

## **MCR**

### **PROFESSIONAL FEES - SIP 9**

MCR's mission statement is "to provide clients with an outstanding service based on technical excellence, effective problem solving and the highest level of client care". It provides a quality, partner led service and takes compliance with insolvency legislation and best practice guidance seriously.

This guide to our fees has been produced to provide creditors with information required by best practice guidance. We recommend that this guidance is read in conjunction with the note entitled "A Creditors Guide to Liquidators' Fees", which is attached.

At MCR we seek to recover fees on time cost basis. Set out below are our firm's hourly rates, with effect from 1 January 2010, excluding VAT:

	<b>£</b>
Partners	435 - 495
Managers/Directors	275 - 435
Seniors	170 - 280
Assistants/Support staff	30 - 155

We occasionally use an associated business, MCR Receivables Management Limited to assist with the collection of book debts and other matters that the officeholders deem necessary. Depending upon the complexity and difficulties with the debtor records, work is undertaken on a basis of a percentage of realisations. The rate usually applied is 10% plus VAT and expenses.

As previously stated, MCR prides itself on the quality of work undertaken. With that in mind, we would invite creditors to consider the following points:

1. Our own standards mean that we undertake an investigation into the affairs of all companies in liquidation irrespective of the level of realisations that will be achieved.
2. The practice has to meet its own overheads and those associated with an insolvent state irrespective of when fees are available from a particular case. We endeavour to allocate tasks to staff with the appropriate skills and at an appropriate charge-out rate.
3. Expenses and disbursements incurred by MCR in dealing with the administration of insolvent estates are discharged as a practice overhead out of fee income. This means that there are no hidden costs for recharging the use of internal meeting rooms, document storage and other services provided by the firm.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, direct costs relating to the administration of an estate are recovered if funds permit. These include, where applicable, advertising, travel expenses and expense claims by MCR staff where they are obliged to work away from the office. MCR only seeks to recover the costs of printing, room hire and document storage provided by external suppliers.

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## A CREDITORS' GUIDE TO LIQUIDATORS' FEES

### ENGLAND AND WALES

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#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 When a company goes into liquidation the costs of the proceedings are paid out of its assets. The creditors, who hope to recover some of their debts out of the assets, therefore have a direct interest in the level of costs, and in particular the remuneration of the insolvency practitioner appointed to act as liquidator. The insolvency legislation recognises this interest by providing mechanisms for creditors to fix the basis of the liquidator's fees. This guide is intended to help creditors be aware of their rights to approve and monitor fees, explains the basis on which fees are fixed and how creditors can seek information about expenses incurred by the liquidator and challenge those they consider to be excessive.

#### 2 Liquidation procedure

- 2.1 Liquidation (or 'winding up') is the most common type of corporate insolvency procedure. Liquidation is the formal winding up of a company's affairs entailing the realisation of its assets and the distribution of the proceeds in a prescribed order of priority. Liquidation may be either voluntary, when it is instituted by resolution of the shareholders, or compulsory, when it is instituted by order of the court.
- 2.2 Voluntary liquidation is the more common of the two. An insolvent voluntary liquidation is called a creditors' voluntary liquidation (often abbreviated to 'CVL'). In this type of liquidation an insolvency practitioner acts as liquidator throughout and the creditors can vote on the appointment of the liquidator at the first meeting of creditors.
- 2.3 In a compulsory liquidation on the other hand, the function of liquidator is, in most cases, initially performed not by an insolvency practitioner but by an official called the official receiver. The official receiver is an officer of the court and an official belonging to The Insolvency Service. In most compulsory liquidations, the official receiver becomes liquidator immediately on the making of the winding-up order. Where there are significant assets an insolvency practitioner will usually be appointed to act as liquidator in place of the official receiver, either at a meeting of creditors convened for the purpose or directly by The Insolvency Service on behalf of the Secretary of State. Where an insolvency practitioner is not appointed the official receiver remains liquidator.
- 2.4 Where a compulsory liquidation follows immediately on an administration the court may appoint the former administrator to act as liquidator. In such cases the official receiver does not become liquidator. An administrator may also subsequently act as liquidator in a CVL.

#### 3 The liquidation committee

- 3.1 In a liquidation (whether voluntary or compulsory) the creditors have the right to appoint a committee called the liquidation committee, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 members, to monitor the conduct of the liquidation and approve the liquidator's fees. The committee is usually established at the creditors' meeting which appoints the liquidator, but in cases where a liquidation follows immediately on an administration any committee established for the purposes of the administration will continue in being as the liquidation committee.
- 3.2 The liquidator must call the first meeting of the committee within 6 weeks of its establishment (or his appointment if that is later), and subsequent meetings must be held either at specified dates agreed by the committee, or when requested by a member of the committee, or when the liquidator decides he needs to hold one. The liquidator is required to report to the committee at least every 6 months on the progress of the liquidation, unless the committee directs otherwise. This provides an opportunity for the committee to monitor and discuss the progress of the insolvency and the level of the liquidator's fees.

## **4 Fixing the liquidator's remuneration**

4.1 The basis for fixing the liquidator's remuneration is set out in Rules 4.127 – 4.127B of the Insolvency Rules 1986. The Rules state that the remuneration shall be fixed:

- as a percentage of the value of the assets which are realised or distributed or both,
- by reference to the time properly given by the liquidator and his staff in attending to matters arising in the liquidation, or
- as a set amount.

Any combination of these bases may be used to fix the remuneration, and different bases may be used for different things done by the liquidator. Where the remuneration is fixed as a percentage, different percentages may be used for different things done by the liquidator.

It is for the liquidation committee (if there is one) to determine on which of these bases, or combination of bases, the remuneration is to be fixed. Where it is fixed as a percentage, it is for the committee to determine the percentage or percentages to be applied. Rule 4.127 says that in arriving at its decision the committee shall have regard to the following matters:

- the complexity (or otherwise) of the case;
- any responsibility of an exceptional kind or degree which falls on the liquidator in connection with the insolvency;
- the effectiveness with which the liquidator appears to be carrying out, or to have carried out, his duties;
- the value and nature of the assets which the liquidator has to deal with.

4.2 If there is no liquidation committee, or the committee does not make the requisite determination, the liquidator's remuneration may be fixed by a resolution of a meeting of creditors. The creditors take account of the same matters as apply in the case of the committee. A resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated may be taken at the meeting which appoints the liquidator.

4.3 If the remuneration is not fixed as above, it will be fixed in one of the following ways. In a CVL, it will be fixed by the court on application by the liquidator, but the liquidator may not make such an application unless he has first tried to get his remuneration fixed by the committee or creditors as described above, and in any case not later than 18 months after his appointment. In a compulsory liquidation, it will be in accordance with a scale set out in the Rules.

4.4 Where the liquidation follows directly on from an administration in which the liquidator had acted as administrator, the basis of remuneration fixed in the administration continues to apply in the liquidation (subject to paragraph 8 below).

## **5 Review of remuneration**

Where there has been a material and substantial change in circumstances since the basis of the liquidator's remuneration was fixed, the liquidator may request that it be changed. The request must be made to the same body as initially approved the remuneration, and the same rules apply as to the original approval.

## **6 What information should be provided by the liquidator?**

### **6.1 When seeking remuneration approval**

6.1.1 When seeking agreement to his fees the liquidator should provide sufficient supporting information to enable the committee or the creditors to form a judgement as to whether the proposed fee is reasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the case. The nature and extent of the supporting information which should be provided will depend on:

- the nature of the approval being sought;
- the stage during the administration of the case at which it is being sought; and

