



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2021

Annual Bar & Young Bar Conference

The Times (print and [online](#)) x 2, [Law Society Gazette](#) x 2, [Legal Cheek](#), [Business Fast](#), [Scottish Legal News](#) – The media report on the weekend's Bar Council's Annual Conference.

Most of the media hone in on the fact the Lord Chancellor chose not to attend the conference, sending a recorded message instead. The media highlight criticism from members of the Bar about his no show.

Other reports focus on the Lord Chief Justice's comments about the poor state of the criminal justice system and the need for funding to tackle the backlog.

Race at the Bar

[BBC Radio Four – Law in Action](#), [New Law Journal](#) – Further coverage appears of the new Bar Council report on race at the Bar, which found barristers from ethnic minority backgrounds in England and Wales find it harder to enter law and progress their careers, are paid less and are at greater risk of bullying and harassment.

The report contains a number of recommendations including identification of goals for improving diversity within a fixed timescale and annual monitoring of data. There are also more specific recommendations relating to access to the profession, retention, progression and culture.

The Bar Council has committed to provide an annual update on actions taken against the recommendations as well as a comprehensive review in 2024.

Barbara Mills QC is interviewed about the report's findings on BBC Radio Four's Law in Action.

Budget/Spending review

Reading Chronicle, Market Drayton Advertiser, Bucks Free Press, Newport Advertiser – Further media coverage appears of the Bar Council’s reaction to the recent Budget statement, which saw extra funds for the Ministry of Justice and for tackling the backlog in the courts announced.

The Bar Council said that “there will still be a shortfall of funding to tackle the justice crisis, restore public confidence and reduce the backlogs in our courts and tribunals.”

[BAR COUNCIL TWEETS](#)

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Times Law  @TimesLaw · Nov 22 ⋮

Justice secretary @DominicRaab has only been in the role for five minutes and already relations with @thebarcouncil & @TheCriminalBar are fraying. Legal news from @thetimes: [thetimes.co.uk/article/raab-i...](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/raab-i...) And get The Brief -- analysis straight to your in-box every Thursday.



[thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk)
Raab ‘ignores crisis as barristers quit’
The justice secretary has been attacked by senior barristers amid claims that he is neglecting problems in the criminal courts as lawyers ...

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The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Nov 20 ...

Jonathan Ames (@thetimes), @lizziedearden (@Independent), @kirkkorner (@standardnews) and @JessPGlass (@PA) discuss the role of journalism in the justice system with @thebarcouncil's Sarah Kavanagh at #BarConf this afternoon



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