



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2019

Brexit

[Law Society Gazette](#) (x2) – Hugh Mercer QC, Chair of the Bar Council’s Brexit Working Group, writes in the Gazette on the deal and no-deal implications for UK lawyers and EU law.

Mercer writes: “..the Bar has followed a policy of constructive engagement with colleagues from other EU bars in both bilateral and multilateral engagement. The general consensus among our continental colleagues appears to be that the UK professions have been highly influential in building an improved rule of law in the EU, and in general they are interested in maintaining and developing this rule of law input from the UK professions.”

Former Lord Chancellor

[GQ Magazine](#) – Further coverage appears of a summary of the ministerial misfortunes of former Lord Chancellor Chris Grayling.

GQ reports that “the chairman of the Bar Council even accused him of encouraging innocent people to plead guilty.”

Bar training

[The Global Legal Post](#) – The Post reports that oversight regulator the Legal Services Board (LSB) has approved the Bar Standards Board’s (BSB) proposals for changing the training regime for aspiring barristers in England and Wales, which includes reforms to pupillage but retains the role of the Inns of Court.

The Post reports that: “The BSB had originally intended to limit the influence of the Inns, but responded to criticism from the Bar Council that defended their ‘fundamental role’ in ‘nurturing and developing the shared culture of the bar’. The BSB intends to allow the Inns to retain their role but said there needs to be ‘greater BSB regulatory oversight and assurance’ in the process of calling to the Bar and

administering fit and proper person checks. It proposes to outline the new approach through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the BSB, the Council of the Inns of Court, and each of the four Inns of Court. The LSB said it has accepted this is an improvement on the current position and that it will take a 'close interest' in how the MoU works and the impact of the new arrangement."

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The Bar Council ✓

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Barristers: if you have GDPR-related questions, consult our guidance on the Ethics Hub and sign up for our [#GDPR](#) Conference on 27 March.

Guidance:

[barcouncilethics.co.uk/documents/gdpr ...](http://barcouncilethics.co.uk/documents/gdpr...)

Conference: [barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the](http://barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the...)

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Lawyers urged to go back and check if they've given negligent GDPR advice:
lawgazette.co.uk/news/lawyers-w...

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