

# Magistrates' Courts Rules Committee Costs in criminal cases (magistrates' courts) Response Questionnaire

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## Document Details

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# Introduction

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We welcome your views as part of this consultation exercise.

Please complete the form enclosed and return by **6 January 2012** to:

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Copies of the consultation document and this questionnaire can be accessed at [www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk).

If you would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format please contact the Secretariat.

# Questionnaire

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**Q1: Do you agree that the maximum amount of costs that can be awarded under Schedule 1 in respect of solicitors and counsel should be increased to take into account inflation since 1979?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Please add comments:**

**Q2: If so, do you consider that, in relation to today's marketplace for legal services, a maximum of £300 would normally provide reasonable compensation to the prosecution and defence?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Q3: If not, what would be a more appropriate amount, and by what rationale do you support such an amount?**

**Q4: Is the provision relating to exceptional cases adequate? If not, how should it be amended and for what reason?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Please add comments:**

**Q5: Do you agree that the scale of allowances and rates for witness expenses under Schedule 2 should be revised?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Please add comments:**

**Q6: If so, should the revised scale and rates be based on those provided to witnesses by the Public Prosecution Service?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Q7: If not, what is a more appropriate scale, and by what rationale do you propose it?**

**Q8: Do you agree that a regular review of Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 should be established?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Please add comments:**

**Q9: If so, do you agree that such a review should occur every three years?**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Q10: If not, how often do you think such a review should occur, and for what reasons?**

**If you have any further comments you wish to make please do so in the space provided:**

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