

How to book an appointment with Birkett Long?

We understand that sometimes booking an appointment with a lawyer can be a daunting first step. Therefore we offer a number of ways that you can book an appointment with us.

You can:



Call the office closest to you:

Basildon: 01268 244144
Chelmsford: 01245 453800
Colchester: 01206 217300
London: 020 4586 1280
Europe: +356 23 43 1042



Send an email:

enquiry@birkettlong.co.uk



Fill in an enquiry form online via our website:

birkettlong.co.uk/enquiry



Write to us:

Basildon office

Birkett Long LLP
Phoenix House
Christopher Martin
Road
Basildon
Essex
SS14 3EZ

Chelmsford office

Birkett Long LLP
Faviell House
1 Coval Wells
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1WZ

Colchester office

Birkett Long LLP
1 Amphora Place
Sheepen Road
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3WG

London office

Birkett Long LLP
8 Devonshire Square
London
EC2M 4YJ

European office (Intellectual Property only)

BL Intellectual Property Malta Ltd
Junction Business Centre
1st Floor, Sqaq Lourdes
Swieqi
St Julian's
SWQ 3334
Malta



What happens on your initial call?

Once you have made contact with us, we offer a free no obligation 15 minute chat. This time will be used to find out a bit more about you and why you are seeking legal advice. We can then let you know if we can help. At Birkett Long we have a range of lawyers with differing levels of experience and specialisms so we will match your case to the right person. It is also an opportunity for you to decide if you like us! If you do then we can then discuss the next steps, the likely costs involved and set up an initial meeting with you.



How we communicate with you

We have started an initiative to drastically reduce the amount of printing we do as a firm to lower our environmental impact. Just as importantly, we are improving our service by sending documents via email where possible rather than relying on the post for routine communications, which means our clients get their information more quickly.

Therefore where possible we prefer to communicate with you via email or phone, however we are still able to communicate with you via post if required.

We will also make it clear how often we will communicate with you and that will be based on your needs and preferences as our client. Depending on the matter, some clients may prefer an update once a month in order to keep costs down. Others may prefer to receive more regular communications but this will be agreed with you from the outset.



Your first meeting

We are able to offer you meetings virtually and can communicate with you in any way that you prefer. Our lawyers can meet with you via Skype, Video Conferencing (including Zoom and Teams) or Face Time. You can contact any member of the team you are dealing with or reception staff to arrange this.

We are also able to offer face to face meetings. These can take place by appointment only and we have meeting facilities in our Colchester, Chelmsford, Basildon and London offices.

Free parking is available in our Colchester office in any free space between numbers 20 and 23 and we have two disabled bays, numbers 24 and 25. In our Chelmsford office, you can park in any free space between R154-R163. Our Basildon office has visitor marked bays at the front of the building. Our London office has excellent public transport links – the nearest tube station is Liverpool Street.

During your first meeting with us you will receive a warm and friendly welcome. It should be possible to give you advice at the first meeting and deal with any immediate concerns you may have. More detailed advice can be given once it has been possible to gather any relevant information that isn't available at that first meeting.

After the meeting we will write to you detailing the advice given so you have a record that you can refer to whenever you wish.

Many people just want to seek some preliminary advice and then have some space to think things through and decide if or when they want to take the next step. We will have your file ready to go, if or when you need our further help.



What's an Anti-Money Laundering check, how is it carried out and why do I have to have one?

We are legally required to carry out Anti-Money Laundering checks against all clients at the start of your relationship with Birkett Long. The checks are to ensure we identify our individual clients or the ultimate beneficial owners of other clients, such as companies and trusts. We need to check you are who you say you are and whether you are a politically exposed person, or a relative or close associate of a politically exposed person. The checks are carried out using our electronic verification and identification software, however we may need to request documentation from you to complete the Anti-Money Laundering checks. We also have to check clients' source of funds and source of wealth. These checks are not a once and for all check and so may have to be undertaken on more than one occasion.



What's a retainer letter?

A retainer letter sets out the basis of our agreement with you. It details the work to be carried out and will include the name and status of the fee earner dealing with your matter, together with their hourly charge out rate and the name of their supervisor. It will provide you with a cost estimate for the work to be carried out and will set out information on when and how fees should be paid. It will also include an estimate of how long it will take for the work to be completed and details of how either party can end the relationship. The fee earner will also provide you with a cost benefit and risk analysis setting out whether the costs of proceeding are proportionate to the risk. Included in the retainer letter will be information regarding our professional indemnity insurance, complaints procedure and legal aid where appropriate. A copy of our Terms and Conditions of Business and Privacy Policy will be sent with our retainer letter.



What's an acknowledgement sheet and why do I have to sign it?

An acknowledgement sheet is a document attached to the end of the retainer letter which requires your signature. By signing our acknowledgement sheet you are giving consent for work to proceed on your matter and agreeing to our Terms and Conditions of Business.



How do I pay?

See payment details set out on the invoice.



What happens at the end of my matter?

At the conclusion of your matter, you will receive a letter confirming how long your file/documents will be stored for and, if appropriate, any outstanding issues or future key dates will be highlighted. You will also have the opportunity to complete a survey on the service you have received from Birkett Long.