Valentine & Co

CHARGE OUT RATES & POLICY REGARDING THE RECOVERY OF EXPENSES PURSUANT TO STATEMENT OF INSOLVENCY PRACTICE 9

The following information applies to all appointments of Insolvency Practitioners of Valentine & Co to act as any of the following:-

Liquidator, Receiver, Administrator or Administrative Receiver of a Limited Company
Trustee in Bankruptcy
Supervisor of an Individual, Company or Partnership Voluntary Arrangement
Administrator under the Insolvent Estates Order
Monitor

When acting as Nominee, the provisions of the Insolvency Act require that the amount of the fees payable to the Office-holder be specified within the Debtor's proposals. Such fees will nevertheless be fixed to take account of the Office-holder's expected time costs arising as referred to below.

1. POLICY ON FEES

Fees are either fixed by reference to time costs, or as a percentage of realisations and distributions, or a set amount or any combination of all three. Where fees are agreed on a time cost basis, rates may be varied from time to time, at the sole discretion of Valentine & Co, and such changes will be notified in retrospect with each report to Creditors. It is the policy of Valentine & Co to use as junior grade of staff as compatible with the efficient conduct of the matter in order to ensure costs are kept to a minimum.

1.1. CHARGE-OUT RATES

Where the approved basis of remuneration is on a time costs basis, work undertaken on cases is recorded in 6 minute units in an electronic time recording system. Time properly incurred on cases is charged at the hourly rate of the grade of staff undertaking the work that applies at the time the work is done. Details of this firm's charge-out rates are as set out in the table below.

Please note, rates vary between individuals, reflecting experience and qualification. For certain more complex and/or speculative cases, Valentine & Co may seek to apply a higher rate in respect of work undertaken, as set out below and subject to prior authorisation in accordance with the Act. Rates are subject to review and may increase periodically. Any change in rates will be advised to creditors.

	Rate from 8 January 2015 per hour (£)	Rate from 12 January 2021 per hour (£)	Standard Rate from 1 April 2022 per hour (£)	Standard Rate from 1 January 2025 per hour (£)	Complex/Speculative Case Rate from 1 April 2022 per hour (£)
Directors/Consultant	325-425	325-475	375-525	425-575	800-875
Manager	200-300	200-300	285 -375	325-400	500-585
Senior	150-200	150-200	195-250	225-300	350-400
Administrator	50-150	50-150	150-195	180-220	275-350
Support	50	50	50	75-175	50-175

For further information on the manner in which an Office Holder's fees may be fixed, please refer to the guidance notes in relation to fees which can be downloaded from www.valentine-co.com/resources

1.2. FIXED AND % FEES

Where fees are authorised and approved as a fixed fee and/or % fee this fee is to cover the costs incurred by the Insolvency Practitioner and his staff and does not include any additional direct costs.

2. RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

An expense is a directly attributable cost to the estate which is neither an office holder's remuneration nor a distribution to creditors or members. Expenses can include disbursements, payments met by the office holder and subsequently recovered from the estate, and are divided into those that do not need approval before they are charged to the estate (category 1) and those that do (category 2).

Category 1 expenses are payments to independent third parties and do not have to be approved prior to payment, but when reporting to the creditors committee and creditors during the course of the liquidation the actual expenses incurred will be compared with the original estimate provided with any material difference explained (e.g. where legal costs rise due to escalated recovery action).

Category 2 expenses are payments to associates, or parties with a professional or personal relationship, or payments which have an element of shared costs. It is not this firm's policy to seek to recover Category 2 expenses.

An estimate of expenses (including disbursements) is provided to creditors when the basis of the office-holder's fees are proposed.

The expenses generally recovered by Valentine & Co, but not limited to, are as follows:-

Expenses	**Charge**
Bond	At cost
Statutory Advertising	At cost
Postage/external mailing services (see below)	At cost

It should be noted that the firm occasionally uses the services of a postal communication agent for delivery of documents. Where this is used the fee is a category 1 expense and recharged to the estate. The rate charged is regularly reviewed to ensure it provides best value for creditors at a fair market rate.

3. Professional Advisors

On occasion it is necessary for the office holder to engage with specialist professional advisers. Professional advisers are selected with regard to the specific requirements and based upon the office-holders professional judgement of their experience and ability to perform the necessary work, the complexity and nature of the assignment and the basis of the fee arrangement with to ensure a fair and reasonable cost to the estate.

Expenses incurred in respect of specialist advisers are subject to independent assessment prior to engagement and reported in accordance with current guidance. Unless a significant personal or professional relationship, that may give rise to a potential threat or conflict, has been identified with any Advisor their costs are regarded as category 1 expenses.

4. The use of Subcontractors

The liquidator may sub-contract some of the work required to be undertaken to specialist providers where the Liquidator is satisfied that taking this approach ensures that the best value and service is provided to creditors and it is more cost effective for the estate. The rates charged are comparable with the market rate for such services and the work to be undertaken. The need for the work and the cost are reported to creditors.

There is no duplication of costs with work undertaken by the Liquidator and his staff however it is still necessary for the Liquidator to oversee and review the work undertaken as part of his statutory duties.