



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

Burglary prosecutions

Daily Telegraph (print and [online](#)) – Catching burglars is not a priority for the police, a senior officer has admitted, as figures show prosecutions have plummeted.

Inspector Mark Andrews, chair of Wiltshire Police Federation, said burglary teams had been closed as resources had been diverted to combat rising violence and organised gangs involved in county lines drug dealing. This meant burglary was not “one of the priorities” listed by the force, he said.

Across England, the latest figures show fewer than one in 20 burglaries (4.8 per cent) resulted in a criminal being charged in the year to September 2019/20, almost half that in 2015/16.

Amanda Pinto, QC, chair of the Bar Council, said it was “shocking” that burglary was not a priority when it often left “householders feeling anxious and unsafe in their own homes for many months.”

“We understand that police forces face rising crime, very tight budgets and few resources but, in leaving burglars free to commit crimes with impunity, it would be no wonder that people feel our justice system can no longer cope,” she said.

Justice Week

The Times (print and [online](#)), [Law Gazette](#) & [PoliticsHome](#) – Further reports on Justice Week and the results of the survey by the main three lawyer groups, highlighting the public’s lack of understanding about the law.

Justice Week, which started on Monday, will seek to engage with the public with exhibitions, podcasts and seminars, but has as its centrepiece the “big legal lesson”, a bid by campaigners to promote teaching of the rule of law in schools. About 40,000 young people in more than 440 schools are expected to participate in what one City firm describes as “the biggest public legal education event of its kind”.

About 80 per cent of the public told the survey that understanding how the law works was vital, and more than 50 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds said that they would like more emphasis on learning about the law at school.

The research by Populous, which surveyed more than 4,000 people, “indicates a widespread anxiety about the state of our democracy and freedoms,” according to the joint forces of the Law Society, Bar Council and the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, three bodies that represent about 170,000 practising lawyers in England and Wales.

Amanda Pinto QC, chair of the Bar Council, said: ‘Law and justice play important roles in the public’s everyday life, from defending democracy, to protecting freedoms and helping to save the planet. As this survey shows, young people clearly have an appetite for greater knowledge about how the law can help everyone play their part in society. Justice Week 2020 is about encouraging that awareness.’

New Attorney General

Press Association, [Gov.uk](#), [Law Gazette](#), [The News](#) & [EasternEye](#) – The Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP was sworn-in on Monday at the Royal Courts of Justice as Attorney General for England and Wales.

The Lord Chancellor, the Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, the Lord Chief Justice, The Lord Burnett of Maldon, and the **Chair of the Bar Council, Amanda Pinto QC**, spoke at the ceremony to welcome the Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP to her role.

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





The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · 20h

For #JusticeWeek2020, here's a sneak preview of a short film we made with @CILExLawyers about the power of the law in protecting the planet with the help of @ClientEarth @cornerstonebarr @UWEBristol @legalsustain #OurJusticeTeam



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The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · Feb 27

A very current example in #JusticeWeek2020 of how law and justice can play a part in climate change issues. BBC News - Climate case may upset Heathrow third runway plans



Court may upset Heathrow third runway plans
A ruling will decide whether Heathrow's expansion plan should have taken the climate more into account.
[bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

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Backing #JusticeWeek2020 in Parliament for today's theme of Defending Democracy: Lord Chancellor @RobertBuckland @MojGovUK, Solicitor General @Michael_Ellis1, @attorneygeneral @SuellaBraverman, Sir Bob Neill @neill_bob @CommonsJustice, @IanByrneMP @RichardGrahamUK & @KarenBuckMP



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Attorney General @attorneygeneral · Feb 26

The Attorney General and Solicitor General showed their support for Justice Week at an event in Parliament today. This year's Justice Week aims to improve young people's understanding of the justice system and the rule of law. #JusticeWeek2020



Attorney General's Office

Michael Ellis

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The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Feb 25

For #JusticeWeek2020 we asking individuals from across the legal sector and beyond what they would use the law to change. Up first is Chair of the Bar Council, Amanda Pinto QC. She says "I would use the law to improve access to justice." #OurJusticeTeam



The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Feb 25

New #JusticeWeek2020 podcast from the @propertybar Property and People Podcast: Justice Week Day 2 – Fighting For Rights cyp.it/p11biefa

