



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 16 AUGUST 2019

### Criminal justice statistics

[Independent](#), [The Times](#), [The Guardian](#), Daily Mail (print and [online](#)), [Financial Times](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Daily Express](#), [The Sun](#), [The Scottish Sun](#), Daily Star (print, page 2), [Politics Home](#), [Public Finance](#), Yorkshire Post (print and [online](#)), [Kidderminster Shuttle](#), [Business Fast](#), [Law Gazette](#), [the barrister](#), PA News Wire, LBC, Western Daily Press (print, page 11) – Coverage across mainstream and legal print and broadcast media of the Chair of the Bar’s recent comments.

The number of people prosecuted or handed penalties for crimes in England and Wales has fallen to a record low despite a rise in the number of offences. Statistics released by the Ministry of Justice showed the figure dropped by 2 per cent to 1.59 million people in the year to March. The number of people prosecuted, convicted and jailed all fell, even though crimes recorded by police rose by 8 per cent to 5.3 million in the same period.

Richard Atkins QC, chair of Bar Council, is quoted as the lead on most stories. He said: “Criminals up and down the country will be rubbing their hands with glee knowing that even if their crimes are detected and they are caught by the police, the chances of them being prosecuted or jailed are slim.

“These statistics make for grim reading, however, the state of the criminal justice system is far worse than the figures show.”

Mr Atkins said the statistics were “just the tip of the iceberg” of problems in the system, which he described as “broken”.

“Criminals are going about their business unchallenged: fraud goes virtually unpunished and is not even included in the statistics,” he added.

“The Bar Council, MPs, senior judges and others have been calling out for reversal of the draconian cuts to the justice budget – the steepest cuts to any public service.

“Our democracy, society and our economy depend on a properly functioning, fair justice system that the public can have faith in. Sadly we fear that this is no longer the case.”

## Bar council elections

[New Law Journal](#) – Paper ballots have been ditched. Instead, the 16,500 barristers of England and Wales will be able to log in to their MyBar account to vote.

To highlight the move, the Bar Council will run an awareness campaign #BarGoesDigital. The ballot opens on 4 October and closes on 21 October.

Malcolm Cree, chief executive of the Bar Council, said: ‘Given the importance of the elected Bar Council, we are determined to make participation in elections and the work of the Bar Council as efficient as possible for those we represent.’

The Bar Council meets eight times a year, providing a platform for debate on issues affecting the profession, the rule of law and justice; its meetings are regularly attended by the Attorney General and Solicitor General.

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



The image shows a screenshot of two tweets from The Bar Council (@thebarcouncil). The first tweet, posted 4 minutes ago, features a profile picture of a scale of justice and text mentioning a chair of the bar speaking on LBC about criminal justice statistics. The second tweet, posted 17 hours ago, also features a scale of justice profile picture and text about a wellbeing initiative with a deadline of 1st September 2019. It includes a colorful geometric graphic and a link to wellbeingatthebar.org.uk.

**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 4m  
Chair of the Bar @AtkinsQC spoke to @NickFerrariLBC on @LBC this morning about the latest criminal justice statistics that make for "depressing reading" and the funding needed for our criminal justice system.  
See our full response to the figures here: [barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...](http://barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...)

**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 17h  
Do you support the Wellbeing of your organisation through a policy, programme or initiative? Apply for the Certificate of Recognition [wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/case-studies/](http://wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/case-studies/)  
Don't forget! The deadline is approaching: 1st September 2019  
 Case Studies - Wellbeing at the Bar  
Have a read of some of the real life stories from barristers, clerks and staff who have experienced ...  
[wellbeingatthebar.org.uk](http://wellbeingatthebar.org.uk)



**The Bar Council**  @thebarcouncil · Aug 14

Your chance to be an advocate & put forward what you truly think needs to be reformed!

Enter this year's Bar Council Law Reform Essay Competition 2019. See how you can make a contribution to real-life law reform;



Law Reform Essay Competition

Ever thought about entering the Bar Council's Law Reform Essay Competition? Previous winners, as well ...  
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



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