

# NORTHERN IRELAND COUNTY COURT RULES COMMITTEE

CONSULTATION

SCALE COSTS

County Court Rules Committee

Secretariat

15 May 2026

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## Executive Summary

Following a 2021 public consultation, in January 2026, the Minister of Justice stated her intention to increase the general financial jurisdiction of the County Court to £60,000 and the jurisdiction of the District Judges to £20,000. Additionally, the upper financial limit for defamation proceedings is to be increased to £10,000. The Minister wishes to make these changes in Autumn 2026, subject to amendments to the County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981 and to the Department of Justice making changes to legal aid legislation.

In furtherance of its statutory duty to make rules specifying costs applicable to proceedings before the County Court, the County Court Rules Committee has considered the manner of awarding costs for matters falling within the new jurisdictional limits. This paper seeks views on the Committee proposals.

The proposals recognise the merits of the existing system for the payment of costs, which has long been perceived as a positive attribute of the County Court system for all involved in litigation. The Committee proposes to maintain that structure and build on existing scales by providing six additional bands to specify costs for matters within the general civil jurisdiction up to the new limit of £60,000 and, for defamation matters, three additional bands up to the new limit of £10,000. In adopting that approach, the Committee is acknowledging that one of the benefits of the proposed increase in jurisdictional limits is enhanced access to the more straightforward procedures applicable in the County Courts to which it is committed to retaining and reviewing in the hope of further streamlining.

In deciding the additional bands, the Committee has taken account of the existing County Court scales and scales currently applicable to matters valued up to £60,000 in High Court proceedings (Belfast Solicitors' Association; Motor Insurers; Comerton). Consequently, the Committee is assured that the new scales not only represent fair and reasonable remuneration but that, in conjunction with the increase in jurisdiction, an increased number of court users will have access to the more straightforward procedures of the County Court at a cost below that presently paid for proceedings that come within the new jurisdiction.

The Committee is consulting also on a proposed amendment to Order 55, rule 11(1)(ba) of the County Court Rules to include specified lung diseases within the categories of cases where a judge or district judge may order an enhancement of costs if satisfied that the issues are of particular complexity.

Due to the relatively short timeframe between the announcement of the Minister's decision to increase the financial jurisdiction of the County Court and the proposed implementation date, it has not been feasible to conduct an initial consultation with key stakeholders.

Final decisions on the proposals will be informed by responses to this consultation.

## 1. Introduction

**1.1** By virtue of Articles 47 and 48 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980<sup>1</sup> and section 21(1) and (2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954<sup>2</sup>, the County Court Rules Committee may make rules specifying costs applicable to proceedings before the court.

**1.2** In light of the January 2026 announcement that the Minister of Justice intends to increase the general financial jurisdiction of the county courts to £60,000 and the jurisdiction of the District Judges to £20,000 as well as increase the upper financial limit for defamation proceedings to £10,000, this consultation paper seeks views on proposals of the Rules Committee to insert additional bands into the existing County Court scale costs to specify the costs applicable to proceedings which fall within the proposed new general jurisdictional limit of £60,000 and proceedings which fall within the proposed new defamation jurisdictional limit of £10,000.

**1.3** The Committee is sending this consultation paper to relevant organisations, groups and individuals with an interest in the legal system in Northern Ireland (listed at Appendix 1). The list of consultees is not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive, and responses are welcomed from anyone with views on the subject covered by this paper which is available on the JudiciaryNI website at [www.judiciaryni.uk](http://www.judiciaryni.uk).

**1.4** The Committee welcomes views on any issue raised by this document. Responses are welcomed from organisations and individuals.

**1.5** It is not the purpose of this paper to consider the merits of forthcoming changes in the financial jurisdictions of the County Courts. That issue has already been the subject of a public consultation exercise, copies of which can be obtained from the Department of Justice website.

**1.6** An equality screening exercise has been carried out on the Committee's proposals. Comments you may have on that assessment are also welcomed.

**1.7** Please respond by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026** to:

**Email:** [nirulescommittees@courtsni.gov.uk](mailto:nirulescommittees@courtsni.gov.uk)

**Post:** **Steven Lowry, Consultation Coordinator**  
Secretariat to the County Court Rules Committee  
Lady Chief Justice's Office  
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Chichester Street  
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<sup>1</sup> [County Courts \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1980](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Interpretation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1954](#)

## **2. Background**

**2.1** Legal costs payable between parties in County Court proceedings in Northern Ireland are determined in accordance with the rules and scales set out in Appendix 2 of the County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981 ('the County Court Rules') which can be found on the legislation.gov website at: [Appendix 2 - County Court Rules \(Northern Ireland\) 1981](#).

**2.2** The County Court Rules Committee has statutory responsibility for making rules which regulate the practice and procedure of the County Court, including legal costs payable between the parties. Once the Committee has made rules, which are a form of secondary legislation, they are submitted to the Department of Justice which, after consulting the Lady Chief Justice, may allow or disallow the rules. Rules are laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly after they are made and allowed and are subject to the Assembly's negative resolution procedure.

**2.3** In 2001, the Committee undertook a fundamental review of scale costs which examined the system on which scale costs are based. The review was informed by the views of a wide range of consultees, as well as responses to an earlier consultation conducted by the Civil Justice Reform Group. At that time, the Committee concluded it was desirable to retain the system of scale costs. As a consequence of that review, changes to the County Court Rules came into effect on 3 March 2003 which decreased the number of monetary bands within the scales, significantly increased the level of costs payable and made provision for a one-third uplift of costs, at the discretion of the judge, in complex cases.

**2.4** The Committee further reviewed scale costs in 2006. It decided that a fundamental review was not necessary at that time and the Committee brought forward an inflationary uplift to scale costs with effect from 7 January 2008.

**2.5** Prompted by the Department of Justice's decision in 2010 to increase the general civil jurisdiction of the County Court from £15,000 to £30,000, the Committee conducted another review of scale costs during 2011/12. That review also looked at practices and procedures in light of the proposed jurisdictional increase. As a result, on 25 February 2013, three additional new monetary bands were introduced to take account of the increase in the general civil jurisdiction from £15,000 to £30,000 on the same date. Existing scale costs were increased by 2% and with a further 2% increase coming into effect one year later. On the same date, practice and procedural changes were introduced together with two Pre-Action Protocols concerning personal injury cases and clinical negligence cases respectively. During the 2011/12 review, the Committee proposed to review scale costs fully eighteen months later and to review the practice and procedural changes, together with the operation of the Pre-Action Protocols, two years after they came into operation. Also, the Committee deferred consideration of issues relating to the jurisdiction of the small claims court, lodgements, offers to settle and sharing of medical evidence.

**2.6** In February 2014, the Committee considered its commitment to review scale costs at that time. Mindful that the increase in the civil jurisdiction of the County Court had come into operation later than had been anticipated, after consultation with representative bodies and interested parties, the Committee postponed its next review of scale costs until 2015.

**2.7** Following the 2015/2016 review, scale costs were increased by 1.5% in 2017 and by a further 1.5% in 2018. With regard to recent practice and procedural changes in the County Court and other procedural issues, the Committee proposed that it would consider whether it is necessary to review practices and procedures in the County Court more fully once Lord Justice Gillen’s Review of Civil and Family Justice was completed. The Reports of the Review of Civil and Family Justice were formally launched on 5 September 2017. Implementation is being taken forward by the relevant Northern Ireland government departments and the shadow Civil Justice Council.

**2.8** At the time of the 2015/2016 review, the Committee proposed that future reviews of scale costs should take place on a two-year cycle. In light of consultation responses and mindful of the secretariat resources required to support such reviews, the Committee resolved ultimately that it would review scale costs on a three-year cycle, to run from the implementation of the review in 2018. Subsequently, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and its associated outworkings delayed commencement of the planned review until 2023.

**2.9** The Committee next reviewed scale costs during 2023/2024 which resulted in a 23% inflationary uplift to scale costs in November 2025. The Committee did not consider that a fundamental review was necessary at that time and agreed to take forward a more detailed review of the scale costs system before 2030.

### **Impetus for change**

**2.10** The power to amend the jurisdictional limits applicable to the County Court rests with the Department of Justice<sup>3</sup> which, on 4 February 2021, published a [Consultation on increasing the jurisdiction of county court](#). The paper sought views on proposals to increase the financial limit of the general civil jurisdiction of the County Courts from the current level of £30,000. The paper also considered the options for increases in the financial limits of the District Judges’ court.

**2.11** In the [Consultation response](#) published on 23 November 2021, the Department indicated an intention to establish a Working Group to further analyse the practical implementation of some of the key consultation questions in the following Northern Ireland Assembly mandate.

**2.12** In January 2026, the Minister of Justice stated her intention to increase the general financial jurisdiction of the County Court to £60,000 and the jurisdiction of the District Judges to £20,000. Additionally, the upper financial limit for defamation proceedings is to be increased to £10,000. The Minister wishes to make these changes in Autumn 2026, subject to amendments to the County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981 and legal aid legislation.

**2.13** The proposal to increase the general financial jurisdiction and the defamation jurisdiction of the County Court requires that the manner of awarding costs for matters falling between the current and the new limits be considered.

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<sup>3</sup> The power to amend jurisdictional limits is exercisable by statutory rule under Article 22 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980.

**2.14** The legal costs payable to a successful party in the County Court are set out in Appendix 2 of the County Court Rules in a fixed scale up to the current general jurisdictional limit of £30,000 and the jurisdictional limit in defamation proceedings of £3,000. The scales are set out in bands related to the value of the case. Costs for matters valued above the current jurisdictional limits, which are currently heard in the High Court, are set differently, being either subject to agreement between the parties or assessment by the Taxing Master, who decides what constitutes fair and reasonable remuneration bases on an hourly rate determined by him (presently £155).

**2.15** The proposal to increase the jurisdiction of the County Court to £60,000 requires that the divergence in the two processes for awarding costs be considered.

### Power to Specify Costs

**2.16** By virtue of Articles 47 and 48 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 ('the 1980 Order') it is for the Committee established under Article 46 of that Order to make such rules in relation to the jurisdiction exercisable by County Courts as are referred to in section 21(1) and (2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954. Section 21(1) of the 1954 Act provides that rules regulating practice and procedure may also prescribe costs.

**2.17** Rules made by the Rules Committee must be submitted to the Department of Justice which, after consulting the Lady Chief Justice, may allow or disallow them.

### Approach

**2.18** The provisions governing the making of County Court rules do not contain any direction as to how the Rules Committee is to approach the task of specifying legal costs payable between the parties. The Rules Committee takes the view that it should ensure that costs are 'fair and reasonable'. To do so, the Committee takes into account the essential guiding elements which informed the fundamental review carried out in 2001. Those were:

- (a) professional services require a fair and reasonable return for work done;
- (b) whether any proposal would constitute fair and reasonable remuneration should be assessed by considering what might be the result if cases were subject to taxation, using acceptable principles. In that regard, the assessment would address an appropriate hourly rate as well as information from the Taxing Master;
- (c) while it was proper to have regard to any scale fees prescribed for England and Wales, such work would require to be comparable and in that regard there appeared to be agreement that fast track costs in England and Wales were different from the County Court scale costs and operated on a different premise and for a different purpose;
- (d) the Civil Justice Reform Group expected the advantage of the Northern Ireland civil justice system being less expensive than that in England and Wales to be maintained in the future and that the Rules Committee would be alert to keeping the costs of litigation in the County Courts in Northern

Ireland as economical as possible, consistent with the need to ensure that professional services are properly remunerated. This reflected the comments of the then Lord Chief Justice in *Re C&H Jefferson* [1998] NI 404 at 408 when he observed that the County Court should be a court 'in respect of whose proceedings the costs and fees should be both moderate and ascertainable'; and

- (e) the Committee should seek to maintain the principle that there should be a measure of proportionality between the amounts awarded and costs.

**2.19** The Committee noted also that the 2001 review considered that the principle of 'swings and roundabouts' (an exercise in balancing out over a number of cases following the principle that 'what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts') remained fundamental to the operation of scale costs and that account was taken of cases which are particularly complex and demanding by introducing the discretionary uplift. Additionally, the Committee noted Treacy J's analysis of the swings and roundabouts principle in *In re Burns* [2015] NIQB 24:

'[30] Many criminal cases involve, comparatively speaking, reduced levels of risk and follow predictable paths. Standard cases are characterized by broadly predictable and uniform elements such as the amount of preparation time required, the duration of the advocate's commitment to the case and the range of potential outcomes to the proceedings. These elements are uniform in the sense that they fall within normal ranges which apply to all cases within that category. The range allows for a degree of variation between cases but this variation is not such as to make an individual case within the category anything other than a standard case. Such cases may well be appropriate for remuneration by scale fees and indeed for the operation of the 'swings and roundabouts' principle because between cases properly within standard categories the scope for *gross* under- or overpayment does not arise.'

**Question 1: Do you agree that the guiding principles used in the 2001 Review should be applied?**

### Consultation

**2.20** Due to the relatively short timeframe between the announcement of the Minister's decision and the proposed implementation date, it has not been feasible to adopt the approach previously taken of conducting an initial consultation with key stakeholders.

### 3. Proposals

#### Bands

**3.1** The Committee proposes that scale costs should extend to the new general civil jurisdiction of £60,000 and that there should be six additional bands each of £5,000 from £30,000 to £60,000.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Question 2: Do you agree with the insertion of six additional bands at intervals of £5,000?**

**3.2** The Committee proposes that scale costs should extend to the new financial jurisdiction of £10,000 for libel and slander cases<sup>5</sup>. The current bands rise in £500 intervals and so, to avoid a steep and accelerating upward trajectory resulting in costs/fees at the upper end which are not fair and reasonable, the Committee proposes that there should be three new bands as follows:

- £3,000 – £5,000;
- £5,000 – £7,500; and
- £7,500 – £10,000.

#### **Question 3: Do you agree with the insertion of three additional bands at the proposed intervals?**

**3.3** The Committee considers that the insertion of bands at these intervals for cases within the general civil jurisdiction and the defamation jurisdiction provides certainty to parties to litigation and continues the practice in the County Court of costs being awarded by reference to a scale which allows parties to assess the likely financial risks of litigation.

#### Setting the New Scales

##### General Civil Jurisdiction

**3.4** The Committee's approach to establishing fair and reasonable remuneration in respect of solicitor's costs in the new bands was to derive the midpoints of the Belfast Solicitors' Association ('BSA') scale and the Insurers' Scale, establish the average and apply a 20% percent reduction to reflect the relative procedural simplicity of litigating in the County Court compared to the High Court while also taking account of the additional work generated by the increased financial jurisdiction of the County Court and the operation of County Court Pre-Action Protocols.

**3.5** For counsel's fees, the Committee considered the Comerton Scale for High Court Costs, appropriately adjusted for junior counsel, applied a percentage reduction and rounded down. The Committee recognises that this resulted in the 'step-up' to the £30,000–£35,000 band being modest, however, it considers the overall tapering of the proposed scale to be consistent with the established swings and roundabouts principle.

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<sup>4</sup> To be inserted into County Court Rules, Appendix 2: Part 1, Table 1 (Ordinary Civil Bills: Plaintiff & Defendant's Costs); Part 1, Table 2 (Un defended Actions: Plaintiff's Costs); and Part 2, Table 1 (Remitted Actions: Plaintiff's Costs).

<sup>5</sup> County Court Rules, Appendix 2, Tables 3 & 4. The figures in Table 4 mirror those in Table 3 and so, in the interests of clarity, the Committee intends to amalgamate them into a single Table 3.

**3.6** The Committee considers that the proposed figures for counsel's fees sit comfortably with both the existing County Court scales and the Comerton Scale, preserve predictability and simplicity, acknowledge the additional layer of complexity involved in higher-value cases, appropriately bridge the gap between the existing upper band and the first new band and reflect that consultations and directing proofs will not attract ancillary fees in the County Court.

**Question 4: Do you agree with the Committee's approach to establishing fair and reasonable remuneration in respect of the six new bands?**

**3.7** For proceedings where no notice of intention to defend is served, the Committee proposes a flat rate increase of £125 be applied cumulatively to each new band on the basis that £125 is the single biggest increase between bands in the existing scale. The Committee considers that a flat rate increase avoids a disproportionate escalation of fees which would not be justified given the nature of undefended proceedings.

**Question 5: Do you agree with the Committee's approach to setting the scale costs for proceedings where no intention to defend is served?**

**3.8** While empirical data was not available from the Departmental Solicitor's Office, the Crown Solicitor's Office or the Legal Services Agency, and data of sufficient volume was not obtainable from the Taxing Office, the Committee is satisfied that adequate comparative material and information regarding historic methodologies was available to support the conclusion that the proposals represent fair and reasonable remuneration by producing coherent, upwardly progressive scales with the benefit of avoiding regression or distortion within the first of the new bands above £30,000.

### **Defamation Jurisdiction**

**3.9** In relation to libel and slander, in order to provide a stable and representative measure of progression, the Committee calculated the average percentage increase across the existing successive bands and applied that average percentage increase to the costs and fees within the new bands.

**Question 6: Do you agree with the Committee's approach to setting the appropriate scale costs for defamation cases?**

### **Remitted Actions**

**3.10** A defendant's costs in remitted actions<sup>6</sup> are equal to those payable in respect of the highest band of plaintiff's costs in remitted actions<sup>7</sup>. The Committee proposes therefore that the costs in the new highest band of plaintiff's costs be applied to defendant's costs in remitted actions.

**Question 7: Do you agree with the Committee's proposal in relation to the defendant's costs in remitted actions?**

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<sup>6</sup> Appendix 2, Table 2 of Part II

<sup>7</sup> Appendix 2, Table 1 of Part II

## The new Scales

**3.11** Applying the approaches set out above, using the methodologies summarised in Appendix 2, the Committee proposes the new scales detailed in Appendix 3 which the Committee considers achieve consistency with established methodology, continuity with the recent inflationary uplifts, avoidance of distortion or regression in the scales and represent fair and reasonable remuneration.

**Question 8: Do you agree with the proposed scale costs detailed in Appendix 2?**

## Additional day hearings

**3.12** At present, each additional day a hearing runs, solicitor's costs are 50% of the scale costs on the amount claimed/decreed (as appropriate) up to a ceiling of £600. See for example, Appendix 2, Part 1, Table 1, Note 5 of the County Court Rules.

**3.13** The 2025 scale costs uplift did not apply the inflationary uplift to the existing ceiling on a solicitor's 'refresher fee'. Had the relevant inflationary uplift been applied in 2025, the ceiling would have risen to £738. The Committee proposes to apply the 2025 inflationary uplift together with a further increase to reflect the increase in the County Court's jurisdiction and the likely consequential increase in the complexity of proceedings before the County Court. The Committee proposes therefore that the ceiling on a solicitor's refresher fees be amended to £1,000. This figure remains below the High Court half-day refresher fee and appropriately reflects the relative procedural simplicity of the County Court, while recognising the increased demands placed on practitioners in cases lasting more than one day.

**Question 9: Do you agree with the Committee's proposal that the ceiling on solicitor's costs for an additional day should be raised to £1,000?**

## Proposed amendment to Order 55, rule 11

**3.14** Order 55, rule 11(1)(ba) of the County Court Rules includes claims for "diffuse mesothelioma or any asbestosis-related disease" within the categories of cases where, under rule 11(2), a judge or district judge may order an enhancement of costs if satisfied that the issues are of particular complexity. In accordance with rule 11(3), the enhancement is fixed at one-third of the scale fee.

**3.15** The Committee considers that, given the complexity of cases involving claims of lung disease, such cases should be eligible for enhanced costs. It further considers that, for clarity, the relevant lung diseases should be specified. The Committee proposes therefore to amend rule 11(1)(ba) to replace the reference to "any asbestosis-related disease" with the following list of diseases drawn up by reference to Part 6B (*Lung Disease*) of the [Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages in Personal Injury Cases in Northern Ireland](#) (6<sup>th</sup> Edn):

- (a) Pleural Plaques
- (b) Pleural thickening with functional impairment
- (c) Lung cancer
- (d) Asthma
- (e) Chronic Bronchitis

- (f) Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease, and
- (g) Mild respiratory conditions, including mild bronchitis.

**Question 10: Do you agree that the rules should allow for the enhancement of costs in cases involving claims for these diseases?**

#### **4. Impact Assessment**

**4.1** The Committee recognises that it is good practice to assess the impact of policy proposals and therefore the Secretariat has carried out an initial Equality Impact Assessment screening exercise. Comments are welcome on any aspect of the equality screening assessment. Responses to this consultation will be used to inform the final impact assessment.

**Question 11: What, if any, other matters should be taken into account when assessing the impact of the proposals in this paper?**

## 5. Responding

- 5.1 The final closing date for responses to this consultation is 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026.
- 5.2 Responses should be submitted, preferably using the questionnaire which accompanies this document, to:

**Email:** [nirulescommittees@courtsni.gov.uk](mailto:nirulescommittees@courtsni.gov.uk)

**Post:** Steven Lowry  
Secretariat to the County Court Rules Committee  
Lady Chief Justice's Office  
Royal Courts of Justice  
Chichester Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3JF

**Tel:** 028 9072 4649

5.3 When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the view of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

5.4 This consultation document is available at [www.judiciaryni.uk](http://www.judiciaryni.uk).

5.5 A list of consultees who have been notified about this consultation is presented at Appendix 1.

### **Confidentiality**

5.6 At the end of the consultation period copies of responses received by the Committee may be made publicly available. The information they contain may also be published in a summary of responses. If such a summary is published, it will be made available on the JudiciaryNI website. **If you do not want all or part of your response or name made public, please state this clearly in your response.** Any confidentiality disclaimer that may be generated by you or by your organisation's IT system will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

5.7 Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004; however, all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

**5.8** Please contact the Secretariat to the County Court Rules Committee at the above address to request copies of consultation responses. An administrative charge may be made to cover photocopying of the responses and postage costs.

### Complaints

**5.9** If you have any comments about the way this consultation has been conducted, these should be sent to the Secretary to the County Court Committee at the above address.

### Additional Copies

**5.10** You may make copies of this document without seeking permission. If you require printed copies of the consultation document, we would invite you to access the document through our website and make the copies yourself. If you do not have access to the internet and require us to provide you with hard copies, please contact the Consultation Coordinator with your specific request.

**5.11** This document is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact Consultation Coordinator at the address above with your request.

### What Happens Next?

**5.12** Decisions taken in the light of the consultation shall be made public by way of publication of the relevant amendment rules or otherwise with a summary of the views expressed (subject to respondents' requests for confidentiality) and reasons for the decisions finally taken.

### Publication of Results

**5.13** The information you send to the Committee may need to be shared with officials in the Lady Chief Justice's Office and/or published in a summary of responses to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by email, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

## Appendix 1 – Consultees

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Association of British Insurers  
Advice NI  
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers  
Association of District Judges  
Bar Council of Northern Ireland  
British Insurance Brokers Association  
CBI Northern Ireland  
Consumer Council for Northern Ireland  
Council of His Majesty’s County Court Judges  
Crown Solicitor for Northern Ireland  
Department of Finance  
Department of Health  
Department for Infrastructure  
Department of Justice  
Departmental Solicitor for Northern Ireland  
Directorate of Legal Services  
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Forum of Insurance Lawyers  
Judges’ Council  
Law Centre (NI)  
Law Society of Northern Ireland  
Logistics UK  
Medical Protection Society  
Medical & Dental Defence Union of Scotland  
Mineral Products Association Northern Ireland  
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission  
Personal Injuries Bar Association  
Shadow Civil Justice Council  
Taxing Master

## Appendix 2 – Summary of Methodology

### A. SOLICITOR'S COSTS/ FEES

#### Part I, Table 1 – Ordinary Civil Bills

#### Calculation of inflation-adjusted mid-point average of existing scales

- The mid-point average was calculated of two core reference datasets relied upon in earlier reviews:
  - the Belfast Solicitors' Association Scale (Figure A1); and
  - the Insurers' Scale (2014) to which an inflationary uplift, using the GDP deflator, was applied (Figure A2).

Figure A1

FIGURES FROM BELFAST SOLICITORS' ASSOCIATION

	Before issue	After issue	After	Within 21	Openin	Average
£30,000-£34,999	£6,323.00	£9,690.00	£9,964.00	£12,654.00	£14,455.00	£10,617.20
£35,000-£39,999	£7,319.00	£10,891.00	£11,423.00	£13,368.00	£15,170.00	£11,634.20
£40,000-£44,999	£7,790.00	£11,620.00	£12,152.00	£14,098.00	£15,899.00	£12,311.80
£45,000-£49,999	£8,223.00	£12,365.00	£12,722.00	£14,820.00	£16,621.00	£12,950.20
£50,000-£54,999	£8,763.00	£13,087.00	£13,619.00	£15,268.00	£17,358.00	£13,619.00
£55,000-£59,999	£9,249.00	£13,824.00	£14,356.00	£16,294.00	£18,088.00	£14,362.20

Figure A2

FIGURES FROM INSURERS' SCALE

	Up to Defence		After COR		After Trial Date Fixed		After Hearing		Average	34% Uplift
	Motor	Other	Motor	Other	Motor	Other	Motor	Other		
£30,001-£35,000	£3,600.00	£3,750.00	£4,300.00	£4,450.00	£4,750.00	£4,900.00	£5,000.00	£5,250.00	£4,500.00	£6,030.00
£35,001-£40,000	£4,000.00	£4,200.00	£4,500.00	£4,650.00	£5,000.00	£5,150.00	£5,250.00	£5,500.00	£4,781.25	£6,406.88
£40,001-£45,000	£4,150.00	£4,350.00	£4,750.00	£4,800.00	£5,250.00	£5,400.00	£5,500.00	£5,850.00	£5,006.25	£6,708.38
£45,001-£50,000	£4,300.00	£4,500.00	£5,000.00	£5,200.00	£5,500.00	£5,750.00	£5,850.00	£6,200.00	£5,287.50	£7,085.25
£50,001-£55,000	£4,400.00	£4,600.00	£5,300.00	£5,500.00	£5,750.00	£6,000.00	£6,200.00	£6,550.00	£5,537.50	£7,420.25
£55,001-£60,000	£4,500.00	£4,700.00	£5,600.00	£5,800.00	£6,000.00	£6,250.00	£6,500.00	£6,950.00	£5,787.50	£7,755.25

- Notes on core datasets:

- When calculating BSA averages, the full BSA dataset was used, including the Opening Day of Trial costs which had been excluded from methodology in the 2011 review on the basis that it was not incurred in every case and could have led to distortion of the representative averages. Exclusion in the current exercise

led to figures being generated for the new £30,000–£35,000 band which were either below, or insufficiently higher than, the existing scale costs applicable to cases up to £30,000, thereby creating a flattening effect; and

- The Insurers’ Scale (2014) was uplifted using the GDP deflator published on [3 March 2026](#) to bring the figures into line with present day values on the basis that the GDP deflator is the official measure of whole-economy inflation used by HM Treasury and the Office for Budget Responsibility and has been the inflation measure used by the County Court Rules Committee previously, including the review which led to 2025 inflationary uplift in scale costs. The methodology took the standard GDP deflator formula:

$$\text{Inflation Percentage} = \frac{\text{Final Deflator} - \text{Initial Deflator}}{\text{Initial Deflator}} \times 100$$

and applied it to the period 2014 to 2024 to an inflationary increase of approximately 33.95%, rounded to 34% for consistency. This was applied uniformly to the Insurers’ Scale figures:

3. The midpoints between the two datasets for each £5,000 band between £30,000 and £60,000 were calculated, continuing the midpoint-based methodology adopted in earlier reviews.
4. Also in keeping with the methodology of previous reviews, a range of percentage reductions was applied to the midpoints to derive potential County Court scale costs for cases falling within the new financial jurisdiction.
5. At earlier reviews, reductions of 23% to 25% approximately had been applied to reflect the differences between High Court and County Court procedures. To test outcomes across a realistic spectrum and assess the impact of different levels of adjustment, reductions of 25%, 23%, 20%, 18% and 15% were modelled as set out in Figure A3.

Figure A3

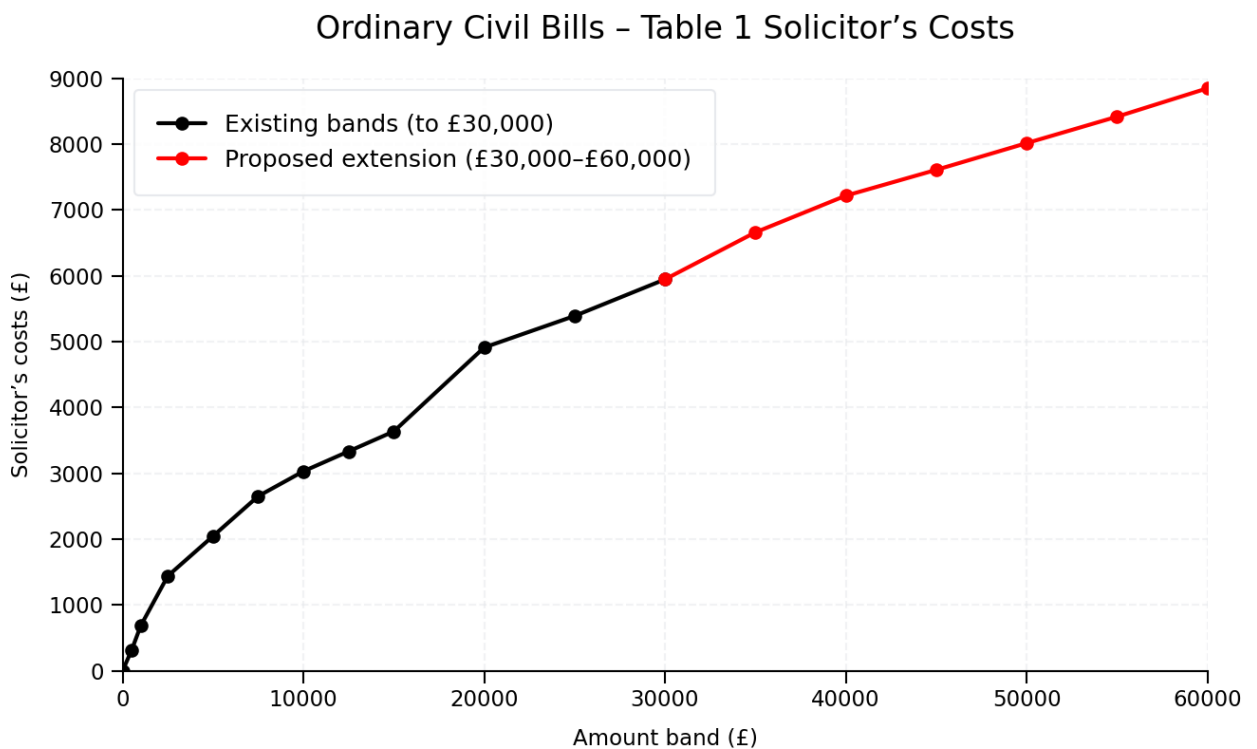
BAND	AVERAGE FROM BSA	AVERAGE FROM INSURERS’ SCALE + 34%	MIDPOINT	MIDPOINT - 25%	MIDPOINT - 23%	MIDPOINT - 20%	MIDPOINT - 18%	MIDPOINT - 15%
£30,000-£35,000	£10,617.20	£6,030.00	£8,323.60	£6,242.70	£6,409.17	£6,658.88	£6,825.35	£7,075.06
£35,000-£40,000	£11,634.20	£6,406.88	£9,020.54	£6,765.40	£6,945.81	£7,216.43	£7,396.84	£7,667.46
£40,000-£45,000	£12,311.80	£6,708.38	£9,510.09	£7,132.57	£7,322.77	£7,608.07	£7,798.27	£8,083.57
£45,000-£50,000	£12,950.20	£7,085.25	£10,017.73	£7,513.29	£7,713.65	£8,014.18	£8,214.53	£8,515.07
£50,000-£55,000	£13,619.00	£7,420.25	£10,519.63	£7,889.72	£8,100.11	£8,415.70	£8,626.09	£8,941.68
£55,000-£60,000	£14,362.20	£7,755.25	£11,058.73	£8,294.04	£8,515.22	£8,846.98	£9,068.15	£9,399.92

6. This comparative exercise enabled assessment of the visual progression of the scale, the relationship between adjacent bands, and the extent to which each reduction

either preserved or distorted the established County Court scale costs relativities when extended beyond £30,000.

7. Reductions below 20% produced figures insufficiently differentiated from High Court costs, while reductions at 23% and 25%, when applied to the inflation-adjusted midpoints, risked under-representing the additional work that would be required following the increase in the County Court’s jurisdiction and the operation of the County Court pre-action protocols. Accordingly, a 20% reduction has been applied when reaching the proposed figures.
8. Graph A1 illustrates the progression of solicitor’s costs showing the existing scale applicable to cases up to £30,000 and the proposed extension of the scale to £60,000 with a 20% reduction applied. Each circular marker denotes an individual band value. The graph shows a smooth and coherent continuation of the existing scale, with no regression or flattening at the £30,000 threshold, and confirms that the extended scale remains proportionate, with the upper band falling below £9,000. The use of a common origin for both axes highlights the consistency of the overall upward trajectory.

Graph A1



Part 1, Table 2 - Undefended Actions (Solicitor’s Costs)

9. Table 2 of Part 1 to Appendix 2 sets out plaintiff’s costs in cases where no notice of intention to defend is served and judgment is marked under Order 12 of the County Court Rules.

10. Table 2 performs a distinct function within the County Court costs framework, providing a simple and predictable scale for undefended proceedings and forming the basis for the calculation of 21-day costs under Order 55. Against this background, two potential methodologies were examined: (i) a fixed-increase model and (ii) a percentage-increase model.

#### *Fixed-Increase Model*

11. The fixed-increase model applies a constant monetary uplift to each newly-created band above the existing upper limit of £30,000.
12. Analysis of the existing costs demonstrated that the increases between bands are not uniform. In particular, the largest single monetary increase between any two existing consecutive bands is £125, occurring between the £1,000–£5,000 band (£242) and the £5,000–£10,000 band (£367).
13. This ‘maximum-increase’ figure represents the point within the original structure where the underlying rationale of the table requires a meaningful but proportionate uplift and therefore offers an appropriate benchmark for extending the scale into higher-value bands.
14. On that basis, applying a £125 fixed uplift to each additional £5,000 band above £30,000 produces a straightforward and internally coherent extension of the costs table as set out in Figure A4.

#### *Figure A4*

*Costs where no notice of intention to defend is served and judgment is marked under Order 12*

**Table 2: Plaintiff's Costs**

	<i>In actions where amount decreed—</i>	<i>Where the sum claimed and costs specified in the civil bill not paid within 21 days of service</i>
	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>
(i)	exceeds £500 but does not exceed £1,000	£132
(ii)	exceeds £1000 but does not exceed £5,000	£242
(iii)	exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £10,000	£367
(iv)	exceeds £10,000 but does not exceed £15,000	£471
(v)	exceeds £15,000 but does not exceed £20,000	£557
(vi)	exceeds £20,000 but does not exceed £25,000	£631
(vii)	exceeds £25,000 but does not exceed £30,000	£717
(viii)	exceeds £30,000 but does not exceed £35,000	£842
(ix)	exceeds £35,000 but does not exceed £40,000	£967
(x)	exceeds £40,000 but does not exceed £45,000	£1,092
(xi)	exceeds £45,000 but does not exceed £50,000	£1,217
(xii)	exceeds £50,000 but does not exceed £55,000	£1,342
(xiii)	exceeds £55,000 but does not exceed £60,000	£1,467

*Percentage-Increase model*

15. Analysis of the existing Table 2 bands showed that the percentage increases between consecutive bands follow a declining uplift pattern:
- the increase from £132 to £242 represents a significant uplift of approximately 83.3%, reflecting the unusually low starting point of the first band; and
  - subsequent increases reduce progressively and stabilise at between approximately 13% and 18% in the higher bands.
16. The initial 83.3% increase is atypical and therefore to include it when calculating a representative average uplift risked producing a distorted result, particularly when projecting fees into higher value bands. That initial increase was therefore discounted for the purposes of this exercise.
17. The remaining percentage uplifts were averaged, producing a representative average increase of approximately 25% to be applied recursively to the existing upper band figure of £717 (applicable to the £25,000–£30,000 band) to generate projected fees for bands up to £60,000, producing the figures set out in Figure A5.

*Figure A5*

***Costs where no notice of intention to defend is served and judgment is marked under Order 12***  
**Table 2: Plaintiff's Costs**

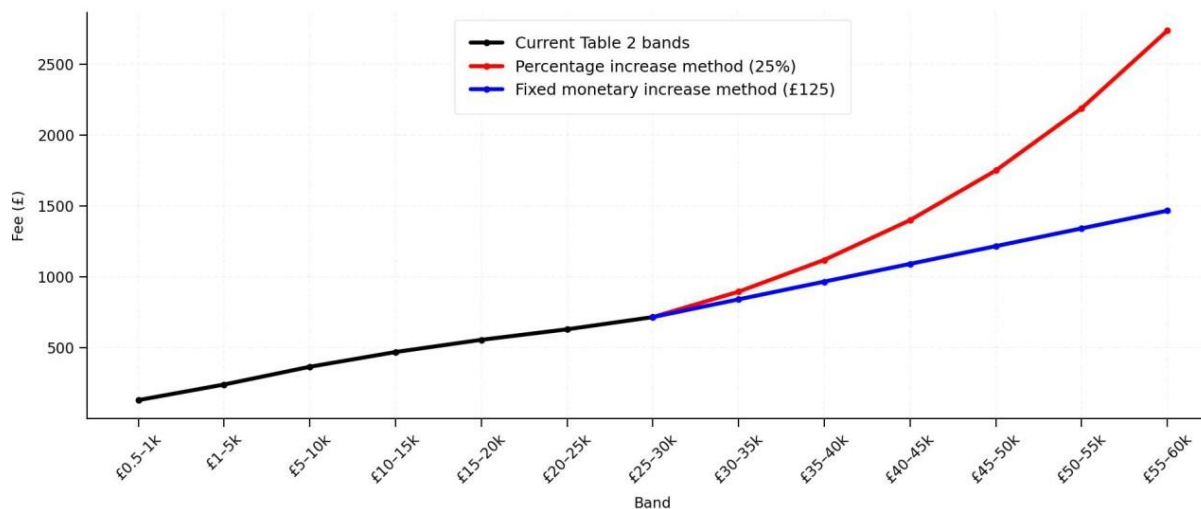
	<i>In actions where amount decreed—</i>	<i>Where the sum claimed and costs specified in the civil bill not paid within 21 days of service</i>
	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>
(i)	exceeds £500 but does not exceed £1,000	£132
(ii)	exceeds £1000 but does not exceed £5,000	£242
(iii)	exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £10,000	£367
(iv)	exceeds £10,000 but does not exceed £15,000	£471
(v)	exceeds £15,000 but does not exceed £20,000	£557
(vi)	exceeds £20,000 but does not exceed £25,000	£631
(vii)	exceeds £25,000 but does not exceed £30,000	£717
(viii)	exceeds £30,000 but does not exceed £35,000	£896
(ix)	exceeds £35,000 but does not exceed £40,000	£1,120
(x)	exceeds £40,000 but does not exceed £45,000	£1,400
(xi)	exceeds £45,000 but does not exceed £50,000	£1,750
(xii)	exceeds £50,000 but does not exceed £55,000	£2,188
(xiii)	exceeds £55,000 but does not exceed £60,000	£2,735

*Comparison of results*

18. A comparison of the results of each method is in Graph A2.

Graph A2

Table 2: Comparison of Extension Methodologies



19. The percentage-based approach results in a rapidly accelerating curve at higher monetary values, with fees rising disproportionately in the upper bands. By contrast, the fixed-increase model produces a more controlled and linear progression, preserving the incremental character of the existing table.
20. The fixed-increase model, applying a flat uplift of £125 per new £5,000 band, most effectively achieves the objectives of proportionality, simplicity and internal coherence.

Table 3 – Libel and Slander

21. Table 3 of Appendix 2 governs plaintiff’s costs in libel and slander proceedings. It presents distinct structural features, proceeding in £500 bands up to an upper limit of £3,000.
22. Consideration was given to whether Table 3 should be restructured entirely to align with the broader band structure adopted in Table 1 (Ordinary Civil Bills) and Table 2 (Un defended Actions) to achieve internal consistency across Appendix 2. On the basis that this would amount to a substantive redesign of Table 3, a wholesale re-alignment of Table 3 is not proposed at this stage.
23. In considering the appropriate band structure for extending Table 3 beyond its existing upper limit and the appropriate methodology for calculating solicitor’s costs and counsel’s fees within those bands, a percentage-increase model derived from the progression of the existing Table 3 bands offered a starting point which reflected the way in which defamation costs have historically evolved within the County Court scale.

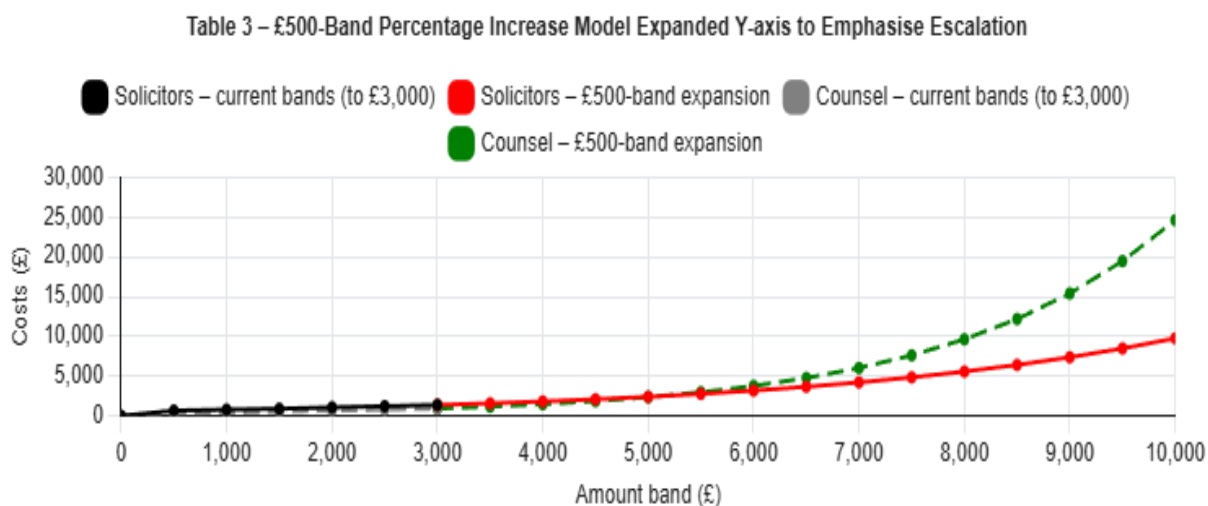
24. The percentage increases between each of the existing bands for both solicitors' costs and counsel's fees were calculated, identifying representative average increases of approximately:
- 15% for solicitors' costs; and
  - 26.42% for counsel's fees.
25. Applying the average increases successively across further £500 increments above £3,000 produced the figures set out in Figure A7 which are represented graphically in Graph A3.

Figure A7

*Libel and slander***Table 3: Plaintiff's Costs**

	<i>In actions where amount decreed—</i>	<i>Solicitor's costs</i>	<i>Counsel's fee</i>
	(1)	(2)	(3)
(i)	does not exceed £500	£678	£292
(ii)	exceeds £500 but does not exceed £1,000	£795	£434
(iii)	exceeds £1,000 but does not exceed £1,500	£910	£540
(iv)	exceeds £1,500 but does not exceed £2,000	£1,084	£678
(v)	exceeds £2,000 but does not exceed £2,500	£1,228	£804
(vi)	exceeds £2,500 but does not exceed £3,000	£1,379	£924
(v)	exceeds £3,000 but does not exceed £3,500	£1,586	£1,168
(vi)	exceeds £3,500 but does not exceed £4,000	£1,824	£1,477
(vii)	exceeds £4,000 but does not exceed £4,500	£2,097	£1,867
(viii)	exceeds £4,500 but does not exceed £5,000	£2,412	£2,360
(ix)	exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £5,500	£2,774	£2,984
(x)	exceeds £5,500 but does not exceed £6,000	£3,190	£3,772
(xi)	exceeds £6,000 but does not exceed £6,500	£3,668	£4,769
(xii)	exceeds £6,500 but does not exceed £7,000	£4,218	£6,028
(xiii)	exceeds £7,000 but does not exceed £7,500	£4,851	£7,621
(xiv)	exceeds £7,500 but does not exceed £8,000	£5,579	£9,635
(xv)	exceeds £8,000 but does not exceed £8,500	£6,416	£12,180
(xvi)	exceeds £8,500 but does not exceed £9,000	£7,378	£15,398
(xvii)	exceeds £9,000 but does not exceed £9,500	£8,485	£19,466
(xviii)	exceeds £9,500 but does not exceed £10,000	£9,757	£24,609

Graph A3



26. While this method was internally coherent in mathematical terms, the repeated application of percentage increases across narrow £500 increments produced compounding effects, resulting in a steep and accelerating escalation of fees at higher values. In particular, the projected fees at the upper end of the extended table grossly exceeded those applicable to contested ordinary civil bills, undermining established relativities and producing outcomes which were not considered proportionate or defensible.
27. To preserve the essence of the percentage-based methodology while addressing the defects identified above, the same representative percentage increases were applied across wider monetary bands as set out in Figure A8 and illustrated in Graph A4.

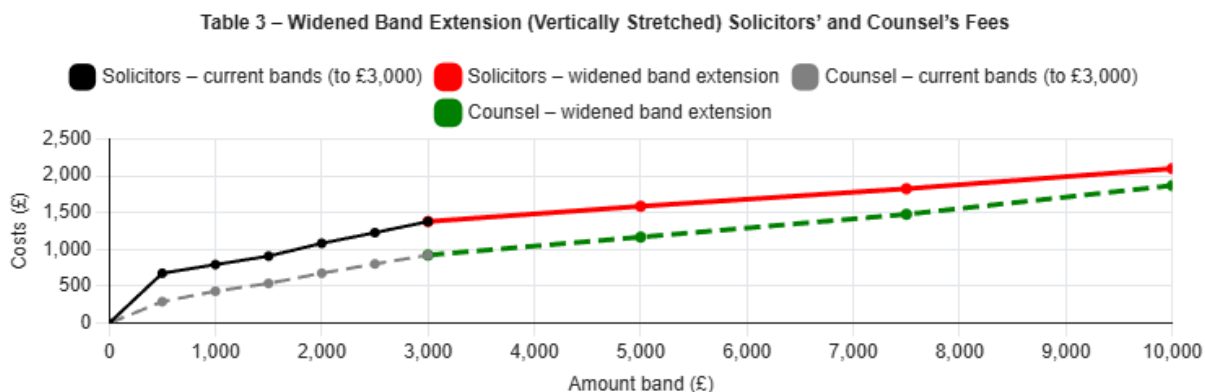
Figure A8

*Libel and slander*

**Table 3: Plaintiff's Costs**

In actions where amount decreed—		Solicitor's costs	Counsel's fee
(1)		(2)	(3)
(i)	does not exceed £500	£678	£292
(ii)	exceeds £500 but does not exceed £1,000	£795	£434
(iii)	exceeds £1,000 but does not exceed £1,500	£910	£540
(iv)	exceeds £1,500 but does not exceed £2,000	£1,084	£678
(v)	exceeds £2,000 but does not exceed £2,500	£1,228	£804
(vi)	exceeds £2,500 but does not exceed £3,000	£1,379	£924
(vii)	exceeds £3,000 but does not exceed £5,000	£1,586	£1,168
(viii)	exceeds £5,000 but does not exceed £7,500	£1,824	£1,477
(ix)	exceeds £7,500 but does not exceed £10,000	£2,097	£1,867

Graph A4



28. The widened-band methodology produced a controlled and proportionate progression for both solicitors and counsel when compared with the steeply accelerating trajectories generated by continuous £500-band percentage increases.

**B. COUNSEL'S FEES**

*Part I, Table 1 – Ordinary Civil Bills*

*Basis of Methodology*

29. Counsel's fees are to maintain appropriate proportionality with:

- the existing County Court scale;
- the Comerton Scale applicable in the High Court; and
- the expanded jurisdiction contemplated by the Rules.

30. While cases within the expanded jurisdiction are likely to involve greater complexity than those traditionally litigated in the County Court, it is neither desirable nor appropriate to introduce separate scale items for individual procedural steps such as directing proofs or consultations. Any increased workload should be reflected within a single composite scale fee, preserving the predictability and simplicity of the existing scheme.

#### *Methodology and Comparative Analysis*

31. The relevant portion of the Comerton Scale was taken as the most appropriate external reference point for counsel's fees in higher-value personal injury litigation (Figure B1).

*Figure B1*

	Listed		Early Negotiations	
	Dec 2024 Liability Denied	Dec 2024 Liability Admitted	Dec 2024 Liability Denied	Dec 2024 Liability Admitted
Up to £40,000	£3,000	£2,750	£2,750	£2,500
Up to £50,000	£3,750	£3,500	£3,500	£3,250
Up to £60,000	£4,250	£3,750	£3,750	£3,500

32. The Comerton Scale proceeds on the assumption that a King's Counsel and Junior Counsel are instructed together. County Court civil bills within the expanded jurisdiction will, in practice, almost invariably be conducted by Junior Counsel acting alone. Accordingly, for comparative purposes, five-sixths of the KC figures were taken as the relevant benchmark, reflecting the established approach to determining sole junior fees on the basis of the Comerton Scale.
33. On the basis of the averages, the following comparator figures were identified for junior counsel acting alone in the High Court:
- up to £40,000: £2,291.67;
  - up to £50,000: £2,916.67; and
  - up to £60,000: £3,177.08.
34. In High Court proceedings at these levels, Junior Counsel ordinarily direct proofs and attend at least one consultation. Taking cognisance of the Taxing Master's [Practice Direction 01/25 - Pleadings and Interlocutory Matters - Counsel's Fees](#), this would

typically result in additional fees of approximately £525, producing indicative figures as set out in Figure B2.

Figure B2

<b>Band</b>	<b>Sole Junior (5/6 of KC)</b>	<b>Sole Junior plus add-ons</b>
Up to £40,000	£2,291.67	£2,816.67
Up to £50,000	£2,916.67	£3,441.67
Up to £60,000	£3,177.08	£3,702.08

35. Having established the benchmarks, a degree of adjustment is required to reflect the procedural characteristics of County Court litigation, while acknowledging that cases within the expanded jurisdiction may involve greater complexity than at present. Consistent with the approach adopted above, and taking account of reductions applied in previous scale costs reviews, the need to avoid distortion within the extended scale, and the objective of achieving figures capable of broad acceptance, a 20% percentage reduction was applied which produced the indicative outcomes set out in Figure B3.

Figure B3

<b>Band</b>	<b>Sole Junior plus add-ons</b>	<b>Reduction of 20%</b>
Up to £40,000	£2,816.67	£2,253.33
Up to £50,000	£3,441.67	£2,753.34
Up to £60,000	£3,702.08	£2,961.67

36. A modest rounding was applied to preserve visual coherence, avoid flat-lining at the upper end of the scale, and maintain appropriate relationality between solicitor and counsel fees. Also, to preserve simplicity and alignment with Comerton practice, the proposed fees are expressed in £50 increments. Overall, the proposed figures, as set out in Figure B4, reflect an average reduction of approximately 21.5% when compared with the equivalent High Court remuneration, with a slightly smaller percentage reduction at the £60,000 band to avoid compression at the upper end of the scale and a disproportionate convergence between solicitor and counsel fees.

Figure B4

<b>Band</b>	<b>Sole Junior plus add-ons</b>	<b>Proposed Scale Fee</b>	<b>Percentage Reduction</b>
Up to £40,000	£2,816.67	£2,150.00	23.7
Up to £50,000	£3,441.67	£2,650.00	23.1
Up to £60,000	£3,702.08	£3,050.00	17.8

37. The relevant bands within the Comerton Scale between £30,000 and £60,000 increase in £10,000 increments. To ensure consistency and smooth progression within the County Court scale, proportionate midpoint bands were identified at £35,000, £45,000 and £55,000, thus also reflecting the bands applicable to solicitors' costs.
38. In determining the appropriate figure for the £35,000 band, a midpoint-based approach consistent with the overall methodology was adopted. For this purpose, the midpoint was identified between the existing County Court counsel fee applicable at £30,000 and the relevant Comerton sole-junior comparator at £40,000, producing the figures set out in Figure B5.

Figure B5

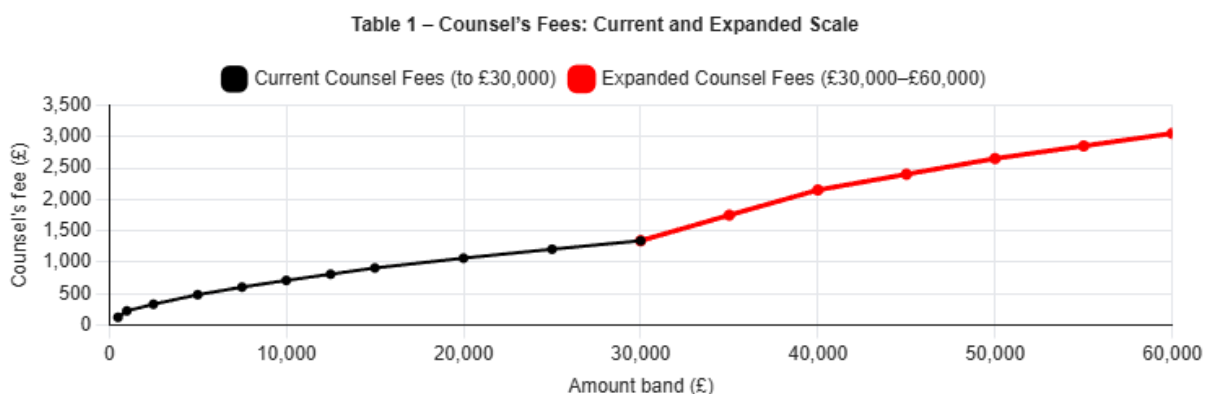
<b>County Court (£30k)</b>	<b>Comerton (£40k)</b>	<b>Midway</b>
£1,343.00	£2,291.67	£1,817.33

39. To that midpoint figure, the standard allowances reflective of High Court practice, namely £525 in respect of a direction of proofs and consultation, was added producing a gross comparator figure of £2,342.33.
40. The application of a 23% reduction, consistent with reductions tested elsewhere in the scale-setting exercise, produced a resulting figure of £1,803.60. Notwithstanding that work within the increased jurisdiction is likely to be more complex than current County Court litigation, it is desirable to preserve proportionality with the existing County Court scale at the point of transition beyond £30,000, and having regard also to the importance of avoiding excessive compression between existing and new bands, a 25% reduction at this transitional point gives a figure of £1,756.50, rounded down to £1,750 to achieve clarity and consistency within the scale.
41. The £45,000 band sits within the increased jurisdiction and therefore does not give rise to the same risk of compression or discontinuity with the existing scale. The general methodology of taking the relevant Comerton comparator (£50,000, sole

junior with add-ons) and applying a reduction consistent with the historic range identified during the scale-setting exercise was applied. When assessed against the inclusive High Court comparator figure of £3,441.67, the proposed County Court fee of £2,650 reflects an effective reduction of approximately 23%, falling squarely within the central range of reductions noted previously for this band range and achieving an appropriate balance between recognising the increased demands of higher-value litigation and preserving proportionality across the scale, without the need for further adjustment.

42. The £55,000 band was derived as part of the same structured progression through the upper bands of the expanded scale, with particular regard to the need to avoid flattening or distortion at the top end. In contrast with the £35,000 band, no additional transitional adjustment is required and a modest tapering in the percentage reduction is allowed as the scale progresses upward. When the proposed County Court fee of £3,050 is compared with the inclusive Comerton comparator at £60,000 (£3,702.08), the resulting effective reduction is approximately 17–18%, reflecting a moderation designed to maintain upward momentum and coherence within the scale as a whole. This tapering is consistent with established scale-setting practice and necessary in order to produce figures that are both workable in practice and proportionate when viewed alongside solicitor’s fees at equivalent levels. This approach, taken together with the £45,000 band, achieves a coherent graduated progression.
43. Graph B1 illustrates the progression of counsel’s fees under Table 1, showing the existing County Court scale applicable up to £30,000 (black) and the proposed extension of the scale to £60,000 (red). The graph demonstrates a coherent and upwardly progressive extension of the existing structure, with no compression or flat-lining at the £30,000 transition point and proportionate increases across the expanded bands.

Graph B1



44. It is important to record the relative positioning of the proposed fees within the existing advocacy fee structure. It is accepted that the proposed scale results in

counsel receiving a higher fee than would normally be recoverable by junior counsel acting alone in the High Court in the £35,000 to £40,000 bracket alone, and only in a scenario where no additional fees beyond the brief fee are claimed in a case settled with early negotiations in the High Court. This outcome appropriately reflects the nature of litigation within the expanded County Court jurisdiction and represents a proportionate and principled adjustment of existing comparators.

## Appendix 3 – Proposed New Scales & Illustrative Graphs

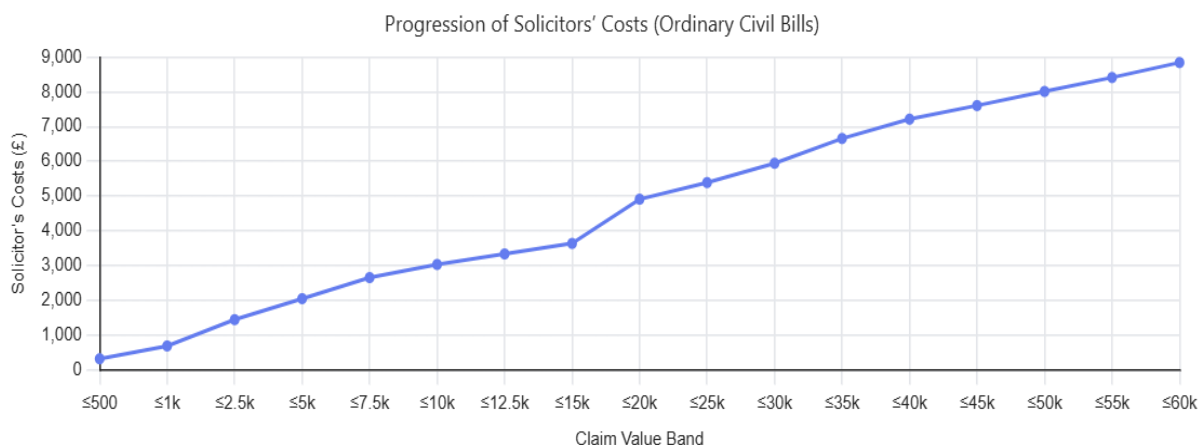
This Appendix sets out the proposed revised scale costs and provides associated illustrative graphs.

The tables incorporate the proposed figures to reflect the increase in the County Court’s financial jurisdictions and the graphs demonstrate the progression and proportionality of the proposed scales across the extended bands.

### Part 1

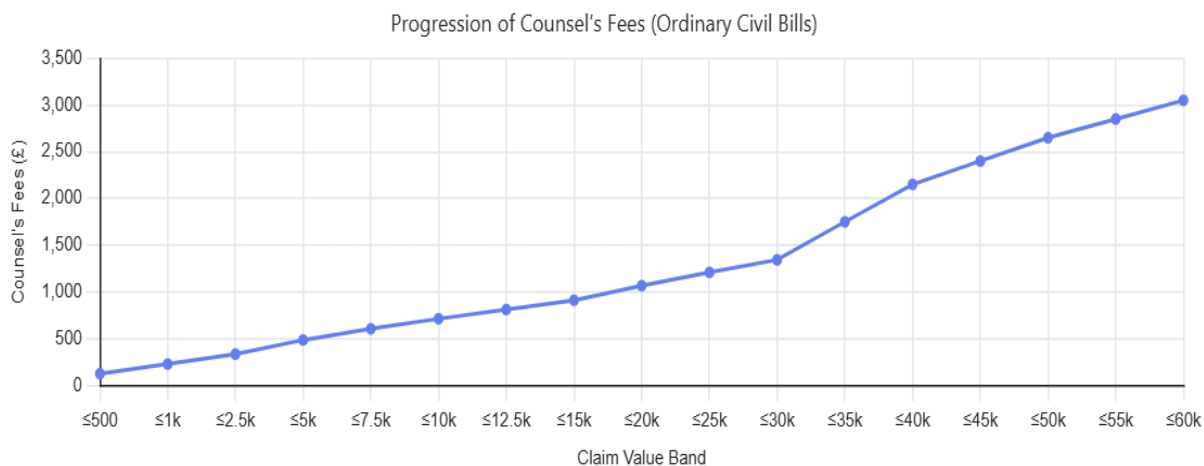
**Table 1: Solicitors Costs – Ordinary Civil Bills**

Amount Claimed £	Solicitor’s Costs £
Does not exceed 500	312
501 – 1,000	681
1,001 - 2,500	1,439
2,501 - 5,000	2,044
5,001 - 7,500	2,651
7,501 - 10,000	3,029
10,001 - 12,500	3,332
12,501 - 15,000	3,635
15,001 - 20,000	4,910
20,001 - 25,000	5,389
25,001 - 30,000	5,945
<b>30,001 – 35,000</b>	<b>6,659</b>
<b>35,001 – 40,000</b>	<b>7,216</b>
<b>40,001 – 45,000</b>	<b>7,608</b>
<b>45,001 – 50,000</b>	<b>8,014</b>
<b>50,001 – 55,000</b>	<b>8,416</b>
<b>55,001 – 60,000</b>	<b>8,847</b>



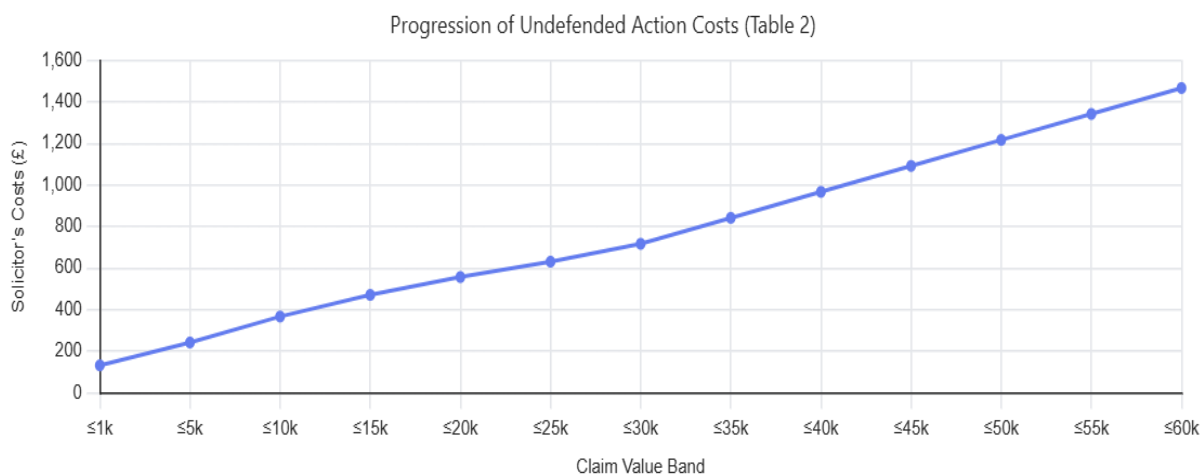
**Table 1: Counsel's Fees – Ordinary Civil Bills**

<b>Amount Claimed</b>	<b>Counsel's Fees</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Does not exceed 500	125
501 – 1,000	228
1,001 - 2,500	333
2,501 - 5,000	485
5,001 - 7,500	605
7,501 - 10,000	712
10,001 - 12,500	811
12,501 - 15,000	910
15,001 - 20,000	1,066
20,001 - 25,000	1,208
25,001 - 30,000	1,343
<b>30,001 – 35,000</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>35,001 – 40,000</b>	<b>2,150</b>
<b>40,001 – 45,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>45,001 – 50,000</b>	<b>2,650</b>
<b>50,001 – 55,000</b>	<b>2,850</b>
<b>55,001 – 60,000</b>	<b>3,050</b>



**Table 2: Plaintiff’s Solicitors’ Costs (excluding disbursements) (21 Day Costs)**

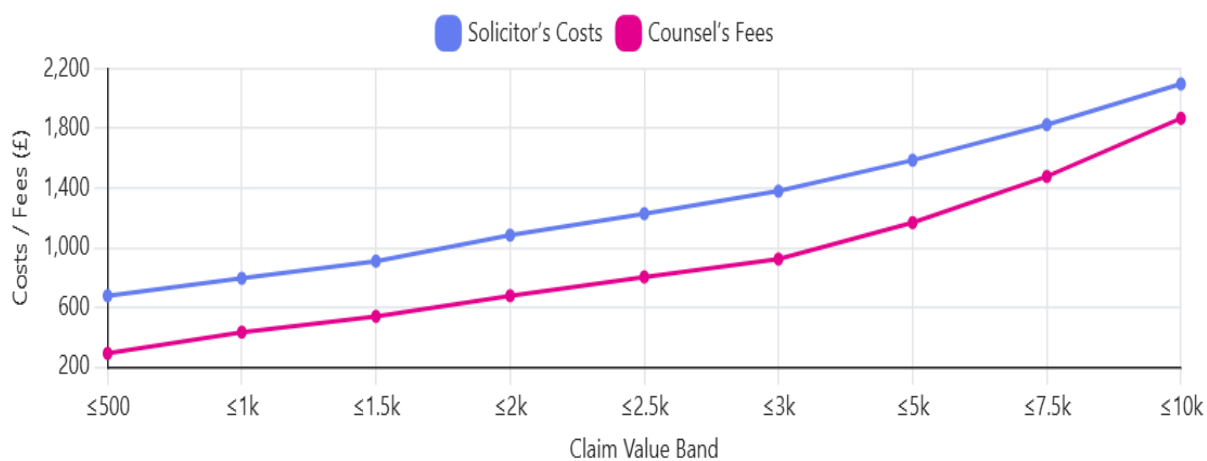
Amount Claimed £	Scale Cost £
501 – 1,000	132
1,001 - 5,000	242
5,001 - 10,000	367
10,001 - 15,000	471
15,001 - 20,000	557
20,001 - 25,000	631
25,001 - 30,000	717
<b>30,001 – 35,000</b>	<b>842</b>
<b>35,001 – 40,000</b>	<b>967</b>
<b>40,001 – 45,000</b>	<b>1,092</b>
<b>45,001 – 50,000</b>	<b>1,217</b>
<b>50,001 – 55,000</b>	<b>1,342</b>
<b>55,001 – 60,000</b>	<b>1,467</b>



**Table 3: Plaintiff's & Defendant's Costs - Libel and Slander**

Amount Claimed £	Solicitor's costs £	Counsel's fee £
Does not exceed 500	678	292
501 – 1,000	795	434
1,001 – 1,500	910	540
1,501 – 2,000	1,084	678
2,001 – 2,500	1,228	804
2,501 – 3,000	1,379	924
<b>3,001 – 5,000</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>1,168</b>
<b>5,001 – 7,500</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>1,477</b>
<b>7,501 - £10,000</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>1,867</b>

Progression of Costs in Libel and Slander (Table 3)

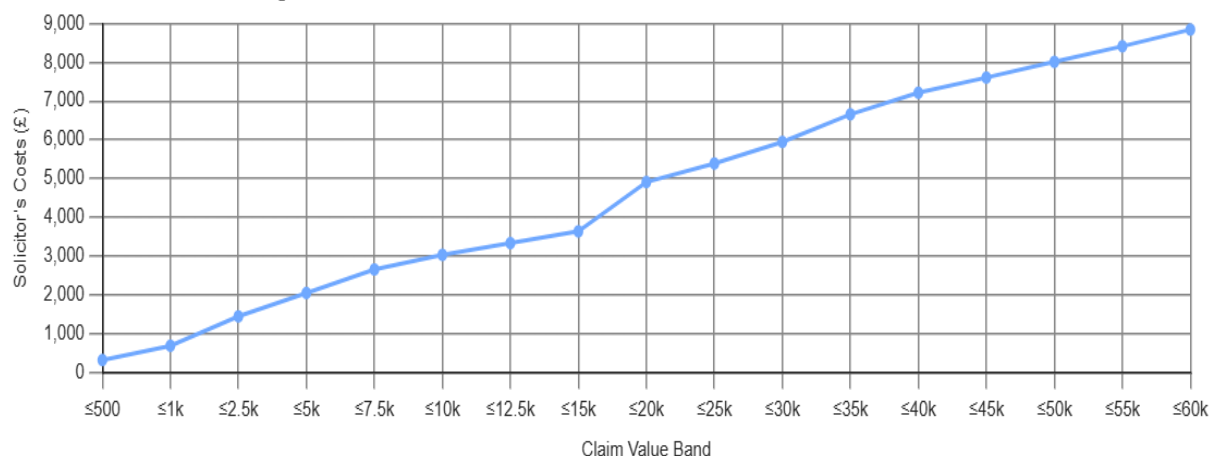


**Part 2**

**Table 1: Plaintiff's Costs – Remitted Actions**

<b>Amount Claimed</b>	<b>Solicitor's Costs</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Does not exceed £1,000	681
1,001 - 2,500	1,439
2,501 - 5,000	2,044
5,001 - 7,500	2,651
7,501 - 10,000	3,029
10,001 - 12,500	3,332
12,501 - 15,000	3,635
15,001 - 20,000	4,910
20,001 - 25,000	5,389
25,001 - 30,000	5,945
<b>30,001 – 35,000</b>	<b>6,659</b>
<b>35,001 – 40,000</b>	<b>7,216</b>
<b>40,001 – 45,000</b>	<b>7,608</b>
<b>45,001 – 50,000</b>	<b>8,014</b>
<b>50,001 – 55,000</b>	<b>8,416</b>
<b>55,001 – 60,000</b>	<b>8,847</b>

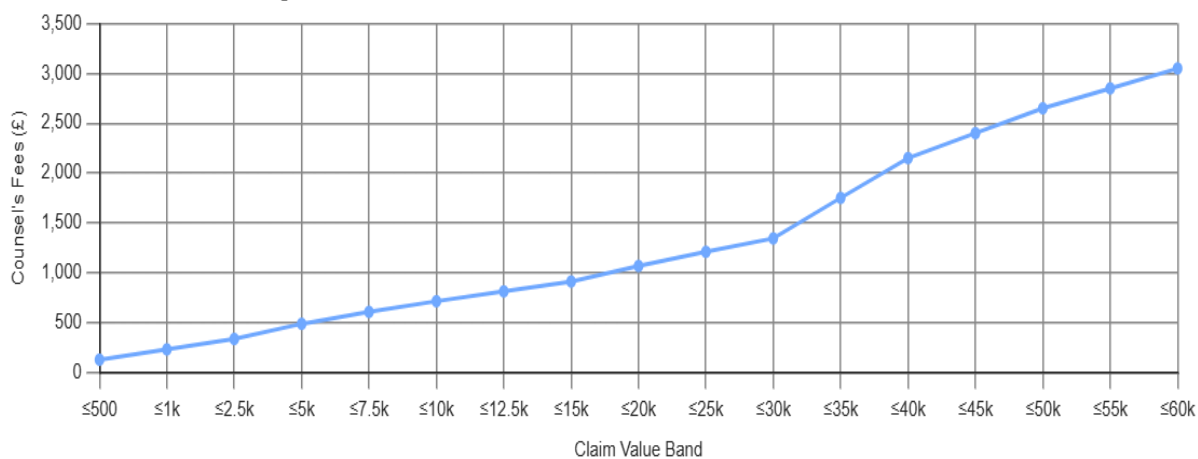
Progression of Solicitors' Costs (Part II – Table 1: Plaintiff's Costs – Remitted Actions)



**Table 1: Plaintiff's Costs – Remitted Actions**

<b>Amount Claimed</b>	<b>Counsel's Fee</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Does not exceed £1,000	228
1,001 - 2,500	333
2,501 - 5,000	485
5,001 - 7,500	605
7,501 - 10,000	712
10,001 - 12,500	811
12,501 - 15,000	910
15,001 - 20,000	1,066
20,001 - 25,000	1,208
25,001 - 30,000	1,343
<b>30,001 – 35,000</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>35,001 – 40,000</b>	<b>2,150</b>
<b>40,001 – 45,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>45,001 – 50,000</b>	<b>2,650</b>
<b>50,001 – 55,000</b>	<b>2,850</b>
<b>55,001 – 60,000</b>	<b>3,050</b>

Progression of Counsel's Fees (Part II – Table 2: Counsel's Fees – Remitted Actions)



**Table 2: Defendant's Costs - Remitted Actions**

<b>Solicitor's Costs</b>	<b>Counsel's fee</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>8,847</b>	<b>3,050</b>

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