



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 3 MAY 2019

Retention at the Bar

[Financial Times](#) – The FT reports that increasing numbers of self-employed female barristers, particularly those working in publicly funded criminal and family law, are leaving mid-career.

The FT reports that the Bar Council, which represents barristers, has highlighted female retention as a concern because the more women who drop out mid-career, the smaller the pool of future judges or QCs.

However, the FT reports that: “The situation is starting to change. The Bar Council has put in place support for women, including training and mentoring schemes, there are more women’s forums at circuit level and some barristers say clerks, who assign cases, are being more supportive.”

Pride

[Politics Home](#) - The legal professions of England and Wales – solicitors, barristers and Chartered Legal Executives are joining together to mark Pride events in Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, Cardiff and London.

The Law Society of England and Wales, the Bar Council of England and Wales, and the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) will be marching together as #LegalPride, under the banner of “All are equal under the law” to highlight the work of lawyers to defend LGBT+ rights and recognise the LGBT+ community’s contribution to the legal sector.

Chair of the Bar Council of England and Wales, Richard Atkins QC said:

“Pride is a celebration of progress, and diversity and inclusion. The Bar Council is delighted to be partnering again this year with the FreeBar and BLAGG, two thriving LGBT+ Bar networks, as well as the Chancery Bar Association, The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and colleagues from across the profession,

as part of #LegalPride. We now participate in more Pride events than ever before across England and Wales and encourage LGBT+ and straight barristers to join one or more of the parades to help demonstrate our commitment to inclusion.”

Regulation

[Legal Futures](#) - The Legal Services Board (LSB) is pulling back on proposed rules that would not allow bodies like the Law Society and Bar Council to try and “influence” their regulatory arms.

It instead intends only to prevent them taking actions that would “prejudice” regulatory activity.

The LSB issued [another consultation](#) yesterday on revising its internal governance rules (IGR), which define the relationship between lawyers’ representative bodies and their frontline regulators, to address concerns raised in the [previous consultation it issued last November](#).

Under section 30 of the Legal Services Act 2007, the oversight regulator has to put in place IGR that ensure “the exercise of an approved regulator’s regulatory functions is not prejudiced by its representative functions”.

This affects those bodies that are listed in the Act as an approved regulator – such as the Law Society, Bar Council and Chartered Institute of Legal Executives – but delegate their regulatory obligations to operationally independent arms, respectively the Solicitors Regulation Authority, Bar Standards Board and CILEx Regulation.

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



Under rC110 of the BSB Handbook, every member of all selection panels must be trained in the fair recruitment and selection processes. Make sure you're compliant by joining our Fair Recruitment and Selection training course next week:

barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the ...

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The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · May 1

"The failure to increase rates of pay for publicly-funded lawyers, both prosecution and defence, is nothing short of a scandal" says Chair of the Bar @AtkinsQC in @guardian today, as Bar Council backs @FDA_union's Manifesto for Justice:

The Guardian @guardian

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bit.ly/2GUIdXO



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