gypsies and travellers scheme

The scheme

We have designed our Gypsy & Travellers Scheme to provide easily accessible and cost-effective legal support. At Invicta Law we understand the issues that all public bodies, managers of travellers sites and council officers face and we have considerable expertise in the specialist area of gypsy and travellers law. Our scheme is designed to provide you with access to lawyers who are experts in their field and have extensive experience of dealing with the complex legal issues associated with gypsies and travellers.

We are focused on achieving positive outcomes for all involved and helping everyone find the best possible solutions. We understand the nuances of unauthorised encampments and have the necessary resources and expertise to be able to handle these matters sensitively and speedily.

What does it cost?

An annual membership fee of just £500 entitles members to receive the following:

- **Legal Helpline** - unlimited calls to our Legal Helpline for up to 30 minutes free advice in relation to each matter.

- **Training Sessions** - two training sessions per year covering the key legal issues that effect the gypsy and traveller sector.

- **Annual Review** - of your policies and procedures at your offices.

- **Guidance Notes and Updates** - updating you on any developments, changes in the law and helpful tips for reviewing performance and reducing risk throughout the year.

For those members who require specific advice and assistance relating to unauthorised encampments we provide a competitive fixed price service.

**Fixed rates:**

- £1,100 for Unauthorised Encampment (UE) matter concerning 1 caravan.
- £1,800 for UE matter concerning 2 to 5 caravans.
- £2,500 for UE matter concerning more than 5 caravans.

**What’s included?**

Assisting with preparation of evidence pack, drafting and issuing information, summons, order and complaint, preparation for hearing and attendance at first hearing. The scheme is priced taking into account the items of work included in a typical complex unauthorised encampment matter.

**What’s not included**

Payments to third parties (i.e. courts, experts, barristers, etc). However, we will advise you of the likely costs and support you in negotiating discounted rates.

To join the scheme or for further assistance please contact:

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Case study

We acted for a County Council on a matter concerning unauthorised encampment of over 20 caravans on a very busy public site. We were initially instructed on a Thursday and acted promptly to obtain a hearing the following day. Usually it would take at least two working days for a hearing to be listed but on this occasion, given the obvious urgency and the risk of additional unauthorised encampments and damage to the site over the weekend, we were able to use our experience to persuade court staff to advance the matter to a legal advisor within an hour of submitting our application.

Pending the return of the signed documents from the court, we were advised that a further two caravans had joined the group.

Normally, these additional encampments would require a new application for a hearing to be listed at the court, but on this occasion we were able to use our practical experience and close working relationship with employees at the court to register the additional encampments via email on to the court’s records so that they could be taken into account at the previously listed hearing.

The court subsequently ordered the immediate removal of all of the unauthorised encampments, the majority of which had already left the site on receipt of the court documents.

Within a few days the site was cleared and back to normal operation. The rapid intervention by our experienced team resulted in:

- Reduced cost to the taxpayer
- Reduced negative impact on the public and the environment
- Reduced reputational damage for the client.

Our legal expertise, your peace of mind