



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020

### Criminal legal aid

[The Guardian](#), [The London Economic](#), [This is Money](#), [Law Gazette](#) - Government plans to increase legal aid fees for criminal lawyers have been branded “woefully inadequate” by campaigners, who described the funding as nowhere near enough to tackle a “deepening crisis”.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is proposing to spend an extra £32 million to £50 million on fees for solicitors and barristers handling court cases.

The announcement marked the “first step of a comprehensive review of criminal legal aid and aims to address some of the most pressing concerns of the criminal defence profession,” the department added.

**Amanda Pinto QC, the chair of the Bar Council, said:** “These consultation proposals set out a modest, stop-gap improvement in specific areas of criminal defence fees. This is a welcome first step, as the lord chancellor acknowledges, in recognising the crucial role of defence legal practitioners to the delivery of justice in an increasingly complex and onerous system.

“All those involved in delivering criminal justice must be paid a fair and sustainable amount for the important work they do. We believe this interim consultation is an acknowledgement by the government that the current rates of pay for defence advocates and solicitors are far too low to maintain a functioning criminal justice system.”

A consultation on the proposals so far opened on Friday and closes on March 27.

### Justice Week

**New Law Journal (print)** – Young people fear that democracy and their freedoms are being eroded, research to coincide with Justice Week 2020 has found. A Bar Council, Law Society and CILEx survey of more than 4,000 people uncovered

widespread anxiety, with 34% of 18-24 year-olds, and 40% of the 55-64 year-olds, concerned at having less freedom. Freedom of speech and expression topped the list of concerns at 57% overall.

Justice Week aims to highlight the importance of the rule of law among young people. School teachers were enlisted to deliver a lesson on the law, while animated videos illustrating the role of lawyers in protecting freedom, democracy and the environment were circulated.

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

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 **Deshpal Panesar** @DeshpalPanesar · 3h

If you saw (as I did) how hard Bar Council members, freely giving of their own time work on behalf of the Bar, with government, education and training, promoting equality and fighting the bars corner, you would not hesitate to pay the BRF #PayTheBRF @thebarcouncil

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 **CILEx** @CILExLawyers · 17h

#JusticeWeek2020 Saving the Planet, FULL FILM is now live: [youtu.be/Sv-Bmx8VWK0](https://youtu.be/Sv-Bmx8VWK0) - Hear from environmental law experts, including @estelledehon barrister at @cornerstonebarr. Thank you to @ClientEarth @UWEBristol @legalsustain @thebarcouncil @thelawsociety

 Saving the planet: The power of the law in protecting...  
A short film, made for Justice Week 2020, about the power of the law to protect our rivers, our air and ou...  
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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**Suella Braverman MP** @SuellaBraverman · Feb 29

Thank You @thebarcouncil for the invitation to meet you @lincolnsinn this morning to discuss our work going forward. As a former member of the @YoungBarristers Committee it was great to see how much work is being done to support access to justice: #justiceweek2020

**Attorney General** @attorneygeneral · Feb 29

Today the Attorney General met with the Bar Council to discuss current topics of interest and criminal justice priorities



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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Feb 29

Our reaction to Criminal Legal Aid Review: "We believe this interim consultation is an acknowledgement by the Government that the current rates of pay for defence advocates and solicitors are far too low to maintain a functioning criminal justice system."



Bar Council responds to Government's accelerated criminal legal aid plans

[barcouncil.org.uk](https://barcouncil.org.uk)

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