



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019

Judicial bullying

[The Times](#) - Judges are one of the main sources of bullying in the legal profession, according to a survey for The Times which also suggests that lawyers are being harassed and propositioned by senior colleagues.

Despite action taken over bullying and sexual harassment over the past year, more than half of the 1,500 barristers questioned believe the problem has not gone away. Bullying is rife among the judiciary, they say, while older male barristers are the main cause of sexual harassment.

The concerns have prompted Bar leaders to take up the issue in talks with senior judges and formal guidance is being produced on how barristers should make complaints.

The survey by the Bar Council during October and November echoes its research earlier last year, which showed a marked increase in reports of harassment, bullying and discrimination over the previous four years. About 55 per cent of respondents said harassment was still a problem at the Bar.

A new guide being drawn up is expected to advise barristers on how to complain about bullying, either informally through the Bar Council or formally to the Judicial Conduct and Investigations office.

Legal Aid

[The Canary](#) has quoted former Chair of the Bar Andrew Walker QC in an article about the Daily Mail's recent coverage of Jack Shepherd, who according to the Mail has received over £100,000 in legal aid, despite being 'on the run'.

In challenging a number of apparent inaccuracies in the [Mail's piece](#), the Canary referenced Andrew Walker QC's assessment of legal aid cuts as, "a huge threat to access to justice in our country."

Planning consultation

[The Law Society Gazette](#) reports that 'unnecessarily complicated' planning law has been earmarked for simplification and codification in the latest move to create a distinct separate corpus of law governing Wales.

In a final report on [planning law in Wales](#), the Law Commission has proposed some 190 technical reforms to planning law as it applies in Wales.

The report quotes the Bar Council as stating: 'We agree that such an approach would make the planning system in Wales far more accessible to the public as well as to those more used to dealing with the planning system, would help avoid inconsistent decisions being made, and would bring about greater fairness overall.'

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



Women at the Bar - #next100years:
@SkyNews looks at the specific obstacles women barristers have faced and continue to face, what the future holds and what we are doing to support women at the Bar



Female lawyers still facing 'frustrating' inequality
Latest figures show just 14.8% of QCs are women, despite an almost equal gender split among those studying to be barristers.
[news.sky.com](https://www.news.sky.com)

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Rachel Spearing of @serjeantsinn writes her final blog as Chair of the #WellbeingAtTheBar working group. We are hugely grateful to Rachel for her invaluable leadership - read her thoughts here:
wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/2019/01/04/wel ...



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