



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2020

Home office

The Independent (print p.4 and [online](#)), The i, (p.4), [Evening Standard](#), [BBC](#), [The Guardian](#), [Financial Times](#), [Mirror](#), PA News (x2), [LawGazette](#), [PoliticsHome](#) (x2), [MSN](#), [YahooUK](#), [Hillingdon & Uxbridge Times](#), [Yorkshire Post](#), [Jersey Evening Post](#), [ThisIsMoney](#), [Express&Star](#), [Shropshire Star](#), [InsideWalesSport](#) - The Home Office has been accused of an "assault on the rule of law" over its comments about "activist lawyers" who are representing migrants.

Home Secretary Priti Patel's department has faced fierce criticism over a video posted to its Twitter account about its efforts to remove migrants from the UK.

The clip, which has been viewed more than a million times in less than 24 hours, says that current regulations are "allowing activist lawyers to delay and disrupt returns".

Amanda Pinto QC, chair of the Bar Council, said: "We strongly condemn the use of divisive and deceptive language that undermines the rule of law and those working to uphold it."

She branded the comments "irresponsible, misleading" and "political point-scoring".

Lawyers are "merely doing their jobs, enabling people to exercise their statutory rights and defend themselves against those in power. Without those lawyers, our system would crumble", she added.

Criminal legal aid review

[Daily Mail](#), PA News, [Law Gazette](#), [Lawyer Monthly](#), [BusinessFast](#), [Legal Futures](#), [PoliticsHome](#), [NewLawJournal](#) – Criminal legal aid lawyers could get a pay rise after the Government pledged an extra £51 million in funding.

Industry leaders have welcomed the news, saying the money was desperately needed and signalled the first hike in fees to provide publicly funded legal representation in a quarter of a century.

But they also warned the cash boost does not go far enough to address ongoing problems with legal aid funding.

Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar Council, said: "This money is desperately needed and long overdue for criminal legal aid barristers who do crucial work in the public interest and, having been badly hit by years of cuts, have suffered drastic loss of work during the pandemic. We are pleased that, at last, barristers are paid for work they are obliged to do to prepare cases properly for court.

"Nonetheless, the rates of pay must be revisited as part of the wider independent review, which we look forward to engaging with, to ensure the sustainability of this vital provision.

"Without further support from the Government, we fear that this great public service will disappear."

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





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Read the Chair of the Bar's update today on the criminal legal aid review here:

r1.dmrk.net/4CGD-WF66-F4F1...

Ministry of Justice @MoJGovUK · Aug 21

Up to £51 million will be given to the #LegalAid sector to better reflect the vital work of criminal barristers and solicitors.

This is the first step in an ongoing review of criminal legal aid to help ensure access to justice.

Read more: gov.uk/government/new...

Up to **£51 million** for
criminal legal aid sector

Ministry of Justice

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