



KNAPP RICHARDSON

2021 Guide to the Summary Assessment of Costs

Band:	A	B	C	D
London 1	£512	£348	£270	£186
London 2	£373	£289	£244	£139
London 3	£282	£232	£185	£129
National 1	£261	£218	£178	£126
National 2	£255	£218	£177	£126

London 1

Very heavy commercial and corporate work by centrally based London firms (not restricted to any particular postcode).

London 2

City & Central London: EC1-EC4, W1, WC1, WC2 and SW1

London 3

Outer London: All other London Boroughs, plus Dartford & Gravesend.

National 1

- i. The counties of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Essex, Hampshire (& Isle of Wight), Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, East Sussex, West Sussex, Suffolk, Surrey and Wiltshire
- ii. Birkenhead, Birmingham Inner, Bristol, Cambridge City, Cardiff Inner, Leeds

National 2

All places not included in London 1-3 and National 1.

Grades of Fee Earner

A - Solicitors with over eight years post qualification experience including at least 8 years litigation experience.

B - Solicitors and legal executives with over four years post qualification experience including at least 4 years litigation experience.

C - Other solicitors and legal executives and fee earners of equivalent experience.

D - Trainee solicitors, paralegals and other fee earners.

Qualified Costs Lawyers will be eligible for payment as grades B or C depending on the complexity of the work done.

Employed barristers' rates should be allowed at the grade which best reflects the length of their litigation experience.

"Legal Executive" means a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. Those who are not Fellows of the Institute are not entitled to call themselves legal executives and in principle are therefore not entitled to the same hourly rate as a legal executive.

Clerks without the equivalent experience of legal executives will be treated as being in the bottom grade of fee earner i.e. trainee solicitors, paralegals and fee earners of equivalent experience. Whether or not a fee earner has equivalent experience is ultimately a matter for the discretion of the court.

In substantial and complex litigation an hourly rate in excess of the guideline figures may be appropriate for grade A, B and C fee earners where other factors, for example the value of the litigation, the level of the complexity, the urgency or importance of the matter, as well as any international element, would justify a significantly higher rate. It is important to note (a) that these are only examples and (b) they are not restricted to high level commercial work, but may apply, for example, to large and complex personal injury work. Further, London 1 is defined in Appendix 2 as 'very heavy commercial and corporate work by centrally based London firms'. Within that pool of work there will be degrees of complexity and this paragraph will still be relevant.