



The Bar Council

BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2020

Televised sentencing

BBC News at One, BBC Radio 2, [BBC News Online](#), [Sky News Breakfast](#), [Sky News Online](#), ITV News, [LBC Radio](#), [Daily Mail](#) (print and online), The Daily Telegraph (print and online), [The Sun](#) (print and online), [The Times](#) x 2 ((print and online), The Times (Thunderer column), [The Independent](#) (print and online), [Financial Times](#), The [Guardian](#) (print and online), Legal Cheek, [Evening Standard](#) (print and online), [New York Times](#), Yorkshire Post, Yahoo News, MSN, Manchester Evening News, The Star, East Anglian Daily Times, Press Gazette, Law Society Gazette, Eagle Radio, Pirate FM, Kingdom FM, Stray FM, KLFM, Vibe FM, Politics Home, Island FM, Signal FM, Sunshine Radio, Minster FM, Spirit FM, Smooth Radio, The Beach FM, Classic FM, My Gold Music, Compass FM, Star Radio, Spire FM, Gaydio, Jazz FM, Radio X, inews, Cheshire Live, South Wales Argus, Stoke Sentinel, Bristol Post, Birmingham Mail, Nottingham Post, Hull Daily Mail + more - Hundreds of media outlets, including national, regional and legal, broadcast and print press, report comments from Chair of the Bar Council, Amanda Pinto QC, on the government's announcement that television cameras will be allowed to broadcast from Crown Courts in England and Wales for the first time.

Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar Council, said: “Open justice gives an insight into our justice system and our courts to the public, many of whom will never personally go to court, but who value justice. This initiative will help people understand the realities of our criminal justice system.

“However, given that it is only the judge's sentencing remarks that will be televised, the public may well not fully appreciate why a particular sentence has been given without seeing the evidence presented during trial, the mitigating factors and other relevant information, such as probation reports. This is especially the case in a trial where the judge will have seen and heard the victim, the defendant and other witnesses, but the judge's evaluation of them, may not be clear from the televised hearing. We must guard against unwarranted attacks on judges where the sentence isn't popular with the public. 'Enemies of the People' type proclamations, where

judges have been personally attacked and their independence questioned, simply for doing their job, are completely unacceptable.

“Sentencing must not become an armchair, spectator sport.

“This is an opportunity to showcase how justice is delivered in our country, but the legislation must factor in the particular risks involved in televising the process; we are very keen that more is done to help educate the public on justice and the rule of law as a whole.”

Former Chair of the Bar, Richard Atkins QC, appeared on Radio Hereford & Worcester to talk about the issue.

Judicial review

The Times (print) – The Times reports that the Prime Minister is to accelerate moves to limit judicial reviews with a “rapid, standalone consultation” which would be prioritised.

The Times reports that Amanda Pinto, QC, Chair of the Bar Council, said: “Judicial review exists to challenge decisions including government decisions, which are sometimes wrong. When a government seeks to limit judicial review, alarm bells start ringing because it suggests that it does not wish to be properly held to account and effectively puts it above the law.”

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"It's a good thing."

@TheBarCouncil's chairwoman has praised the potential introduction of TV cameras in the crown courts, but is concerned that "key contexts could be missed" during the filming.

#KayBurley at #Breakfast

More on this story here trib.al/QHd8UCs



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