



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 17 JULY 2020

### Small Change for Justice

[The Sun \(exclusive\)](#), [Politics Home](#), [New Law Journal](#), [Yahoo News](#), [The Herald](#), [This is Money](#), [Messenger](#), [St Albans & Harpenden Review](#), [Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter](#), [This is Lancashire](#), [Enfield Independent](#), [Wharfedale Observer](#), [Largs & Millport Weekly News](#), [Burnham & Highbridge Weekly News](#), [Peeblesshire News](#), [Shropshire Star](#), [Express & Star](#), [Aberdeen Evening Express](#), [Glasgow Evening Times](#), [Daily Echo](#), [Jersey Evening Post](#), [Belfast Telegraph](#), [Guernsey Press](#), [News Chain](#), [Bury Times](#), [Brinkwire](#), [Surrey Comet](#), [Ilkley Gazette](#), [North Wales Chronicle](#), [Harrow Times](#), [Knutsford Guardian](#), [North Wales Pioneer](#), [Winsford and Middlewich Guardian](#), [Runcorn and Widnes World](#), [Richmond and Twickenham Times](#), [Times Series](#), [Helensburgh Advertiser](#), [Penarth Times](#), [The Guide](#), [The Argus](#), [Milford Mercury](#), [Dudley News](#), [Harwich and Manningtree Standard](#), [Romsey Advertiser](#), [Chelmsford Times](#), [Greenock Telegraph](#), [Daily Gazette](#), PA News Wire + 115 local media outlets – Hundreds of national and regional media report on the Bar Council’s Small Change for Justice report.

People in England and Wales pay more for a cup of coffee each day than the Government spends on the justice system, senior lawyers have claimed. The **Bar Council** report suggested just 39p per person per day was being spent on law and order, - “less than the price of a red pepper in Tesco”.

The body, which represents barristers around the country, said the findings from a study it commissioned reveal the “true scale of Britain’s neglect of law and order” as the backlog of criminal cases tips over half a million in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Compiled by economists Professor Martin Chalkley and Alice Chalkley, the review analysed spending on prisons, probation, courts, legal aid, prosecution, as well as the police between 2010 and 2019.

According to the report:

- In 2019, justice spending in England and Wales was £144 per person, or 39p per person per day.
- This is low compared with budgets of European countries and England and Wales had experienced the largest percentage reduction.
- Overall funding for justice plummeted 24% in real terms between 2010 and 2019, resulting in a 29% drop in spending per person in real terms between 2010-2019.
- To restore spending to 2010 levels per person, after adjusting for inflation, an extra £2.48bn of spending on the justice system and an extra £2.33bn for the police would be required – an extra 22p per person per day.

Bar Council chair **Amanda Pinto QC** said: “Law and order is as much about keeping the public safe as it is about access to justice.

“We’ve seen what a lack of funding for law and order achieves, rising crime, low detection rates, long delays to cases with many collapsing before they get anywhere near a court, victims of crime denied justice, and all because government after government has scrimped on the justice budget.

“Compared to other countries and other Whitehall budgets, UK justice is the poor relation. For just small change, 22p per person more, the Government could put its money where its mouth is, commit to boosting law and order and protecting the public by investing the price of a packet of Hobnobs per person per week in the whole justice system.”

### Extended operating hours

[Evening Standard](#), [Legal Cheek](#), [Legal Futures](#), [MSN](#), [Swindon Advertiser](#), - The **Bar Council** has reacted furiously to the Lord Chancellor’s claim that there is “a lot of support” for extending court hours to deal with the coronavirus backlog, likening it to being dumped on Twitter.

Robert Buckland went on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme to talk about possible late-night and early-morning court sessions as well as ad hoc ‘Blackstone courts’ being set up in empty buildings to address the crisis.

Responding to the Lord Chancellor’s words, **Amanda Pinto QC**, chair of the Bar, said the results of a previous pilot of extended opening hours were never published and insisted lawyers would not support the move without clear evidence it would help tackle “far greater volumes” of work.

“We fully support the moves to increase the number of hearings taking place, both in the courts and remotely, in order to deliver access to justice and reduce the

backlog of cases, and appreciate the current complexities involved in listing cases”, she said.

“However, given the seriousness of this illness and attendant risks, it is essential that the health and welfare of vulnerable practitioners are properly taken into account by the courts when considering how to deal with cases in which they are instructed to appear.”

“I do not need to remind the Bar that not only was the backlog there long before Covid-19 (and deliberately maintained), but the results of the Flexible Operating Hours pilot were never published”, she said in a message to barristers.

## Survey

[Law Gazette](#), [Legal Futures](#) - Almost 30% of publicly funded barristers are unsure whether they will renew their practising certificate next year, a survey of the profession has found.

**Amanda Pinto QC**, chair of the Bar Council, told the Bar Standards Board that 29% of publicly funded legal aid practitioners and 38% of criminal practitioners are uncertain whether they will renew their practising certificate in 2021.

Fee income has fallen by an average of almost 60% across the board, including privately funded work, she added. The full survey results are expected to be published imminently.

Speaking at a BSB meeting last night, Pinto described the news as ‘devastating’ and criticised the Treasury’s lack of support for the self-employed bar. ‘What we are finding is that there’s no real drive to rescue people at this point. I genuinely thought we were going to get at least the young practitioners supported. That was a really shocking failure.’

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

The Bar Council Retweeted



**The House Live** @TheHouseLive · 2h

NEW: "Compared to other countries and other Whitehall budgets, UK justice is the poor relation."

A new report from @thebarcouncil reveals the true scale of Britain's neglect of law and order.

Find out more [👉](#)



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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 14 Jul

Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC, likens extended court hours claim to being dumped on Twitter @standardnews @kirkkorner



Lawyers liken extended court hours claim to being dumped on Twitter  
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**The Bar Council** ✓ @thebarcouncil · 14 Jul

UPDATE: Bar Council reaction to BSB statement on booking arrangements for the August BPTC exams.

[barcouncil.org.uk/resource/bar-c...](http://barcouncil.org.uk/resource/bar-c...)



**Bar Standards Board** ✓ @barstandards · 14 Jul

BSB statement on booking arrangements for the August centralised assessments: [buff.ly/3gV2AmT](https://buff.ly/3gV2AmT)



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**The Bar Council** ✓ @thebarcouncil · 14 Jul

Update published by the [@barstandards](https://twitter.com/barstandards) on changes to the BPTC centralised exams. Bar Council's Education and Training Committee has also written to the BSB raising concerns expressed by many students requiring reasonable adjustments.



**Bar Standards Board** ✓ @barstandards · 14 Jul

BSB statement on booking arrangements for the August centralised assessments: [buff.ly/3gV2AmT](https://buff.ly/3gV2AmT)



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**The Bar Council** ✓ @thebarcouncil · 13 Jul

"Is this what it's like to be dumped on Twitter rather than face to face?" Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar, describing MoJ's approach to attempting to push through extended court hours to tackle it's own "deliberately maintained" backlog.

Read more [r1.dmtrk.net/4CGD-VIDN-74C2...](https://r1.dmtrk.net/4CGD-VIDN-74C2...)



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**The Bar Council** ✓ @thebarcouncil · 13 Jul  
Overwhelming support?



 **David Green** @itsdavegreen · 13 Jul

Justice Secretary @RobertBuckland on @BBCr4today said there was "overwhelming support" from the legal professions for extended court opening hours.

Every survey I've seen is virtually 100% against.

Lawyers of Twitter: are YOU giving this your "overwhelming support"?

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 20

 231

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