

Details of Our Service and Fees for Immigration Matters¹

We wish to be as clear as reasonably possible regarding the range in potential costs that you may incur if you instruct ebl miller rosenfalck for assisting you with UK immigration applications, British nationality applications and applications for residence in the UK under EU law. None of these applications can be financed under the Legal Aid and Assistance Scheme and therefore funded solely on a private basis.

How we explain our fees to our clients

We provide all clients with a letter of engagement together with our terms and conditions in which we identify the specific details of your proposed application.

Wherever possible we will provide an estimate of costs for the specific matter. Where it is impractical to do so then we will endeavour to provide you with a range of likely fees – as set out below - which is based on our experience of similar applications. If for any reason, our fee is likely to go above the upper estimate fee, then we will inform you in advance and provide an explanation such as the unexpected complexity, the urgency of the matter, specialist resources required (including from other teams, such as the employment or corporate or counsel), or the amount of supporting evidence provided or which we need to consider. The more information you provide at the outset, the more accurate our indication of costs will be and the likely range of costs.

We also offer clients the choice of whether they wish to us to charge on a time spent basis – based on hourly rates referred to below - or fixed fees. Charges based on an hourly rate will include meetings and telephone calls, considering, preparing and working on papers, correspondence, research, speaking with third parties (including but not limited to the Home Office), preparing file notes, travelling to and from meetings, correspondence and making and receiving telephone calls.

Time is charged in six-minute units. Our hourly rates range, depending on the seniority of the team member, from £160 plus VAT for Trainee solicitors to £460 for partners, plus VAT.

What is not included

- Disbursements and VAT (as referred to below)
- Attendance at Home Office Interview
- If your application is refused, advice related to any appeal, review, resubmission or Judicial Review.
- Post completion advice and support

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Our fees and most disbursements costs (referred to in further detail below) are subject to VAT. VAT is currently set at 20%.

Disbursements

In working with you we may incur various expenses (“called disbursements”) which are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties and for which you will be liable. Those disbursements include, but are not limited to: Counsel’s fees, Home Office fees, bank fees, special delivery/courier fees, search fees, Court fees, charted for photocopying, travel charges, expert fees, or translation fees. We will inform you in advance of any disbursements in your matter.

¹ Provided in compliance with the Solicitors Regulation Authority’s (SRA) Transparency Rules.

In some circumstances however disbursements, such as Home Office and embassy fees, are paid direct by you.

The above disbursements vary from matter to matter and can on occasion be significantly more than the ranges given above. We can give you an accurate figure once we have sight of your specific documents and we have discussed the full background with you.

For immigration related court hearings. It is usual for the barrister's clerk (the individual at the barrister's chambers who organises their diaries and agrees the level of fees) to agree that a retainer fee be incurred in advance of any appeal hearing so that they are paid a fee even if the matter does not go to court. We ask for monies on account of anticipated disbursement costs, and also our anticipated fees, to be paid to us on account prior to any hearings.

What services are included

Our work will involve the following (as applicable to your matter)

- Discussing you individual/dependent(s) situation in detail with you and confirming the most appropriate application to make in the circumstances and advising on any other available options;
- Providing you with legal advice regarding the requirements of the UK Immigration Rules;
- If you do not fulfil applicable criteria, discussing potential solutions to resolve any issues;
- Talking you through the application form and requirements;
- Reviewing and considering supporting evidence you have provided;
- Where necessary helping you to obtain further evidence (such as bank statements, supporting statements, expert reports)
- Assisting you with your business or individual application to the Home Office in the UK or embassy, outside the UK;
- Advising you on the outcome of your application and any further steps you should take;
- Attendance at Home Office interview; if the Home Office ask you to attend an interview, we will give you clear advice (and discuss the possibility of us attending with you) at the appropriate time.
- The number of hours to review your documents will vary according to the number and length of documents, whether they need to be translated, whether anything is missing. The time frame may be extended where there are missing documents and you are required to obtain duplicates.
- In the event we attend an interview with you, there is likely to be additional charges and disbursements in respect of our mileage/ travel expense. *

The costs quoted here do not include:

- Any Home Office fees for making the application. You will pay this to the Home Office directly as part of the application process.
- Where the Home Office refuses your application, advice and assistance in relation to any appeal. The cost for this will be discussed beforehand and agreed with you.
- Any other disbursements in relation to your matter for example travel or counsel's fees.

Hourly rates

In some situations, we will be able to cap our fees however in other circumstances, such as immigration appeal hearings, our legal fees will be quoted as an hourly rate fee. The fee will vary according to the complexity of the case and the hourly charge out rate of the member of the immigration team dealing with your case. If we agree to base our legal fee on the hourly rate of the member of the team handling your matter, our legal fee will reflect the time it takes for the relevant person to complete all stages of the matter. The hourly rate will vary depending on the seniority of the team member and any additional requirement for supervision time by a more senior fee earner (if relevant).

How long will my application take to process?

Our pro-active team will advise you on the approximate length of time of the application and approval process. We cannot provide a guarantee on the length of time which may vary due to Home Office resources or rates of applications.

We aim to submit applications within 2-3 weeks from our initial instruction but the time frame can be shorter if your matter is urgent. As above, the time frame may be lengthened where the matter is complicated or document heavy.

In most cases, the Home Office requires significant supporting documentation which can be time consuming to review and collate. However, once we have received the required information, supporting documentation and monies on account, we will normally be able to assist you with your matter shortly thereafter.

The exact number of hours it will take to complete your application, and supporting representations, will depend on the circumstances in your case such as:

- The nature of the application
- Whether this is your first application, an extension or an application following refusal
- The amount of supporting evidence
- Your immigration history
- Criminal checks
- Whether we require an interpreter to translate on your behalf
- Your employment (if relevant) status i.e. whether you are employed, self-employed or a director
- Whether you are applying with other dependants
- Whether any documents are required to be translated
- Whether your application needs to be supported with country expert reports or medical reports
- Whether we need to obtain supporting statements from third parties

If you are able to provide sufficient evidence at our first meeting and you clearly meet the applicable Immigration Rules, the cost is likely to be at the lower end of this range. All fees quoted are exclusive of VAT.

Range of likely fees

Please note that the fee information below is not a quote, and excludes disbursements. If you are in any doubt as to the likely complexity of your application please contact a member of our team to discuss your specific circumstances.

Immigration	Range of likely costs (£UK Sterling) Exc. VAT
Tier 1 Investor – Initial	£4,000 to £8,000
Tier 1 Investor – Extension	£2,000 to £4,000
Tier 1 Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)	£4,000 to £8,000
Tier 1 Innovator – initial	£3,500 to £5,000
Tier 1 Start Up Visa	£3,500 to £5,000
Tier 1 Exceptional Talent	£2,500 to £4,000
Sole Representative – Initial	£3,500 to £5,000
Sole Representative – Extension	£2,000 to £4,000
Tier 2 entry clearance	£3,500 to £5,000
Tier 2 extension	£2,000
Tier 2 ILR	£3,500 to £5,000

Tier 4 – Entry Clearance	£3,500
Tier 5 Youth Mobility	£1,000
Applications under the EEA Regulation's	
Entry Clearance – Spouse Settlement	£3,500 to £5,000
FLR Spouse Settlement	£3,500 to £5,000
ILR – Spouse Settlement	£3,500 to £5,000
Entry Clearance Child settlement	£3,500
Child settlement	£3,500
Elderly dependents	£3,500 to £5,000
Visitor Visa	£500
British Citizenship	£3,000 to £5,000

Tribunal Hearings: Initial filings, preparing and attending £7,000 to £15,000 for a hearing lasting one day. This does not include counsel's fees which generally range from £3,000 to £6,000 for a one-day hearing.

Example factors that could make a case more complex (and expensive) include the following:

- where you have a previous history of non-compliance with immigration laws in the UK or any other country
- where you have a criminal conviction or any issues relating to your past conduct that the Home Office may take to suggest you are not of good character
- where the Home Office asks you to attend an interview, and
- the seniority of the lawyers working on your case

Immigration Appeal Hearings

Immigration appeal hearings are priced at our usual hourly rates. Our charges, for appeal hearings, vary and dependant on the complexity of the matter, number of witnesses involved, whether an expert is required to give evidence, whether an interpreter is required.

In most situations a specialist barrister will carry out the advocacy for you at the appeal hearing and therefore we factor in barrister's fees in our cost estimate. Rates vary according to the seniority of the barrister. Counsel Brief rates for a one-day hearing range from £4,000 to £8,000 which include preparation for the case.

For further information and advice please contact:

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The material contained in this guide is provided for general purposes only and does not constitute legal or other professional advice. Appropriate legal advice should be sought for specific circumstances and before action is taken.