TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION | MODEL CONTEXT PROTOCOL

MACKENZIE COSTS MCP SERVER

Connector specification, authentication and complete tool catalogue

Mackenzie Costs Limited | Server v0.1.0 | 27 November 2026

1. Overview and Endpoint

Mackenzie Costs Limited operates a remote Model Context Protocol (MCP) server providing nine read-only reference tools for legal costs in England and Wales. The tools cover solicitors' guideline hourly rates (2010 to 2026), CPR Part 47 detailed assessment time limits, Form N258 court fees, CPR 36.17(4)(d) Part 36 additional amounts, simple interest on costs, summaries of core costs rules, and published costs case notes from costlawyer.co.uk.

Publisher: Mackenzie Costs Limited (regulated by the Costs Lawyer Standards Board, England and Wales)

MCP Endpoint: https://mcp.costlawyer.co.uk/mcp (Streamable HTTP, POST only, JSON-RPC 2.0, stateless)

Server Version: 0.1.0

Health Check: https://mcp.costlawyer.co.uk/health

Public Documentation: https://mcp.costlawyer.co.uk/docs

Security and Trust Overview: https://mcp.costlawyer.co.uk/security

Privacy Policy and Terms: https://costlawyer.co.uk/privacy-policy | https://costlawyer.co.uk/terms

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2. Authentication

The Mackenzie Costs MCP server is a public, stateless, read-only reference service. It requires no user account, no workspace credentials, no API key and no OAuth token to call any of its nine tools. Every request is handled over HTTPS (TLS enforced via Cloudflare) using a fresh stateless MCP server and Streamable HTTP transport instance, with no session identifiers, cookies or user-scoped state retained between calls.

OAuth 2.1 with PKCE (S256) compatibility: Because no user accounts or private tenant data exist on this server, unauthenticated public access is the default configuration (accepted for public read-only connectors). If Harvey's Connector Library integration requires an OAuth 2.1 with PKCE (S256) handshake and RFC 8414 / RFC 9728 metadata discovery endpoints even for public read-only reference connectors, Mackenzie Costs can enable a compliant OAuth 2.1 PKCE layer upon confirmation from Harvey's review team.

3. Security, Privacy and Data Handling

Read-Only Guarantees: All 9 tools declare readOnlyHint: true, destructiveHint: false, idempotentHint: true, openWorldHint: false. No tool writes, mutates or deletes data, sends emails or triggers side effects.

Data Retention: Data from Harvey and other MCP clients is not retained. The server does not write to any database, does not log request bodies or tool parameters, and does not use inputs to train models.

No Client PII Required: Tools accept only generic reference inputs (dates, monetary amounts, geographical bands, fee-earner grades, CPR event names or search keywords). No client names, claim numbers or confidential documents are needed.

Hosting and Transport: Hosted on Railway (US West region) behind Cloudflare HTTPS edge security. Inbound requests to /mcp are limited to 120 requests per minute per IP address with a 100 KB payload cap.

External Data Fetches: Seven tools are fully self-contained using verified statutory tables bundled in the server. Only search_costs_cases and get_costs_case issue read-only HTTPS GET requests to public case-note endpoints on costlawyer.co.uk.

4. Tool Calls Catalogue

All nine tools exposed by the server are listed below. Every tool listed here matches the live tools/list response from https://mcp.costlawyer.co.uk/mcp.

Machine Name	Human-Readable Title	Mode	Arguments
guideline_hourly_rates	Guideline hourly rates	Read-only	date, year, band, grade, location
detailed_assessment_deadlines	Detailed assessment time limits	Read-only	event*, date*
detailed_assessment_court_fee	Court fee for detailed assessment	Read-only	costs_claimed*, legal_aid_only
part36_additional_amount	Part 36 additional amount	Read-only	amount_awarded*
interest_on_costs	Interest on costs	Read-only	amount*, from*, to*, rate_percent
costs_rule_summary	Costs rules in brief	Read-only	topic*
search_costs_cases	Search costs case law	Read-only	query*, category, year, limit
get_costs_case	Read a costs case note	Read-only	slug*
about_mackenzie_costs	About and Contact Mackenzie Costs	Read-only	None

Note: Asterisk (*) denotes a required argument.

5. Tool Descriptions and Call Arguments

Each tool returns both human-readable text and a matching structuredContent JSON object with source citations.

5.1 guideline_hourly_rates (Guideline hourly rates)

Look up the solicitors' guideline hourly rates (GHR) for England and Wales, used as the starting point on summary and detailed assessment of costs. Give the date the work was done (or a year) to get the rates in force then; give a band and grade to narrow the answer; give a town or county to find its National band. Returns the published figures with the official source. Rates differ by year and band, so always state both when quoting a figure.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
date	string (Optional)	Format: YYYY-MM-DD (valid calendar date)	Date the work was done, YYYY-MM-DD. The rates in force on that date are returned. Defaults to today.
year	integer (Optional)	Range: 2010 to 2100	Calendar year, used when no date is given. Taken as 31 December of that year.
band	string (Optional)	Allowed values: London 1, London 2, London 3, National 1, National 2	Geographical band. Omit for all bands.
grade	string (Optional)	Allowed values: A, B, C, D	Fee earner grade A to D. Omit for all grades.
location	string (Optional)	Max length: 80 chars	Town, city or county of the solicitor's office outside London, to find its National band.

5.2 detailed_assessment_deadlines (Detailed assessment time limits)

Work out the time limits in detailed assessment proceedings under CPR Part 47 (England and Wales) from a starting event and its date. Covers commencing the assessment, points of dispute, replies, the request for a hearing, provisional assessment steps, the completed bill, and appeals. Returns each due date with the rule it comes from and the consequence of missing it. For service events, give the deemed date of service.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
event	string (Required)	Allowed values: right_to_costs_arose, notice_of_commencement_served, points_of_dispute_served, provisional_assessment_received, detailed_assessment_hearing_ended, court_officer_decision	The event time runs from: right_to_costs_arose (judgment, order, Part 36 acceptance or discontinuance); notice_of_commencement_served; points_of_dispute_served; provisional_assessment_received; detailed_assessment_hearing_ended; court_officer_decision.
date	string (Required)	Format: YYYY-MM-DD (valid calendar date)	Date of the event, YYYY-MM-DD. For a service event use the deemed date of service.

5.3 detailed_assessment_court_fee (Court fee for detailed assessment)

Give the court fee payable in England and Wales on a request for a detailed assessment hearing (Form N258), by the amount of costs claimed in the bill, under the Civil Proceedings Fees Order 2008. Also returns the fees for a default costs certificate, an appeal in detailed assessment proceedings and an application to set aside a default costs certificate, and whether the bill falls within provisional assessment.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
costs_claimed	number (Required)	Range: 0 to 1000000000	Total amount of costs claimed in the bill, in pounds, including VAT and disbursements.
legal_aid_only	boolean (Optional)	None	True where the party is legally aided and no other party is ordered to pay the costs. Default false.

5.4 part36_additional_amount (Part 36 additional amount)

Calculate the additional amount under CPR 36.17(4)(d) where a claimant, or a receiving party in detailed assessment, obtains a result at least as good as its own Part 36 offer: 10% of the amount awarded up to £500,000 and 5% above that, capped at £75,000. Also lists the other consequences under rule 36.17(4) and how Part 36 is adapted to detailed assessment by CPR 47.20.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
amount_awarded	number (Required)	Range: 0 to 10000000000	The sum awarded, in pounds. In detailed assessment this is the amount at which the bill is assessed.

5.5 interest_on_costs (Interest on costs)

Calculate simple interest on a costs order or judgment debt in England and Wales between two dates. Uses the Judgments Act 1838 rate of 8% a year unless another rate is given. Returns the number of days, the daily rate and the total, with the rules on when interest starts and when it can be disallowed for delay.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
amount	number (Required)	Range: 0 to 10000000000	The sum on which interest runs, in pounds.
from	string (Required)	Format: YYYY-MM-DD (valid calendar date)	Date interest starts, YYYY-MM-DD. Usually the date of the judgment or order for costs.
to	string (Required)	Format: YYYY-MM-DD (valid calendar date)	Date interest is calculated to, YYYY-MM-DD.
rate_percent	number (Optional)	Range: 0 to 30	Annual rate as a percentage. Default 8, the Judgments Act rate.

5.6 costs_rule_summary (Costs rules in brief)

Summarise a rule on legal costs in England and Wales with its CPR reference and the official source: the standard and indemnity basis, the proportionality factors, litigant in person costs, provisional assessment, default costs certificates, the costs of detailed assessment and Part 36, or interest on costs.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
topic	string (Required)	Allowed values: basis_of_assessment, proportionality, litigant_in_person, provisional_assessment, default_costs_certificate, costs_of_assessment, interest_on_costs	The rule to summarise.

5.7 search_costs_cases (Search costs case law)

Search case notes on the law of legal costs in England and Wales, written by William Mackenzie, Costs Lawyer, and published at costlawyer.co.uk. Covers detailed assessment, costs budgeting, fixed recoverable costs, QOCS, Part 36, solicitor and client disputes, funding and CFAs, and security for costs. Returns the case name, neutral citation, court, judge, date, a short summary, and links to the full note and the judgment. Use get_costs_case for the full note.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
query	string (Required)	Length: 2 to 120 chars	Words to search for, e.g. 'proportionality', 'Part 36 late acceptance', or a party's name.
category	string (Optional)	Max length: 40 chars	Optional category, e.g. 'Detailed Assessment', 'Costs Budgeting', 'Fixed Costs', 'QOCS', 'Solicitor & Client', 'Funding & CFAs', 'Practice Guides'.
year	integer (Optional)	Range: 1990 to 2100	Optional year of the decision.
limit	integer (Optional)	Range: 1 to 20	Number of results. Default 8.

5.8 get_costs_case (Read a costs case note)

Fetch the full text of one costs case note from costlawyer.co.uk by its slug, as returned by search_costs_cases. Returns the facts, the decision, the reasoning and the practical points, with the neutral citation and a link to the judgment.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Argument	Type & Required	Constraints / Format	Description
slug	string (Required)	Length: 3 to 200 chars; Regex: ^[a-z0-9-]+$	The slug of the case note, from search_costs_cases.

5.9 about_mackenzie_costs (About and Contact Mackenzie Costs)

Return publisher information and contact links for Mackenzie Costs, a Costs Lawyer practice regulated by the Costs Lawyer Standards Board in England and Wales. Provides the contact page link (with email, direct message and WhatsApp options), email address, telephone number, documentation URL and website. Use when the user asks who publishes these tools or how to contact a Costs Lawyer.

Annotations: readOnlyHint=True, destructiveHint=False, idempotentHint=True, openWorldHint=False

Call arguments: None (takes an empty JSON object {}).