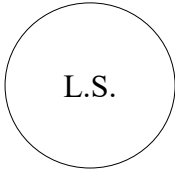


ST HELENA



**CIVIL LITIGATION (COSTS) ORDINANCE 2025**

**CIVIL LITIGATION (COSTS) NOTICE 2026**

Pursuant to section 4 of the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance 2025, the Governor on the advice of the Executive Council issues the following Notice:

This Notice has effect from 13 April 2026 and replaces the Civil Litigation (Costs) Notice 2025.

**First appointment**

1. No fee charged by a legal service provider for the purposes of an initial thirty minute appointment, with a client or potential client, in relation to a new matter shall be recoverable.

**Travel and accommodation**

2. Travel is recoverable at an hourly rate not exceeding £40 per hour or a daily rate not exceeding £200 per day, whichever is lower.
3. All travel costs, including vehicle rental, are recoverable at the relevant economy rate.
4. Accommodation is recoverable at the rate of standard rooms.

**Disbursements**

5. Reasonable disbursement fees are recoverable in any matter.

**Conditional fee agreements**

- 6. No fee charged for the purposes of discussing or explaining a conditional fee agreement shall be recoverable.
- 7. No fee charged for the purposes of preparing any documents for a client relating to a conditional fee agreement shall be recoverable.

**Solicitors, legal executives etc.**

- 8. Fees shall be recoverable at the following hourly rates based on the experience of the fee earner.
- 9. The applicable rates are the England and Wales Solicitors’ guideline hourly rates for National band 1, as amended from time to time.

**Counsel**

- 10. Fees shall be recoverable at the following hourly rates based on the experience of counsel.
- 11. In respect of brief fees and other fees which have to be agreed before the number of hours required for the work in question is known, the fee shall be calculated on the basis of a reasonable estimate of the number of hours likely to be required.
- 12. The applicable rates are taken from the rates payable to the Attorney General of England and Wales’s civil panel counsel, as amended from time to time, and are as follows—

<b>Fee earner</b>	<b>Rate</b>
King’s Counsel	The highest rate payable to King’s Counsel
Counsel other than a KC	The rate payable to London A panel counsel

**Experts**

- 13. Expert fees shall be calculated by reference to hourly rates.

14. The hourly rate recoverable in relation to an expert may not, save in exceptional circumstances, exceed 130% of the London hourly rate payable to such an expert as set out in Schedule 5 to the Civil Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013, as amended or replaced from time to time.

**Tax**

15. All rates and fees are exclusive of any relevant tax payable.

**Exceptional circumstances**

16. The court may, in exceptional circumstances, allow recovery of rates in excess of those provided for above.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

Natasha Harris  
Acting Governor

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Notice)*

Hourly rates payable to solicitors and counsel within the Ordinance were originally based upon guideline rates in England and Wales, adjusted for the specific circumstances of St Helena. The England and Wales rates were increased on 1 January 2026. Amendments have been made, and the notice re-issued to ensure that rates continue to mirror the comparable rates in England and Wales allowing for future increases.