

# MERCERS

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## SOLICITORS

### Pricing information for Debt claims

The Dispute Resolution team charge on a time basis for the work done. The hourly rates vary between £120 and £285 per hour, depending on whether the work is done by a trainee or a partner. Where appropriate we will use a trainee, supervised by a partner, to carry out work to keep your costs low.

### Undisputed Debt claims:

Where your claim is in relation to an unpaid invoice which is not disputed and enforcement action is not needed, our costs will be between £1000 and £3,000 plus vat.

Our fees includes:

- Taking your instructions and reviewing documentation
- Undertaking appropriate searches
- Sending a letter before action
- Receiving payment and sending onto you, or if the debt is not paid, drafting and issuing claim
- Where no Acknowledgment of Service or Defence is received, applying to the court to enter Judgement in default
- When Judgement in default is received, write to the other side to request payment
- If payment is not received within 14 days, providing you with advice on next steps and likely costs

Other costs:

A court fee must be paid on filing the claim. The fee depends on the value of the claim and for claims of over £10,000 the fee will be 5% of the debt.

Matters usually take 5 to 12 weeks from receipt of instructions from you to receipt of payment from the other side, depending on whether or not it is necessary to issue a claim. This is on the basis that the other side pays promptly on receipt of Judgement in default. If enforcement action is needed, the matter will take longer to resolve.

### Disputed Debt Claims

If the other party disputes your claim at any point the fees will increase to reflect the amount of work that will be involved. We estimate that our fees, exclusive of VAT, for representing you in a defended debt claim will be in the region of £20,000 - £50,000 depending on complexity.

These fees will cover pre-action letters or communication with the other party, drafting the claim, drafting witness statements, liaising and advising with you, the court and other parties in relation to the court proceedings and settlement negotiations.

The proceedings will be made more complex, and the fees increased, by factors such as the quantity of relevant evidence that must be disclosed, applications within the proceedings, and the number of parties or experts involved.

We will provide estimates of costs at the outset of a case and updates if the circumstances change.

If the matter is defended, the court proceedings are more likely to take 6-12 months depending on the court and the complexity of the case.

Other costs:

On filing a claim there is a court fee to be paid.

It is likely that we will instruct a barrister to represent you at a court hearing, and possibly to provide advice or drafting in relation to the proceedings. These costs can be substantial and we will provide estimates prior to instructing barristers and ask that you pay these fees in advance.

Depending on the nature of the debt claim, or a counter-claim from the defendant, you may need to instruct an expert. Again these costs can be substantial and you will be asked to pay the fees in advance.