



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2019

Harassment and bullying

[The Guardian](#), [The Times \(online\)](#) – The Guardian and other media outlets report that bullying and sexual harassment are rife in the legal profession, according to a global survey that identifies Britain as somewhere such behaviour is prevalent.

The survey of almost 7,000 lawyers across 135 countries was carried out by the International Bar Association.

Levels of bullying in the UK are above the international average, the study found, with 62% of female respondents and 41% of male respondents reporting that they had been bullied in connection with their employment. By comparison, the international averages were 55% and 30% respectively.

The frequency of sexual harassment in the UK is closer to the global average, with 38% of female and 6% of male respondents reporting they had been affected. Internationally, 37% of female respondents and 7% of male respondents had experienced sexual harassment during their career.

The Guardian reports that the findings comes after a 2017 report by the Bar Council found 21% of employed and 12% of self-employed respondent barristers had been bullied or harassed at work in the two years prior to the survey.

Education & training

[The Guardian](#) – Further reports appear that a charity plans to radically shake up the Bar school market with the launch of a not-for-profit and significantly cheaper version of the vocational course required for qualification.

In a move that would cut fees by almost 30 per cent for those aiming to qualify at the Bar in England and Wales, the Inns of Court has applied to run a revamped version of the Bar professional training course.

In addition to cutting fees, the Inns said they would radically restructure the course along the lines proposed for some time by the Bar Council, the body that represents barristers.

The Guardian reports that Training to become a barrister is competitive and hugely expensive. Former Bar Council chair Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC has estimated that students may spend [up to £127,000](#) to qualify.

Legal Pride 2019

Isle of Wight County Press – Local media report that the Bar Council, Law Society and 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.

Richard Atkins QC, Chair of the Bar, is quoted. He 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."

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



The Bar Council ✓

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Kicking off #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek, Josephine Davies of @20essexst and @LCLCBA writes for #WellbeingAtTheBar on managing working hours, emailing hours, and whether a four-day week can work for barristers.

Read it here:

[wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/2019/05/13/jos ...](http://wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/2019/05/13/jos)



Wellbeing
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