

CLIENT INTEREST POLICY

A. Interest Policy - General Client Account

Money is usually held in a client account in order to facilitate carrying out the matter for which we are instructed. Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP ("Anthony Collins") is committed to achieving the highest standards of ethics and good governance in all its activities. Anthony Collins carries out its business transparently and fairly and as such, this policy sets out the circumstances where a payment in lieu of interest is due in respect of monies held by us.

1. When Interest is Payable

Money is normally held to facilitate the carrying out of client instructions and from time to time we may be required to hold monies on your behalf for a period of time. Where monies are held in our general client account a sum in lieu of interest will be calculated on an individual basis taking into account the amount and the length of time the funds have been held and when it is fair and reasonable to do so. The amount due will be accounted for on completion of the matter the funds relate to, or on annual basis where funds are held indefinitely for ongoing matters.

Where monies are received and paid out electronically the clearance times are the same. Where monies are received electronically but paid out by cheque an additional 3 days clearance will be taken into account when calculating the amount of interest payable. In the event a cheque which is sent in respect of a payment in lieu of Interest, or a cheque that includes this, is not presented for payment or is returned to us by the postal service as unable to be delivered, it will be a matter of individual circumstance as to whether an additional amount of interest is calculated before re-issuing the cheque.

2. When Interest is not payable

A sum in lieu of interest will not be paid in the circumstances listed below:

- i) if the cumulative total calculated is below £10.00 (This de-minimis value is subject to annual review or when it is fair and reasonable to do so);
- ii) monies held on account of counsel fees or any other expert who has asked for a delay in settlement;
- iii) monies held for the Legal Aid Agency (formerly Legal Services Commission);
- iv) monies loaned by the firm to fund a payment on behalf of the client in excess of the money held;
- v) if there has been a written agreement to contract out as provided for in the Solicitors' Accounts Rules 2011.

3. Rate of Interest Paid

Any monies held by Anthony Collins on behalf of a client need to be held in an instant access account in order to facilitate the transaction(s) they are held for. Any instant access account will not attract the highest rate of interest available. Anthony Collins will calculate the sum due in lieu of interest at a rate the money would have earned had it been placed in a suitable instant access deposit account at our bank. As banks change their products from time to time, Anthony Collins takes into account historic products when setting interest rates. The rates are reviewed each time the bank changes its own rates.

In the interest of fairness, if and when we change our bank, the historic rates of the preceding bank will be applied to balances held prior to the change of bank. The sum paid in lieu of interest will be calculated and paid gross and will need to be declared on any tax return made.

4. Special Circumstances

From time to time there may be instances where a large sum of money is to be held for a considerable length of time. In these circumstances special arrangements may be made to invest the funds on your behalf. These will be discussed on an individual basis, should the occasion arise.

B. Interest Policy – Designated Deposit Accounts

There are instances where monies are placed on a separate designated deposit account. When this occurs, all the interest that the account earns is paid over. The interest on these accounts is paid net of Income Tax. A tax deduction certificate is available on request.