

# STOKE NEWINGTON CHAMBERS

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## ALTERNATIVE FORMAT FACTSHEET

### About me

I am Kristin Heimark, a self-employed, sole practitioner barrister – and Stoke Newington Chambers is my professional home.

I specialise in Criminal, Motoring and Regulatory law and the majority of my time is spent doing this work in the Magistrates Courts for the Crown Prosecution Service, Criminal defence solicitors - and for lay people who come to me direct by way of the Bar's Public Access Scheme. I also deal with Crown Court cases.

I also advise and act for clients in Civil matters such as Contract and Tenancy disputes – as well as Local Authority law - in County Courts, Tribunals and Committees. I tend to do this work by way of the Bar's Public Access Scheme but am occasionally instructed by solicitors to advise and act on their behalf in these matters.

I do not deal with Employment Tribunal cases, financial disputes arising out of divorce, Immigration Appeals (First Tier Tribunal), Inheritance Act advices, Licencing Applications in respect of Business Premises, Personal Injury Claims or Winding-up Petitions under the Public Access Scheme.

### Contact Me

The following are invited to contact me at [hello@stokenewingtonchambers.co.uk](mailto:hello@stokenewingtonchambers.co.uk) for a quote for my barristers' services:

- Solicitors or other practising lawyers;
- Licensed Access clients, who may either hold a licence issued by the Bar Standards Board, or be a member of a professional body which has been recognised by the Bar Standards Board; and
- Members of the public who wish to instruct a barrister under the Public Access scheme.

CHAMBERS OF MISS KRISTIN HEIMARK  
PLEASE ADDRESS ANY POSTAL ENQUIRIES TO THE CARE OF THE CLERK TO MISS  
KRISTIN HEIMARK, HOLBORN CHAMBERS  
6 GATE STREET, LONDON WC2A 3HP  
e: [kkh@stokenewingtonchambers.co.uk](mailto:kkh@stokenewingtonchambers.co.uk)  
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I will provide you with a quote as soon as possible. I always aim to set out quotes clearly, but if you receive your quote and there is something you do not understand, please contact me.

Many prospective clients contact me via [www.stokenewingtonchambers.co.uk](http://www.stokenewingtonchambers.co.uk) where telephone conference appointments can be scheduled without the need for emailing first.

I am also a Door Tenant at Holborn Chambers. A “door tenancy” means that you can also contact me there. Please see the bottom of this page for Holborn Chambers’ postal address.

## Your investment (Fees)

Many clients prefer to know what their total investment will be before committing to professional advice or representation. I charge upfront fixed fees. My aim in offering them is to give you peace of mind.

Below are the fees I typically charge for Public Access Magistrates Court Motoring cases. I will charge extra for my travel fares and hotel near court stay the night before your Hearing or Trial, should I assess this is necessary. I do not charge for other disbursements. There may be occasions where the complexity of the case may mean that that I need to charge more (or less) than the estimates below. Because the following are estimates, I will always give you a bespoke fixed quote by way of a formal proposal.

1. For Public Access Magistrates Court Motoring cases, my fees for written advice start at £999.00 (No VAT is payable). This is a popular option for people who want to represent themselves in court – or get a second opinion.
2. For Public Access Magistrates Court Motoring cases, my fees for where you decide to plead guilty and need representation at your sentencing hearing are typically fixed at £1,049.00 (No VAT is payable). This fee includes a telephone or Zoom or FaceTime conference with you - as well as meeting with you at court before your hearing.
3. If you decide to plead not guilty and need a Public Access Barrister to represent you at a Magistrates Court half-day or less Motoring trial, my fee is typically fixed at £1,549.00 (No VAT is payable). This fee includes a telephone or Zoom

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or FaceTime conference with you - as well as meeting with you at court before your hearing.

4. If you decide to plead not guilty and need a Public Access Barrister for a full-day Magistrates Court Motoring trial, my fee is typically fixed at £2,499.00 (No VAT is payable). This fee includes a telephone or Zoom or FaceTime conference with you - as well as meeting with you at court before your hearing.

## **A word about “refreshers” and why I don’t use them**

A refresher is a fixed agreed fee for trials that are planned and listed to run for two or more days. Typically, a barrister would charge a higher amount for the first day – and then a lesser amount for the following days. Given that most Magistrates Court Trials and Hearings are listed for one day or less, I do not usually refer to refreshers in my contracts for services.

I typically draft contracts for my services for Trials and other Hearings to be performed on and at specific single dates, places, and times.

You should be aware that sometimes Magistrates Court Trials run over (go “part-heard”) their court allotted time and continue at later date. Other times, you may attend court as scheduled, but the court cannot deal with your case that day - or either you or the prosecution are granted an adjournment to another day.

Because I do not include refreshers in my contracts (unless your case is listed as a multi-day Trial), if your case goes over to another date for any reason, a new contract for services between us for me to cover that new date (subject to my availability), with a further fee payable, will need to be agreed for you to secure my services for that later date. Usually, that further fee will be commensurate with the previous fee charged. Please contact me for a quote.

## **Other investment information**

Upfront fixed fees are also available for other cases. Please contact me for a quote.

Some Public Access clients prefer for me to quote and charge an hourly rate. My hourly rate is £250.00 (No VAT is payable). If a period of work is less than one hour, I charge

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*pro rata* in 6-minute units. One hour is my minimum fee. The agreed fee must be paid in full before I start working on your case.

All Public Access fees are payable upfront. I will not start working on your case until payment in full has been made and cleared funds have been received. Bank transfers and card payments are accepted. I do not accept payment by cheque. Details of how you can pay my fee are given after I have offered to take on your case and you have signed and returned my contract for services / client care letter.

My fees for instructions via solicitors will vary depending on the amount of work I am asked to do. All instructions via solicitors are taken subject to [THE STANDARD CONTRACTUAL TERMS FOR THE SUPPLY OF LEGAL SERVICES BY BARRISTERS TO AUTHORISED PERSONS 2012 \(UPDATED FOR THE GDPR IN 2018\)](#).

I do not accept instructions under conditional fee agreements (“no win, no fee” agreements).

## **Timescales**

Timescales for a case may vary depending on factors such as my availability, the type and complexity of the case, the other side’s approach, and court waiting times.

I am sometimes available for last minute instructions – so it is always worth checking my availability.

## **Public Access**

If you are a member of the public, the [Bar Standards Board’s Public Access Guidance for Lay Clients is enclosed](#). This will help you to understand how the Public Access scheme works and explains how you can use it to instruct barristers directly.

## **Regulatory and Complaints Information**

Barristers in chambers are regulated by the Bar Standards Board. You can search the Barristers’ Register on the Bar Standards Board’s website: <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/regulatory-requirements/the-barristers-register/>

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The Barristers' Register shows (1) whether a barrister has a current practising certificate, and (2) whether a barrister has any disciplinary findings, which are published on the Bar Standards Board's website in accordance with their policy. Alternatively, you can contact the Bar Standards Board on 020 7611 1444 to ask about this (or e-mail [ContactUs@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk](mailto:ContactUs@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk)).

A [separate sheet](#) is enclosed which provides information about:

- My complaints procedure;
- Any right you may have to complain to the Legal Ombudsman (LeO) – the independent body which can help you if you have complained to your lawyer and are not happy with their response;
- How to complain to LeO; and
- Any time limits for making a complaint.

You can also search the decision data on LeO's website <http://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/raising-standards/data-and-decisions/#ombudsmandecision-data>

This shows providers which received an ombudsman's decision in the previous 12 months, and whether LeO required the provider to give the consumer a remedy.

Alternatively, you can contact LeO on 0300 555 0333 to ask about this (or e-mail [enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk)).

I hope this factsheet gives you the information you need to make an informed decision.

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Please feel free to contact me for further information and / or to find out how I can help you with your case.

To your success,

Kristin Heimark

**BARRISTER**

*(Authorised by the Bar Standards Board to conduct litigation)*