



Wednesday 12 November 2008

Dear Colleague

**Very High Cost (Crime) Case Panel Advocate Contract  
Contract Amendment Notice 1**

On 24 October 2008, Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor Jack Straw announced interim provisions to ensure that VHCCs are dealt with effectively and economically until July 2009.

There will be an increase to the rates of pay for Category 1 Level A/QC rate to £152.50 and all other rates, with the exception of Standard Rates, Solicitors Attendance at court with Counsel, Mileage, Travel and Waiting, will increase proportionately.

These rates will apply to all litigators and advocates (including non-panel advocates) working on VHCCs with representation orders dated on or after 14 January 2008. The new rates take effect on the effective date specified in the Contract Notice attached and will apply to all work done on or after the effective date. Payment will be processed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract.

Please note that this amendment is made pursuant to clause 25.2 of the Contract and is being implemented earlier than on the expiry of the 28 day notice period specified in clause 25.6 of the Contract. This is to ensure that the amendment is effective on the same day as the regulations authorising this rate increase and to give advocates the benefit of the rate increase as soon as possible.


The full contract amendment is also available on the LSC website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. J. Field", with a horizontal line underneath.

Nigel Field  
Head of Complex Crime Unit

**CONTRACT AMENDMENT NOTICE**

<b>Contract Amendment Notice number:</b>	<b>1 (One)</b>
<b>Date of Contract Amendment Notice:</b>	<b>12 November 2008</b>
<b>Effective date (date amendment comes into effect):</b>	<b>13 November 2008</b>
<b>Details of amendments to the Contract</b>	
<b>Addendum to Very High Cost (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Advocates</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Annex 5 'Rates of Pay' to be replaced with new Annex 5 'Rates of Pay – Amended' attached. These Rates of Pay apply to work undertaken pursuant to the Very High Cost (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Advocates on or after the Effective date specified above.</b></li></ul>	
<b>Signed:</b>	 ..... Nigel Field Head of Complex Crime Unit

**ANNEX 5**

**RATES OF PAY – AMENDED**

These Rates of Pay apply to work undertaken pursuant to the Very High Cost (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Advocates on or after the Effective date specified in Contract Amendment Notice number 1.

**Preparation (hourly rates)**

	<b>Category 1 (£)</b>	<b>Category 2 (£)</b>	<b>Category 3 (£)</b>	<b>Category 4 (£)</b>	<b>Standard Rates (£)</b>
<b>Solicitor</b>					
Level A sol	152.50	119.00	95.50	95.50	55.75
Level B sol	133.00	104.50	83.50	83.50	47.25
Level C sol	88.50	69.00	54.00	54.00	34.00
Pupil/junior <sup>1</sup>	48.00	38.50	31.50	31.50	
<b>Counsel</b>					
QC	152.50	119.00	95.50	95.50	
Leading junior	133.00	104.50	83.50	83.50	
Led junior	95.50	76.00	65.00	65.00	
Junior alone	104.50	85.50	74.00	74.00	
2nd Led junior	67.00	53.00	46.00	46.00	
<b>Solicitor Advocate</b>					
Leading level A	152.50	119.00	95.50	95.50	
Led level A	133.00	104.50	83.50	83.50	
Leading level B	133.00	104.50	83.50	83.50	
Led level B	110.00	90.50	69.00	69.00	
Level A alone	138.00	115.00	93.50	93.50	
Level B alone	116.00	99.50	78.50	78.50	
Second Advocate	67.00	53.00	46.00	46.00	

**Advocacy<sup>2</sup>**

Advocacy rates for counsel are paid per hearing or per day depending upon the duration of the court sitting time. Advocacy rates are non-category specific.

	<b>Preliminary hearing (£)</b>	<b>Half day (£)</b>	<b>Full day (£)</b>
QC	119.00	250.00	500.00
Leading junior	90.50	205.25	410.50
Led junior	61.00	132.75	265.50
Junior alone	70.00	150.00	300.00
Second led junior	35.50	67.50	135.00
Noter	30.50	57.50	115.00

<sup>1</sup> This is to cover situations where the Representation Order cannot be amended to provide for a second junior counsel but the Case Manager determines that to achieve value for money certain items of work should be done by a third counsel.

<sup>2</sup> Solicitor-advocates will be paid the appropriate rate for a leading junior, a led junior, or a junior alone.

**Attendance at court with counsel (hourly rates for solicitors)**

Level A	£42.25
Level B	£34.00
Level C	£20.50

**Travelling and waiting**

£25 per hour regardless of Litigator Level or Advocacy role

**Mileage**

£0.45 per mile