



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020

Budget

[Politics Home](#) – Politics Home reports on the Bar Council's pre-Budget call for more investment in justice.

Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar Council, said: "We are calling for [10 key areas](#) of investment across the entire justice system to reverse declining confidence in justice in our country.

"Not a day goes by when we don't read about woeful crime detection rates, with some crimes not even being investigated because of squeezed police resources, fewer prosecutions and courts sitting empty.

"Unless there is an urgent cash injection for legal aid, a freeze on court closures, improved rehabilitation of offenders and a serious commitment to better decision making across Whitehall, the British public will be even more let down."

ECHR

The Independent – The print edition of The Independent runs Chair of the Bar Council, Amanda Pinto QC's opinion piece in response to the Prime Minister's latest threats to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

"Can it possibly be the case that the prime minister believes that people in our country, especially the vulnerable and those in minorities, are due less rights now than 70 years ago?", she writes.

The article was originally published online. Read the full article [here](#).

Allocation of work

[Law Society Gazette](#) – The Gazette reports that the national Employment Lawyers Association (ELA) has launched its Counsel Instructions Monitoring Scheme

amongst the firms and organisations represented in its UK-wide membership of 6,000 employment lawyers, in order to monitor solicitors' instructions to employment law barristers by reference to gender (of both the solicitors and barristers).

The Gazette reports that the ELA hopes to help raise awareness of the barriers facing female employment barristers as they seek to progress their careers, and in particular, the obstacles that can prevent or deter them from applying for silk.

The Gazette writes: "As it stands, the association is the first member organisation to be looking at this issue for a specific area of specialism. ELA recognises the part it can play in raising awareness of the issue of equitable briefing and believe that this project could in itself change behaviour. The simple fact of reporting on decision making can trigger questions within teams and with barristers' chambers regarding the pool of barristers being put forward for selection."

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#CoronaVirusUpdate(s) for barristers, chambers and other organisations from the Bar Council, @HMCTSgovuk @LegalAidAgency @ibc_org @lpma_uk & more

 Coronavirus advice and updates
barcouncil.org.uk

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Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of [@thebarcouncil](#)
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