



## **THE ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES AND LEGAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS (FEES) ORDER 2024**

Consistory Court fees payable from the 1st January 2025 are as follows:

### **For Faculties:**

Registry fee	£238.00 (+VAT)
Chancellor's fee	£57.00
Total	<u>£342.60</u>

The legal aspects of processing a faculty incur a legal charge in accordance with The Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2024. The DBF pay the faculty lodging fees in most cases for faculties lodged from 1 January 2025 onwards. List A and List B applications do not incur a fee and the following Faculty Petitions are, in almost all cases, paid by the petitioner:

- *Exhumation petitions*
- *Grave space reservations*
- *Non-conforming memorial petitions*
- *Applications where a third party (ie not the PCC or incumbent) would be obliged to pay, for example works to a closed churchyard where the local council would pay*
- *Variations to works permitted by an existing faculty*

The costs for confirmatory faculties where a PCC has deliberately undertaken works without permission, in the knowledge that Faculty Permission is required, are likely to be paid by the PCC as petitioner and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

If the Chancellor issues directions under Part 11 of the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015, involving extra work, he may sanction a higher fee to be payable in accordance with Table 1 of the Schedule to [The Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others \(Fees\) Order 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Registry fee for general correspondence is £166.00 per hour plus VAT and the Chancellor's fee for preparing and writing judgments is £150.00 per hour. Please be aware that costs can very quickly accrue.

If the Petition becomes contested and proceeds to a Consistory Court hearing, it is then usually deemed to be unreasonable for the DBF to be responsible for all the extra costs. That cost will then fall on the Petitioners or the Objectors. It follows that Petitioners would be well advised to consult widely within the Parish to avoid confrontation, and subsequent significant expense, if they think a Petition is likely to be contentious.

Taking early advice from the Registrar and the DAC may save a lot of money and aggravation in the long term.

The Archdeacons have jurisdiction in the matters set out in Schedule I of the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015 as amended by the Faculty Jurisdiction (amendment) Rules 2019 and the works set out in 'List A' and 'List B' may now be undertaken without a Faculty but must be approved by the Archdeacons before the works are undertaken.

**Fees for the reservation of a grave space or an exhumation total £342.60 (including VAT).**

You should advise Petitioners that payment details, FAQ's and the Petition Form can be found on the [Registry Page](#) of the website.

**Fees for a faculty for a memorial that does not comply with the Diocesan Churchyard Regulations also total £342.60 (including VAT)** You should advise Petitioners that payment details and the Petition Form for a non-compliant memorial can be obtained from the Registry.

In those cases where the third party pay the faculty fee the DAC Secretary and/or Registrar will advise you when payment is due, what the rate is in your particular case, and who to make payment to. Petition forms lodged for exhumations, grave space reservations and non-conforming memorials should be accompanied by payment.

This letter is for guidance in the ordinary cases which arise in the Diocese and for further information reference should be made to the [Fees Order](#) itself.

Kind regards,

Lisa Moncur  
Solicitor  
Registrar to the Diocese of Blackburn