the rates set out in the relevant Table in Part 2 of this Schedule and pay the assessed remuneration to the representative.

PART 2

Remuneration payable in Inquest cases

Table 1

Solicitor's fees

Work type	*Rate*

Preparation	£79.50 per hour
Hearing (including any preliminary hearings)	£63.38 per hour
Travelling time(1)	£60 per hour
Mileage(1)	45p per mile

(1) The rates for travel and mileage will be paid on actuals basis

Table 2

Counsel's fees

Work type	*Junior counsel*	*Senior counsel*
Preparation	£87.38 per hour	£179.25 per hour
Hearing (including and preliminary hearings)	£149.25 per hour	£386.25 per hour
Refresher fees – full day	£236.50	£400
Travelling time(1)	£60 per hour	£60 per hour
Mileage(1)	45p per mile	45p per mile

(1) The rates for travel and mileage will be paid on an actuals basis

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order prescribes the remuneration payable to solicitors and counsel for providing civil legal services under Part 2 of the Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

The main body of this Order deals with the manner in which the remuneration is to be determined and paid. In part, the provisions draw on the corresponding provisions contained in the Civil Legal Services (Remuneration) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The 2015 Order is being superseded by this Order, which makes provision for the remuneration of work done following an application for advice and assistance where the date of first advice is on or after the relevant operative date or under a certificate for civil legal services where the certificate is granted on or after the relevant operative date. The operative dates are set out at Article 3 of this Order. The 2015 Order remains in force to provide for the remuneration of any work done where the date of first advice or, as the case may be, the date of the grant of the certificate is such that it is not within the scope of application of this Order.

Initial determinations in such cases will be undertaken by the Department of Justice. A system of redeterminations and appeals is provided for enabling solicitors and counsel to challenge the remuneration determined in a particular case.

Schedules 1 to 4 of this Order set out the levels of remuneration payable for the various categories of work involved, including the different forms of proceedings in each of the court tiers.

This Order comes into operation on [Date].

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