



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021

CLAR youth justice

New Law Journal, [Children & Young People Now](#) – The media continues to report on the Bar Council's youth justice proposals contained within its CLAR consultation response.

Anyone aged under 18 at the time of an alleged offence should automatically be considered a vulnerable person in criminal proceedings, says the Bar Council. The council warned ministers that while “the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system falls, the cases and alleged crimes that do remain within the courts are proportionately far more serious”. Bar chiefs want the government to make legal representation for youths at the police station mandatory “or at least require an opt-out”.

Remote juries

[Law Society Gazette](#) – The Gazette reports that a joint statement from the Bar Council and the Law Society to MPs opposes the introduction of remote juries under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

The statement said: “These concerns are wide-ranging and include: the risk of alienating juries and/or witnesses; ensuring security of proceedings (both in terms of the privacy of the process and individuals, and data privacy); additional expense to the taxpayer; the requirement of new technology and IT systems; and the associated issues arising out of these aspects.

The representative bodies warned that the impact of the proposal on access to justice is unclear and unproven. “How jurors interpret body language and facial expressions can be key in a trial and it is simply not known what impact hearing a trial remotely would have in this area.”

Pride

[New Law Journal](#), [Today's Conveyancer](#) – Further coverage of the news that the pandemic has forced Legal Pride celebrations online.

However, the Law Society, the Bar Council and the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives – which represent most lawyers in England and Wales – still have a range of remote events planned for Pride month.

Employment tribunals backlog

[HR Magazine](#) – Elaine Banton of 7BR and Co-Chair of the Bar Council's Equality, Diversity and Social Mobility Committee, writes in HR Magazine on the backlog in the employment tribunals, looking at what can be done to reduce it.

BAR COUNCIL TWEETS



The Bar Council ✓
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"Racism should not be tolerated at the Bar...We all have a part to play in tackling racism," says [@BarCouncilChair](#).

Full statement:
barcouncil.org.uk/resource/bar-c...



The Bar Council

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