

## **GOVERNANCE FEES & CHARGES**

### **LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

#### **GENERAL FLAT RATE INCREASE OF 2% TO EXISTING FEES ROUNDED UP OR DOWN TO THE NEAREST £**

Fees generally have not been reviewed for a couple of year and no general increase has been applied.

#### **NEW FEE - SHARED EQUITY LEASE EXTENSIONS - £650 + VAT.**

These hadn't been specified separately before but we receiving individual requests from homeowners who either want to sell or release equity and they are having trouble getting mortgages etc so want the leases extended.

#### **INCREASE OF HOURLY RATE FEE FOR CRIMINAL WORK FOR 8 YEAR+ PQE**

The hourly rates for where "fixed fees do not apply", there is a disparity between the "general" hourly rate and that for "criminal" work both in terms of hourly rates and for different grades of lawyers.

Consider:

- increasing the hourly rate for 8 year + qualified lawyers (i.e. Solicitors and Legal Executives) from £150 to £200 + Vat, where VAT is applicable; and
- keeping the existing lower rate of £150 for paralegals and those with less than 8 years qualified.

#### **REVIEW OF UNILATERAL UNDERTAKING FEES**

The UU preparation fee is £100-150 depending upon on work involved plus disbursement. This year that have undertaken considerably more work than the £100 would cover. Although we are at liberty to request additional fees up to £150, *however no recognition is given to the level of lawyer completing the work.*

Consider amending the fee to *"varies from £100 to £200 per hour"* depending upon *the Fee Earner completing the work.*

#### **RE-INTRODUCTION OF A 'PROOF OF LIFE' SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS TO PENSION PROVIDERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.**

For a few years the Council has not provided this discretionary service as other providers exist (e.g. Notary Public and Consulates/Embassies). However, there is a relatively low level of demand that we think we can accommodate and the charge simply reflects the anticipated costs of managing the process.

The proposed fee is £25 per pension certificate.

This was approved a prior to the pandemic but not introduced for the same reason and therefore would like assurance to proceed with the charge in 2022.

**LISA HASTINGS**  
**DECEMBER 2021**

**AD GOVERNANCE & DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**