

Your address;

Address of instructing party;

Date;

Dear instructing party

Your ref -----;

Thank you for asking me to assist in this case.

My estimate is based on the rates agreed by the Committee of the British Association for Forensic Odontology (BAFO).

I am aware that the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) introduced a reduced scale of fees on 2nd December 2013 payable to Expert Witnesses in both criminal and civil cases. The new reduced scale of fees made no attempt to differentiate Forensic Odontologists from the generic classification of "Dentist". BAFO are currently in correspondence with LAA to address this anomaly.

The LAA stipulates that; "The LAA will not pay fees or rates in excess of those listed in the Remuneration Regulations unless we consider it reasonable in exceptional circumstances and have granted prior authority to exceed the fees or rates. Exceptional circumstances are those where the expert's evidence is key to the client's case and either a) the complexity of the material is such that an expert with a high level of seniority is required or b) the material is of such a specialised and unusual nature that only a very few experts are available to provide the necessary experience".

There are approximately 40,000 “Dentists” in the UK registered with the General Dental Council and probably only 12-15 Forensic Odontologists currently listed by the National Crime Agency (NCA) for bite mark analysis and registered with the General Dental Council in the UK.

Against this background my scale of fees is;

£110.00 per hour professional time; (including report writing and Court appearance)

These fees are non-negotiable, irrespective of any opinion currently held by the Legal Aid Agency on the issue of expert witness fees. Please note I will only accept this instruction upon receipt of a written undertaking to pay all invoiced fees within 56 days of submission of my report. If you cannot provide this I am afraid that I will be unable to assist you.

I hope this information is useful and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Your name
Forensic Odontologist