

SOLICITOR



Versus

SMALL CLAIMS PORTAL

A comparison of likely outcomes between using a solicitor and DIY with help from the Small Claims Portal for a claim worth £7,500

Summary:

- If you **win using a solicitor** you could **recover** as little as **£1,060**
- If you **lose using a solicitor** you could be **out of pocket** for **£7,300**
- If you **win using DIY and the Small Claims Portal** you could **recover** **£6,720**
- If you **lose using DIY and the Small Claims Portal** you would be **out of pocket** for **£1,545**

|  Solicitors | |  Small claims portal | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Action | Cost | Action | Cost |
| Court fee to issue a claim | £410 | Court fee to issue a claim | £410 |
| Solicitors fees (estimated and inc VAT) | £6,000 | DIY | £0 |
| Trial Court Fee | £355 | Trial Court Fee | £355 |
| Barrister for the trial | £540 | Barrister for the trial | £540 |
| Organising the papers for the trial (known as bundles) | £0 (inc in the solicitors fee above) | Organising the papers for the trial (known as bundles) | £240 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL COST | £7,305 | TOTAL COST | £1,545 |

* The solicitors' fees are only estimated for illustration purposes. All fees are correct as at 30.9.19

*The general rule is the successful party can only recover fixed costs in the small claims court. In this scenario, for using a solicitor it would be a total of £100. You can also recover the court fees, reasonable expenses, loss of earnings and experts fees. For the purposes of this illustration we will limit recovery to fixed costs and court fees.

|  Solicitors | |  Small claims portal | |
|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| If you WIN | | If you WIN | |
| <i>Recover:</i> | | <i>Recover:</i> | |
| <i>Claim</i> | £7,500 | <i>Claim</i> | £7,500 |
| <i>Fixed Costs</i> | £100 | <i>Fixed Costs</i> | £0 |
| <i>Court Fees</i> | £765 | <i>Court Fees</i> | £765 |
| <i>Less:</i> | | <i>Less:</i> | |
| <i>Court Fees</i> | £765 | <i>Court Fees</i> | £765 |
| <i>Solicitor Fees</i> | £6,000 | <i>Solicitor Fees</i> | £0 |
| <i>Barrister Fees</i> | £540 | <i>Barrister Fees & Bundle</i> | £780 |
| In your pocket | £1,060 | In your pocket | £6,720 |

|  Solicitors | |  Small claims portal | |
|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| If you LOSE | | If you LOSE | |
| <i>Recover:</i> | | <i>Recover:</i> | |
| <i>Claim</i> | £0 | <i>Claim</i> | £0 |
| <i>Less:</i> | | <i>Less:</i> | |
| <i>Court Fees</i> | £765 | <i>Court Fees</i> | £765 |
| <i>Solicitor Fees</i> | £6,000 | <i>Solicitor Fees</i> | £0 |
| <i>Barrister Fees</i> | £540 | <i>Barrister Fees & Bundle</i> | £780 |
| Out of pocket | £7,300 | Out of pocket | £1,545 |

* The solicitors' fees are only estimated for illustration purposes. All fees are correct as at 30.9.19