

15 November, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Crown Court Very High Cost Cases

R v [DEFENDANT'S NAME]

I am writing concerning the fees to be paid in the above named case.

The document 'Terms of Appointment' sets out in detail the fee scheme under which counsel will be paid and what is expected from counsel in the preparation of the case and invoicing of fees. A copy of the Very High Cost Case fee scheme 'Terms of Appointment' is available at www.cps.gov.uk/publications/finance/highcasefees.html.

A Case Plan accompanies this letter which provides counsel with an outline of the case, an assessment of the amount of work necessary to prepare the case and confirmation of the category of remuneration under which the fees will be paid. Counsel is requested to consider the contents of the Case Plan and agree the document with the reviewing lawyer within 15 working days of receipt.

The reviewing lawyer has determined the refresher and hourly rate to be paid for preparation by applying the Fee Selection Criteria at Annex A of the Terms of Appointment document. The hourly rate has been determined at [RATE] and the refresher rate determined at [RATE].

The size and complexity of the prosecution requires the case to be managed using Stage Plans. In addition to maintaining regular Stage Plans, counsel should keep full and detailed work records of all work undertaken. An Excel spreadsheet template available from the CPS can be used for this purpose. The Case Plan provides an assessment of the work to be undertaken during the first stage of the case.

The fees will be audited and paid at the end of each stage of the case. Counsel will be paid the hourly rate for work properly and reasonably undertaken and recorded in the work record.

If counsel is unwilling to accept this case in the terms set out in this letter and in accordance with the Terms of Appointment document, please return the papers to me within 7 days of the date of this letter.

I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Reviewing Lawyer