

SRA Claims Management Fees Rules

i Guidance, changes, terms, notes and tags [https://higher-

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SRA Claims Management Fees Rules

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Rule 1: Required information

 $[\underline{https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/claims-management-fees-rules/?contentId=1579875075}]$

- 1. An authorised body, or an individual as permitted under regulation 9.8(b)(ii) of the SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations, providing relevant financial services claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities] or activities that would be regulated financial services claims management activities but for the exclusion in article 89N of the Regulated Activities Order, whether under a relevant financial services claims management agreement [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-agreement] or otherwise, must provide any client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] with the information set out in rules 1.2 to 1.5 in writing and receipt must be acknowledged by the client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client].
- 2. Before entering into a contract with a <u>client[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client]</u> the following costs information:
 - 1. unless the fee is for a fixed sum, the basis upon which fees will be charged and an estimate of all such fees, making clear the circumstances in which fees could exceed the estimate;
 - 2. if either the <u>PPI fee restriction [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#PPI-fee-restriction]</u> or the <u>financial products and services fee restriction</u> [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#financial-products-and-services-fee-restriction] applies or could apply to any part of the services provided:
 - 1. details of the <u>fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap]</u> and an illustration of how it will apply by reference, where

- relevant, to each of the bands in the table in rule 22.3 of these Rules.
- 2. an explanation and an estimate of any charges that will fall outside the <u>fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap]</u> and that the total charges may therefore exceed it.
- 3. Before entering into a contract with a <u>client[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client]</u> the following information:
 - 1. where the claim <a href="https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] is in scope of a statutory ombudsman, a statutory compensation scheme or an alternative dispute resolution scheme, the fact that the client claim https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] themselves free of charge and without representation;
 - 2. if the <u>client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-</u> regulations/glossary/#client] is advised to proceed with a claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standardsregulations/glossary/#claim] in a way which means that a fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Feecap] would not apply to either the whole or part of a claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-<u>regulations/glossary/#claim</u>], in circumstances where it would be possible to proceed with a claim [https://higherrights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] in a way which would mean that a fee cap [https://higherrights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap]_would apply, a clear explanation of that fact together with reasons as to why it is in the client's [https://higherrights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] best interests to proceed as advised.
- 4. If the claim <a href="[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] was initially commenced and was subject to a fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap] and the client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] is advised to pursue the claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] in a way which means that the fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap] ceases to apply the client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] must be informed of this before any action is taken and the additional costs consequences fully explained to the client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] at that stage.
- 5. When invoicing the <u>client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client]</u>, if the <u>claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim]</u> is subject to a <u>fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-</u>



regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap] but your charges exceed the maximum amount that may be charged under the fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap] because some charges fall outside it, you must specify which charges fall within the fee cap [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Fee-cap] and which do not.

Rule 2: Fee restrictions

 $[\underline{https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/claims-management-fees-rules/?contentId=1012421600]$

- 2. If you are an <u>authorised body [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-body]</u>, or an individual as permitted under regulation 9.8(b)(ii) of the SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations, providing regulated claims management services or activities that would be regulated claims management services but for the exclusion in article 89N of the Regulated Activities Order [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Regulated-Activities-Order], you will, subject to rule 2.2, be subject to the fee restrictions set out in rules 2.3 to 2.9
- 3. Rule 2.1 will apply to you if you
 - 2. enter into a <u>relevant financial services claims management</u>
 <u>activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities]</u> that provides for a person to pay charges either under that agreement or a connected agreement, or
 - 3. you impose charges on a person for, or in connection with, relevant financial services claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities],

except to the extent to which the <u>PPI fee restriction [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#PPI-fee-restriction]</u> applies.

- 4. The fee restriction on charges for any <u>claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim]</u> is the lower of:
 - 2. the maximum percentage rate of charge with reference to the redress awarded for a <u>claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim]</u>, or
 - 3. the maximum total charge

in the table below applicable to the redress awarded for that <u>claim</u> [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim].

Redress The maximum
Band awarded for a percentage rate of claim (3)

Charge

The maximum total charge (£)

1	1-1,499	30%	420
2	1,500 - 9,999	28%	2,500
3	10,000 - 24,999	25%	5,000
4	25,000 - 49,999	20%	7,500
5	50,000 or above	15%	10,000

- 5. The fee restriction applies to the entire claim claim https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] is based on various grounds.
- 6. The fee restriction includes all expenses and other charges provided for or imposed under the <u>relevant financial services claims</u> <u>management agreement [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-agreement] Or connected agreement, or for, or in connection with, the <u>relevant financial services claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities]</u>, but does not include VAT.</u>
- 7. The fee restriction in rule 2.3 does not apply:
 - 2. to any charges for <u>reserved legal activities</u>; [https://higher-<u>rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#reserved-legal-</u> activities]
 - 3. to charges imposed in circumstances where the relevant services were provided, or the agreement to provide them was entered into and instructions to pursue the <u>claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim]</u> were given, before these rules came into force, provided that the charges imposed were not altered after these rules came into force;
 - 4. if no award for monetary redress is made in the client's
 [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] favour in relation to the claim
 [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim];
 - 5. if the claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] does not fall within the scope of any of the following:
 - 2. the complaints resolution rules set out in the FCA Handbook DISP: dispute resolution
 - 3. any statutory ombudsman scheme including but not limited to the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Pensions Ombudsman, or
 - 4. any statutory compensation scheme including but not limited to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
 - 6. to any charges for activities carried on in relation to actual or potential court proceedings if:
 - 2. there are reasonable grounds to consider that the limitation period for issuing court proceedings may be about to expire and that it is therefore imminently necessary to issue court proceedings to prevent the <u>claim</u>

- [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] from becoming time-barred;
- 3. the claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] cannot be pursued or continued through any statutory ombudsman scheme or any statutory compensation scheme because either the claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] has already been determined under the relevant scheme or the operator of the relevant scheme has determined that the claim cannot or should not be considered under the scheme;
- 4. there are reasonable grounds to consider that the value of the claim <a href="[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] may exceed the maximum redress which can be awarded by any applicable statutory compensation or statutory ombudsman scheme;
- 5. the claim <a href="https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] raises a novel, complex or important point of law which has potential wider ramifications such as to indicate that a representative-action <a href="https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#representative-action] or a Group action <a href="https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Group-action] before a court is the appropriate course and in the client's <a href="https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] best interests; or
- 6. any time limit for referring the complaint to the relevant statutory compensation or statutory ombudsman schemes has already elapsed and there are no reasonable grounds to believe that the claim <a href="https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim] could be brought within such scheme out of time.
- 8. If the fee restriction in 2.3 does not apply as a result of rule 2.6 you must not impose charges for or in connection with <u>relevant financial services claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities] or enter into a <u>relevant financial services claims management agreement [https://higher-</u></u>

- <u>rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-agreement]</u> that provides for the payment of one or more charges, that, alone or in combination with any other charge under that agreement or a connected agreement, or otherwise imposed in connection with the relevant services, exceed an amount that is reasonable in the circumstances in light of the services provided.
- 9. You must not impose any charges for or in connection with <u>relevant</u> financial services claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities] or enter into a <u>relevant financial services claims management agreement [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-agreement] that provides for the payment of one or more charges, that, alone or in combination with any other charge under that agreement or a connected agreement, or otherwise imposed in connection with the relevant services, exceed or are capable of exceeding a fee restriction applied pursuant to rule 2.3 or, as the case may be, rule 2.7.</u>
- 10. Any charges imposed under a relevant financial services claims management agreement [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-agreement]_Or for, or in connection with, relevant financial services claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-activities] will be unenforceable to the extent they exceed or are capable of exceeding the fee restrictions imposed by these rules, and you must reimburse the amount of any overpayment promptly, together with interest at a rate of 8% per annum simple interest from the date of overpayment, irrespective of whether your client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client] has sought reimbursement or not.
- 11. In this rule an agreement (agreement A) is a connected agreement in relation to a <u>relevant financial services claims management</u> <u>agreement [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#relevant-financial-services-claims-management-agreement]</u> (agreement B) if:
 - agreement A enables a charge to be imposed on a client in connection with a <u>claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim]</u>, and agreement B provides for <u>regulated claims management</u> <u>activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#regulated-claims-management-activities]</u> in relation to that <u>claim [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#claim]</u>; Or
 - 3. agreement A provides for services in connection with the regulated claims management activities [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#regulated-claims-management-activities] [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-

- <u>regulations/glossary/#regulated-claims-management-services]</u> provided for in agreement B; or
- 4. agreement A varies, supplements, novates or replaces agreement B (or vice versa); or
- 5. agreement A requires the <u>client [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#client]</u> to pay a fee to a lead generator in respect of the activities performed or to be performed under agreement B.

Supplemental notes

Made by the SRA Board on 23 January 2024.

Made under sections 31 of the Solicitors Act 1974, section 9 of the Administration of Justice Act 1985, section 83 of the Legal Services Act 2007 and section 33 of the Financial Guidance and Claims Act 2018.

SRA Claims Management Fees Rules

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Guidance (1) []

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Fees [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/index/#12884941484]
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Back to []

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Guidance

Guidance

<u>Claims management activity - Guidance [https://higherrights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/claims-management-activity/]</u>

Guidance - Professional duties and key risks for solicitors, law firms and their employees when representing clients during claims.



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