

LEGAL HELP



TBF offers a wide range of legal help through its solicitors.

When you join you are given access to a free telephone helpline provided by Ormerods, a long-established firm in Croydon. You can raise almost any legal problem with them without coming to us first, safe in the knowledge you will not be charged for their initial advice.

The following notes apply to beneficiaries living in England and Wales whose first language is not Welsh. If you live in Scotland or if your first language is Welsh we shall be very happy to make appropriate arrangements in line with the principles set out. These will not normally be through Ormerods, but through appropriate solicitors in your own country.

The only exceptions to this arrangement are employment law matters (which we believe are more appropriate to your trade union) and those relating to running a personal business (where we cannot offer help to any working member given the safety-critical nature of our industry).

Emergency help on criminal or immigration matters is available out of hours direct with Ormerods.

It may be that, during your discussion with the solicitor, a straightforward course of action is identified which may solve your problem. In such cases the solicitor will speak to us to get authority to incur expenses which we will meet. As a general guide we will pay up to around £200 in these circumstances, but we cannot meet the costs associated with things like house purchase or divorce.

If more extensive work or action is needed the solicitor will discuss charges with you, but we shall not normally be able to meet these. You are not obliged to engage that firm even though they have given you initial advice but you may find their rates competitive. If you are being put at significant risk because you cannot afford the costs of the proposed action please discuss it with us - we may be able to offer some financial help.

We realize that, especially for members based away from London, these arrangements may not be ideal. Ormerods have arrangements with solicitors throughout Great Britain who can offer a similar level of service and - as membership grows in other areas - we are establishing similar arrangements there.

We can also authorize you to go to a local firm of solicitors where our arrangements cannot meet your needs, but we must agree this in advance (except in case of emergency).

Many other organizations offer legal advice schemes, but most do not offer the range of help the TBF does. Another reason to be a member.