



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 9 JULY 2021

Judicial diversity

[Eastern Eye](#) – Eastern Eye runs an in-depth feature on judicial diversity, citing comments from judges who have anonymously criticised the way judges are appointed.

One judge is quoted as saying: “The JAC and senior judiciary were too eager and too busy to blame the Law Society and Bar Council for the lack of diversity, when the problem was secret soundings.”

Judicial bullying

The Times, [Law Society Gazette](#) – The Times and the Gazette report on the Bar Council’s guide to judicial bullying after recent examples of bullying by judges were posted on social media by barristers.

Courts backlog

New Law Journal, **Law Society Gazette** – Further coverage appears of the Bar Council’s response to the latest official court figures which show that the backlog of cases in both the crown courts and magistrates’ courts are increasing.

Chair of the Bar, Derek Sweeting QC, is quoted. He said: “Unless the Government urgently commits to long term and sustained investment in the courts and the wider justice system, the number of cases stuck in the courts will continue to rise.

"Behind every number in this backlog are victims of crime, defendants, witnesses and their families, putting their lives on hold while they wait years to see justice done."

Trans inclusion

[LawCareers.net](#) – Further coverage emerges of the news that the Bar Council has published a statement in support of trans, non-binary and gender fluid barristers, encouraging all chambers to consider trans inclusivity in their diversity and bullying policies.

In a statement posted on the Bar Council’s website, the statement says it is ‘important to recognise that some people are transgender and that not everyone feels that their gender can be defined within the margins of gender binary’.

BAR COUNCIL TWEETS



The screenshot shows a tweet from The Bar Council (@thebarcouncil) posted 12 hours ago. The tweet text is "Also the British legal system in 2021 #IAmTheBar". Below the text is a link: "Read on @elonmusk barcouncil.org.uk/media-campaign...". The tweet features a 2x2 grid of four portrait photos of diverse individuals: a man with a blue turban and beard, a Black man in a suit, a woman with long dark hair, and a woman with blonde hair. Below this is a retweet from Elon Musk (@elonmusk) dated Jul 8. The retweet text is "Also, the British legal system in 2021" and includes a small image of a man with white hair and a caption that reads "In the 1700s we the hairstyle were like YOOOOO 🔥🔥🔥". At the bottom of the tweet are icons for replies, retweets (3), likes (36), and a share icon.



The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Jul 8



Chair of the Bar, Derek Sweeting QC, and Chair-Elect of the Bar, Mark Fenhalls QC are Wales bound today to meet barristers [@WandCcircuit](#) including [@ThirtyPP](#) [@Apexchambers](#) [@pendragonchamb](#) [@_Angel_Chambers](#) + Cardiff Crown Court & Swansea Crown Court



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