

Interest Policy (effective from 1 December 2024)

In accordance with the SRA Accounts Rules, it is the firm's policy to account to its clients for a sum in lieu of interest on a fair and reasonable basis.

The rate of interest paid will be at the rates paid by our bank, C Hoare & Co, on either the general client account or the instant access deposit account, whichever is the greater.

Please note that this rate may not be as high as the rate which you may be able to achieve if you were to invest the monies yourself.

Should the interest rates result in negative interest, this firm's policy is to pay no interest. The firm will not pass the result of negative interest to its clients.

Monies will be held on your behalf in a general client account and we will not account for interest in the following circumstances:

- (a) if the amount of interest calculated is £50 or less; or
- (b) if there is an agreement to contract out of the provisions of this policy. Please refer to page 2 of this policy

If we hold money in a separate designated client account on your behalf, we will account to you for the actual interest earned on that account.

Interest will be calculated and credited to your account on a six-monthly basis or on completion of the matter.

If sums of monies are held in relation to separate matters for you then each sum will usually be treated separately. Therefore we will apply the fair and reasonable test to the individual sums without aggregation.

In cases where interest is applied to matters that have overdue outstanding bills, the firm reserves the right to apply the interest amount to the bill to reduce its debt owed.

Where your money is held on our general client account, or in a separate designated deposit account, any interest paid to you is paid without the deduction of income tax. As such it is your responsibility to inform HM Revenue & Customs of amount of interest received from us, and the implications of this will depend upon your own financial circumstances.

Should you choose to opt out of the firms interest policy, please ensure you provide us with your instructions and wishes at the outset of the matter. In such cases we will set the firms interest rate to zero and no monetary value of interest will be applied.

Forsters can upon receiving written instructions, donate interest to a charity of your choice, however this can only be agreed at the conclusion of a matter and by the party legally entitled to the applied interest.

Interest is paid on cleared funds only.