



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2020

Judicial review

[The Daily Telegraph](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Press Association](#), [The Times](#), [Scottish Legal News](#), [New Law Journal](#) - There's widespread coverage of the Bar Council's reaction to the news that the Government has launched an independent review of judicial review. A panel, led by Lord Edward Faulks QC, will examine whether there should be reforms of judicial review.

Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar, is quoted across national and other media. She said: "Judicial review is the mark of a confident, well-run society that wants its citizens to have access to the justice they deserve.

"Without it, the rule of law and separation of powers will be undermined and, without them, we may as well wave goodbye to a functioning democracy. We take pride in our system of judicial review and caution against any unnecessary barrier to the public's right to challenge their government, so will be very interested to see the results of this independent review."

Sentencing

The Daily Telegraph (print and [online](#)) – The Telegraph reports that Robert Buckland, the Justice Secretary, is studying plans to end the current practice of automatically giving convicted criminals a third off their sentences if they plead guilty the first time they are asked in court.

The Bar Council and Criminal Bar Association (CBA), however, warned that the change could have the opposite effect by encouraging offenders to take their chances with a jury.

Covid-19 impact on the legal sector

[The Times](#), [Politics Home](#) x 2, [Legal Futures](#) - Further coverage appears of the Bar Council's [July survey](#) of the barristers' profession with results that illustrate the damage dealt to the justice system by the Covid-19 pandemic. There's also coverage

of the Justice Select Committee's report on the impact of Covid-19 on the legal professions.

Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar, writes in The Times that the government claims to support public workers but the crisis in the law is reaching breaking point. She writes: "...the lawyers I am talking about grew up grafting: they anxiously worry if the fee they are paid for a court hearing will cover the train fare to get there; they are taking second jobs in supermarkets to stay afloat. The clubs they frequent are the breakfast and after-school clubs, not the Garrick.

"By the time the government acts, access to justice will not be a pearl, but a desiccated shell available only to those with money."

Chair of the Bar

[New Law Journal](#) - **Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar**, writes in New Law Journal the unprecedented events of her first six months in office.

BAR COUNCIL TWEETS **<https://twitter.com/thebarcouncil>**

Pinned Tweet



The Bar Council ✓
@thebarcouncil



"The lawyers I'm talking about worry if the fee they're paid for a hearing will cover the train fare; they're taking 2nd jobs in supermarkets...The clubs they frequent are after-school clubs, not the Garrick."

Our Chair, Amanda Pinto QC writes [@TimesLaw](#):



Neglect will devastate the legal profession

There is a bafflingly wilful blindness and a seeming reluctance among ministers to address the innumerable problems facing the legal profession, exacerbated by ...

[thetimes.co.uk](#)

12:41 PM · Aug 6, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

||| [View Tweet activity](#)

44 Retweets and comments **59** Likes