

*Terms and Conditions of medico-legal work undertaken by*

**Dr WDA Bruce-Jones**  
Consultant Psychiatrist MPhil MRCPsych

*With effect from 1 November 2011*

**1. Fees for reports, correspondence and joint statements**

No charge is made for initial telephone discussions with solicitors concerning cases.

£180 per hour is charged for all subsequent work relating to the production of expert reports including related correspondence, preparatory reading, relevant annotation of medical and other records, examination of the client and/or any third parties, subsequent dictation preparation and writing of the report, plus any subsequent *major* amendments and supplementary reports as requested.

1 – 1.5 hours is normally allocated for the examination of the claimant and one hour for subsequent examinations unless the circumstances are such that a lengthier interview is indicated. Most reports will be charged at £450-£550.

In the case of joint statements the time spent in discussion with the other expert(s) is charged at the same rate as the reports.

If there is a limit or ceiling of costs this must be clearly specified in writing and discussed with Dr Bruce-Jones before any work is undertaken.

If, during the course of interview with the client, or perusal of documents, it appears that the report will take longer to prepare than the previously agreed ceiling might allow Dr Bruce-Jones will discuss this with the instructing party before proceeding further.

Additional charges on all cases to cover room rental (interview) and secretarial expenses.

**2. Fees for attendance at Conference or Court**

£1000 per day (£600 per half day) plus travel expenses and accommodation, if necessary.

**3. Cancellation fees for conference and court appearances**

For cancellation within 2 working days 100% of the fee (£1000) will be charged.

For cancellation between 5 and 2 working days 50% (£500) of the fee will be charged. The fee will be reduced according to what additional paid clinical work Dr Bruce-Jones is able to obtain at short notice.

#### **4. Fees for non-attendance of appointments**

If a client fails to attend an appointment or else cancels an appointment with insufficient notice to allow for an alternative appointment for another patient to be allocated made, the right to charge a fee equivalent to the allocated appointment time (1 hour) is reserved at the discretion of the consultant.

#### **5. Refunds and waivers**

Fees are not subject to a refund or waiver in whole or in part in the event of disallowance or reduction on the Court's assessment for costs and fees or refusal by the funding, paying or contributing party/firm to pay in full, part or at all.

#### **6. Payment of fees**

Dr Bruce-Jones is willing to wait for payment until settlement of the case but reserves the right to charge interest on unpaid fees after 12 months **at the Court's judgment rate as from time to time subsisting**. In the case of transfer of the case to another set of solicitors payment must be made prior to transfer. Dr Bruce-Jones reserves the right to charge interest on outstanding monies of the full amount if not paid within 12 months of issuing the invoice. Interest will be charged at the County Court rate of 8% per annum pursuant to s69 of the County Courts Act 1984 or 2% above the bank of England base rate from time to time (whichever is greater).

#### **7. Joint instructions/Part 35 questions**

In the event of joint instructions **or questions raised by a non-instructing party under Part 35 CPR**, fee liability is joint and several.

#### **8. Time for submission of reports**

Reports are usually completed and submitted within 3 weeks of interview. Delays may result if key documents are missing. **Unless specified in advance in writing it will be assumed that time is not of the essence for the production of the report.**

#### **9. Due diligence and Case records**

Instructing solicitors or companies will use their best endeavours to give full instructions and also to supply all necessary records and information - including relevant medical personnel and occupational health records – several weeks prior to

interview, which they may be reasonably asked to supply in relation to the claim and or court proceedings, in order to prepare the interview and examination.

All notes records and papers will be shredded at the conclusion of the case unless their return is requested in writing.

#### **10. Terms application.**

These terms override the terms and conditions of any instructing party **unless agreed in writing in advance by Dr. Bruce-Jones**

#### **11. Operation of Terms**

These terms and conditions will apply to all instructions received or work carried out on or after 1 November 2011.

**Dr WDA Bruce-Jones MBBS MPhil FRCPsych  
Consultant Psychiatrist**