



CLAIMS FOR **YOU**

5

**Ways To Maximise
Your Workplace Hearing
Loss Claim To Achieve
The Compensation
You Deserve**

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Pain, Suffering & Loss of Amenity

When making a noise-induced hearing claim, you can claim for the pain, suffering, and loss of amenity that you have suffered as a result of the problems with your hearing. This is sometimes known as “general damages”.

These damages will take into account the impact that your hearing problems have on your day-to-day life. You may miss parts of conversations in the presence of background noise, need to turn the television up to hear it properly or miss your doorbell or telephone ringing.

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These damages will also take into account any tinnitus that you suffer from. Tinnitus is often described as being a buzzing or ringing in your ears. It can be anything from very occasional and slight to constant and severe in nature. Tinnitus can be very intrusive and distressing and can lead to problems sleeping and concentrating and potentially even more significant mental health problems.

A specialist medical expert will be instructed in your claim to provide an opinion and calculate your noise-induced hearing loss level and the grading of any tinnitus you suffer from.

The Judicial College publish guidelines on how much a noise-induced hearing loss claim is worth. The more severe the level of noise induced hearing loss (normally expressed in the form of a number of decibels (dB) of noise induced hearing loss) and tinnitus (normally graded on a scale of slight to severe) the greater the value of the claim.

The most recent guidelines set out the below valuation ranges:-

- Moderate noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus or moderate to severe noise induced hearing loss or tinnitus alone – **£14,900 to £29,710**
- Mild tinnitus with some noise-induced hearing loss – **£12,590 to £14,900**
- Mild tinnitus or mild noise-induced hearing loss alone – **Around £11,720**
- Slight or occasional tinnitus with slight noise-induced hearing loss – **£7,360 to £12,590**
- Slight noise-induced hearing loss without tinnitus or slight tinnitus without noise-induced hearing loss – **Up to £7,010**



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Hearing Aids

It might be that you require the provision of hearing aids owing to your level of hearing loss.

It is possible to claim the costs of the provision of private hearing aids in noise-induced hearing loss claims.

This is even the case if you would have needed hearing aids at some point in the future anyway as a result of ageing alone. We are able to claim for the costs of private hearing aids for the period of time between your claim and when you would have needed them anyway, owing to ageing alone.

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Hearing aids are also available on the NHS but you are not obliged to obtain NHS hearing aids. You are entitled to the costs of private hearing aids. There are several significant benefits of seeking private hearing aids, which can include a better overall level of service, much shorter waiting times and better quality hearing aids. Privately available hearing aids tend to be of better quality than hearing aids provided by the NHS. They are often smaller and less visible, and they also often contain more modern features and up-to-date technology. We will seek to recover private hearing aid costs in your claim.



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Tinnitus Treatment

It is also possible to claim the costs of tinnitus treatment and equipment.

This can include anything from tinnitus masking equipment and aids, such as white noise machines, to assist you with getting to sleep or tinnitus therapy to teach you coping strategies and how best to manage your tinnitus. There are even specialist hearing aids that can assist with managing and masking your tinnitus. We will seek to recover the costs of any tinnitus treatment or equipment required in your claim.



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Future Treatment Costs

It is not just the immediate treatment costs that you can recover in a noise-induced hearing loss claim but also treatment costs that will be incurred in the future.

This is important as hearing aids and tinnitus masking equipment often need replacing. It is often expected that a pair of hearing aids will require replacement every 5 to 7 years. It is essential that we also recover these costs for you, as you will not just need to pay for the immediate costs of hearing aids and tinnitus masking equipment now but also the costs of replacing the equipment in the future.

It can also cover treatment costs that aren't needed yet but will be needed in the future. This could include where you might need hearing aids owing to noise-induced hearing loss in the next 5 to 10 years but not straight away.



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Expenses & Losses

You can also recover any out-of-pocket expenses that you have incurred or will incur due to the problems with your hearing.

This can include if you have taken time off work or will need to take time off work in the future owing to the problems with your hearing.

You can even include more modest costs such as travel expenses and parking costs for attending for treatment. Don't leave yourself out of pocket by paying for these yourself!

In more extreme cases, hearing loss can result in you being rejected for jobs where good hearing is required. It is often the case when applying for jobs in a dangerous industry that an individual has to undergo a hearing test to check that their hearing is good enough before being taken on. If you failed such a hearing test and lost out on work due to your hearing problems, then we may also be able to claim for any loss of earnings that you have suffered.



NEXT STEPS

Please do not hesitate to contact Adam Belcher at Wixted & Co. Solicitors for a free consultation to see if we could act for you on our “no win, no fee” basis.

5 minutes of your time spent now could make a huge difference to your future financial security.

ACT FAST, DO NOT DELAY. PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR TOMORROW BY ACTING TODAY.

The materials appearing within this guide do not constitute legal advice and are provided for general information purposes only. No warranty, whether express or implied, is given in relation to such materials, and we do not accept any liability.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adam Belcher is Senior Associate at Wixted & Co and has been with the firm for over 13 years.

Adam specializes in noise induced hearing loss claims and has more than 14 years' experience representing clients from initial enquiry to final trial and beyond. Adam has represented a large number of clients, from a wide range of noisy industries, in respect of claims for noise induced hearing, at all stages of the Court process and has recovered significant sums of compensation for former clients.

For a free initial discussion, please email adam@wixtedandco.co.uk or call **0808 281 2531** and ask to speak to Adam Belcher in relation to a new noise induced hearing loss claim.

