

Debt recovery (up to £100,000)

Price information

We charge on the basis of the amount of time spent by our fee earner to deal with stages of the debt recovery matter. Every debt recovery matter is individual and based on particular circumstances. Examples of the typical range of costs charged for debt recovery matters are shown below in the table to give an idea as to our fees and the likely overall charges including all disbursements. Once we have the necessary information from you about the dispute, we can provide you with an individual written estimate of costs.

In addition to our costs, there are likely to be a number of payments to third parties. This is a non-exhaustive list of the disbursements which might be incurred on a typical dispute:

- Travel expenses incurred for the attendance at hearings or meetings away from our office
- Court fees on issue of the proceedings, any interim applications made and for the final hearing.
- When necessary, barrister's fees for their advice or attendance at hearings.
- When applicable, the fees of a mediator at a mediation session between the parties
- The fees of any expert instructed to prepare an expert report in support of your case
- Fees for searching of records to ascertain the whereabouts and financial solvency of any debtor, for instance 192.com, Land Registry or private investigators.

Where the debt is undisputed, it is often possible to resolve the matter and recover the debt by correspondence, sometimes simply by sending a letter before action to the debtor or (if the debt is for a minimum of £750) by issuing a statutory demand. Instead of serving a statutory demand, you can commence court proceedings and seek a court Judgment, which can then seek to enforce against the debtor if payment is not made. An estimate of the range of costs for for the most common stages of a debt recovery matter is set out below. All prices stated, except for court fees are subject to VAT at the current rate of 20%.

Action	Estimate of costs and disbursements
1. Statutory Demand a. Preparing and advising on the statutory demand	£300.00 - £500.00
2. Court Proceedings a. Preparing and advising on letter before action b. Preparing and service of county court proceedings c. Complying with court directions, preparing and inspecting disclosure documents and advising on witness statements d. Preparing for final hearing and instructing barrister for final hearing	£200 - £400 £500 - £800 £1,000 - £2,000 £1,500.00 - £2,000
e. b) Applying for judgment in default	£250.00
3. Payments to third parties a. Court fee b. Barrister's fees for attendance at directions hearing c. Barrister's fee for attendance at and preparation for final hearing	calculated according the value of the claim, ranging from approximately 5% to 10%) Follow this link for details: https://www.gov.uk/make-court-claim-for-money/court-fees £750 - £1,500 £2,000 - £4,000

In the event you do wish to proceed with a court claim rather than a statutory demand (and where the debt is not disputed) you should note that:

- The VAT element of our fee cannot be reclaimed from your debtor. Even the legal costs may not be recoverable. The recoverability of legal costs depends on the value of the claim.
- Any interest claimed will be added to the value of the claim, which might affect the court fee payable. Court fees are recoverable, irrespective of the value of the claim.
- If enforcement steps are necessary, such as a bailiff, we will discuss these further costs with you.

Service information

At Thompson Allen your debt collection matter will be managed by an experienced litigation solicitor, who may be assisted by a trainee solicitor.

This is a list of the typical aspects of the work which we will carry out for you:

- Meeting with you to discuss the dispute, review any paperwork and advise you on the merits of your position (this is likely to be revisited throughout the matter and subject to change)
- Entering into pre-claim alternative dispute resolution to explore whether a settlement is reached (if instructed to do so).
- Sending a letter before action or statutory demand.
- Receiving payment and sending on to you, or if the debt is not paid, preparing and issuing the claim or winding up petition
- Advising on the acknowledgement of service, or if not received making the application for default judgment and reporting to you as to the outcome
- Reviewing and advising on the defence from the other party
- Exploring settlement and negotiating settlement throughout the process
- Preparing for and attending any case management conference, hearing of any interim application and final hearing
- Exchanging documents with the opponent and agreeing a bundle of documents for any hearings
- Taking witness statements, drafting statements and agreeing their content with witnesses
- Preparing bundles of documents
- Reviewing and advising on the other party's witness statements
- Agreeing a schedule of issues, case summary and chronology with the opponent
- Preparing and attending the final hearing (where instructed to do so) including instructions to the barrister.

The following factors are likely to increase our overall costs estimate:

- A counterclaim is required to be made or made by your opponent
- The matter is allocated to a track not initially considered to be appropriate, for instance if an allegation of fraud is made
- Opponents to the claim cannot be quickly and easily located
- It is necessary for this firm to visit a property or to carry out a site inspection or to interview witnesses who are not able to attend our offices
- More than one expert is required to report on your particular dispute
- One or more mediation or round table settlement meetings are needed to be attended
- If any unexpected or urgent applications are made or required to be defended within the proceedings
- Hearings being taken out of the court list due to the lack of judicial availability shortly before any listed hearing.

Most debt claims are claimed on the basis of contract law. Should a claim require advice of a different area of law, such as landlord and tenant or employment law, we may need to refer your matter to a different department who will charge on a different basis. We will always inform you of the likely costs and seek your authority before taking such steps.