



Probate and administration of uncontested estates pricing

Our fees

Our fees for acting on obtaining a grant of probate and administering an uncontested estate based wholly in the UK fall within the following ranges:

Stage 1: applying for the grant of representation

- £20,000 to £ 100,000 (excluding VAT charged at 20% and disbursements)

Stage 2: administering the estate

- £20,000 to £100,000 (excluding VAT charged at 20% and disbursements)

We charge for our work on the basis of hourly rates, which are aligned with the experience level of each member of the team. Our headline hourly rates currently range from:

- £345 per hour (excluding VAT charged at 20%) for a trainee solicitor, solicitor apprentice or paralegal
- £590 to £985 per hour (excluding VAT charged at 20%) for an associate or managing associate
- £1,025 to £1,120 per hour (excluding VAT charged at 20%) for a partner

For more bespoke or complex cases, we recommend contacting us directly to discuss your requirements as we are likely to be able to adjust the scope and pricing of our offer to reflect your specific needs and budget. If a fixed fee is preferred we are able to offer this in certain circumstances.

Scope

Our fees relate to the UK probate processes with which we are often asked to assist, such as:

Stage 1: applying for the grant of representation

- advising on the terms of the will(s) and any codicils (or application of the intestacy rules), the legal and tax implications and the role, duties and responsibilities of the personal representatives (or those entitled to apply for authority to administer the estate)
- notifying insurers of the death, reviewing the adequacy of insurance cover and ensuring the personal representatives are noted on the deceased's insurance policies
- ascertaining the deceased's domicile and long-term residence position
- obtaining information on the deceased's assets and liabilities at the date of death, including corresponding with asset holders and creditors and obtaining valuations where necessary
- reviewing the existence of any lifetime gifts and the deceased's lifetime income tax position

- preparing and submitting the inheritance tax account to HMRC and arranging for the payment of inheritance tax
- drafting and submitting documentation to apply for the grant of representation to the Probate Registry

Stage 2: administering the estate

- registering the grant of representation with asset holders as appropriate
- collecting assets (including arranging for the sale of assets or appropriation to beneficiaries) and settling liabilities
- arranging for payment of any cash legacies and advising on any legacies under the will(s)
- arranging for the placement of adverts for creditors
- preparing estate accounts
- responding to any queries from HMRC on the inheritance tax account and obtaining inheritance tax clearance
- preparing tax returns to the date of death and for the administration period
- distributing the residuary estate
- providing beneficiaries with details of their share of any income earnt by the assets of the estate, which may need to be included on their tax returns

Factors that could make a case more complex

Examples of complexities that could mean our fees fall outside of the ranges given above include:

- large or numerous assets, such as multiple bank or building society accounts
- assets requiring special treatment, such as agricultural or business interests
- estates which divide between a large number of beneficiaries
- complexities in calculating the inheritance tax due, for example where reliefs and exemptions are claimed, trusts are involved or lifetime gifts were made
- where the estate assets appear insufficient to cover the estate debts
- the existence of life insurance and pension policies
- issues concerning pre-death income tax

The fee ranges set out above assume that the estate does not contain any assets located outside England and Wales and there are no contentious issues arising in relation to the estate. If this is not the case, we recommend contacting us directly to discuss your requirements.

Disbursements and VAT

Disbursements are costs related to the matter that are payable to third parties, such as probate application fees. We handle the payment of disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process (although we may require you to remit funds to us in advance).

The disbursements likely to be incurred include:

- probate application fees: currently £300 (for estates valued at over £5,000) plus £16 for each official copy of the grant of representation obtained
- valuation fees: if required, these can range from around £500 plus VAT (where applicable) for a simple valuation to over £20,000 plus VAT (where applicable) for valuations of a complex asset
- costs of advertising for creditors: usually around £200 to £400 plus VAT (where applicable)
- third party fees: these can include translation costs which can range from around £200 plus VAT (where applicable) to over £5,000 plus VAT (where applicable) and overseas lawyers' fees which (depending on the complexity of the matter) can range from around £1,000 plus any applicable taxes to over £100,000 plus any applicable taxes for complex estates

VAT will be charged where the personal representatives are resident in the UK.

Timescales

Most estates are administered within one year of death. Typically, obtaining the grant of representation takes around 12 to 16 weeks. Collecting in assets and agreeing and paying debts and inheritance tax before distribution involves the remainder of the year. The more complex the estate, the longer the administration will take.

Who will be responsible for my matter?

One of the UK-qualified private wealth partners will be responsible for your matter. Please refer to their biographies on our website.

In addition to the partners, associates, trainees, solicitor apprentices and paralegals may also work on the matter. Trainees generally remain with the practice group for 6 months before rotating into a different practice group in order to experience a variety of practices before qualifying into a specific field. Solicitor apprentices generally remain within the practice group for one year before rotating.

Information correct as of November 2025