



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER 2021

Criminal courts backlog

[Daily Mail](#), [Politics Home](#), [Evening Standard](#), PA Media, Yahoo News, AOL News, Gulf News, Kent Online, Guernsey Press, Jersey Evening Post, Express and Star, Belfast Telegraph, The Courier, John O’Groats Journal, Strathspey Herald, Northern Scott, Inverness Courier – Widespread media coverage emerges of the Bar Council’s response to the latest criminal court statistics, which show another increase in the backlog in the Crown Court. The total number of outstanding cases is now at 60,000+.

Derek Sweeting QC, Chair of the Bar, is quoted in the media coverage. He said efforts to cut waiting times were “not working quickly enough” and urged the Treasury to invest more in the justice system, adding: “Without a substantial reduction, both in the backlog and waiting times, the public will lose confidence in law and order.”

Bar Council’s Working Lives Survey 2021

The Times, [Law Society Gazette](#), [New Law Journal](#), [Legal Futures](#), [Global Legal Post](#), [Politics Home](#), **Business Fast** – The legal media reports on the Bar Council’s Working Lives survey results.

The survey found that nearly one in three barristers (30%) have reported being bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against at work within the previous two years, up from 21% in the last survey, in 2017.

In response to the findings, the Bar Council said tackling bullying, harassment and discrimination would continue to be a priority. It has set up an anonymous reporting app, Talk to Spot, is working with the senior judiciary to stamp out judicial bullying of barristers and published a Bar Council Guide on judicial bullying in 2019.

Derek Sweeting QC, Chair of the Bar, said: “Work has already begun in the last year or so to tackle the issue of bullying, harassment and discrimination at the Bar, and we are making the Bar a more accessible profession in terms of its working practices.

“The Bar Council’s Modernising the Bar programme lies at the heart of this effort.”

The Modernising the Bar programme focuses on women and under-represented groups, aiming to: Make distribution of work fairer, including briefing practices, marketing opportunities and monitoring; and improve practice management, including supporting new and returning barristers and supporting progression.

Gender income differences at the Bar

[Bloomberg](#), [Law Society Gazette](#), [Business Fast](#), [Irish Times](#) – Bloomberg and the legal media report on new analysis from the Bar Council which shows the income gap between male and female barristers has widened over the past 20 years, with men’s income on average almost £35,000 more than their female colleagues in 2020.

According to the Bar Council’s analysis of BMIF data, average gross fee income for male barristers came in at £89,070 last year, while female barristers received an average of £54,747 – an absolute gap of £34,323. In 2000, average gross fee income for men was £51,480, while women received £31,620 – a difference of £19,860.

The study looked at income differences by gender in every practice area.

Bloomberg highlights in its report the work that the Bar Council is doing to tackle the issue.

Pupillage Gateway

[Legal Cheek](#) – Legal Cheek reports on the latest Bar Council report on its Pupillage Gateway.

Legal Cheek reports that figures on pupillage applications through the centralised Pupillage Gateway show a steady rise in the average number of applicants chasing each coveted spot.

That’s despite a slight post-pandemic increase in the number of vacancies. Almost 2,800 would-be barristers applied for a 2021/22 or 2022/23 pupillage start through the Gateway, but only 217 secured an offer – a success rate of less than 8%.

BAR COUNCIL TWEETS



The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Sep 30



OUT NOW: The Bar Council's 2021 Barristers' Working Lives Survey.

- Rising reports of bullying, harassment & discrimination
- Flexible working
- Covid-19 impact still being felt @ criminal Bar
- Opposition to Extended Operating Hours

More details: barcouncil.org.uk/resource/bar-c...



Barristers' Working Lives 2021

A report for The Bar Council

