



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2019

Indefinite detention

[The Times \(The Brief\)](#), [PoliticsHome](#) - A Commons bill could finally put a limit on the time migrants can be held, removing a stain from the nation's justice system, writes Richard Atkins QC, Chair of the Bar.

Atkins writes: “There is no limit on the time that the Home Office can detain migrants while facilitating their removal from the UK. This indefinite detention is a stain on our justice system. Thankfully though, MPs will soon have the opportunity to expunge it when the Government’s Immigration Bill returns to the House of Commons for report stage. A cross party group of MPs is calling for a 28-day time limit on detention and for bail hearings to take place within 96 hours of detention. All being well, these proposals will be put to a vote.

“As Chair of the Bar, I take great pride in promoting our justice system, but indefinite detention goes against the basic principles that underpin it. This practice tarnishes our brand and has no place in our civilised society. It is high time for a time limit.”

CPS fees

[New Law Journal](#) - Self-employed barristers prosecuting cases deserve parity with lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Bar Council has said.

Earlier this month, the civil service trade union, the FDA, negotiated a 10% pay rise for CPS Crown Prosecutors; increases of up to 8% for prosecutors, professionals and senior managers; and a 13.5% increase in overtime rates. The rises will be paid over the course of two years.

Richard Atkins QC, chair of the Bar Council, said he was pleased for CPS lawyers.

“This, however, is in stark contrast to the failure to increase the levels of pay for the self-employed members of the Bar who provide an essential public service prosecuting the vast majority of the serious cases tried in the Crown Court,” he said.

“The pay scheme under which self-employed barristers are remunerated has had no increases since its inception in 2001 (and has therefore been eroded by inflation) and actually suffered a 5% cut in 2012. There can be no justification for one part of the system to receive a pay increase whilst another part is ignored.”

Bar Mock Trials

[The Journal of the Law Society of Scotland](#) – Senior school students from throughout the UK will descend on Parliament House in Edinburgh this weekend, for the final of the UK Bar Mock Trial Competition.

Boclair Academy, Bearsden, will represent Scotland among the 24 winners of regional heats in a competition run by Young Citizens as a way of gaining insight into the justice system. Open to students aged 15 to 18 from non-fee-paying schools, the tournament is supported by the Faculty of Advocates, **the Bar Council of England & Wales**, the Bar Library of Northern Ireland, HM Courts & Tribunals Service, the Circuits and the Inns of Court.

Teams will act out criminal trials in real courtrooms and before real legal professionals, including judges led by Lord Leveson.

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



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Richard Atkins QC @AtkinsQC · 19h

Had a good meeting with @CEOofHMCTS yesterday. She has sent out further guidance to security staff and is I believe doing her best to stop inappropriate searches. HMCTS are still working on the ID card scheme and I hope to see further roll out soon.

11 26 63



The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · 19h

Bar Council shortlisted for seven Membership Excellence Awards #memcom19 @MemComUK, including for our #IAmTheBar social mobility campaign, our e-newsletter, BarTalk (out later today), #JusticeWeek, and more ...46t6dq1b3nhvo-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/upl...



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1 Crown Office Row @1CrownOfficeRow · 21h

Tonight Sarabjit Singh QC joins a panel of speakers at @SOASLawSoc & SOAS Bar Society's 'In conversation with barristers, solicitors, and dispute resolution practitioners' careers event - details here: ow.ly/P1Be30o6iR2 @soasLAW #pathwaytolaw #barrister #career



Sarabjit Singh QC features on SOAS Bar Society & ...

Sarabjit Singh QC is delighted to draw on his experience as Bar Council Social Mobility Advocate at SOAS Bar Society & SOAS Law Society careers event.

1cor.com



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BHRC @BarHumanRights · 1d

BHRC & @thebarcouncil have sent a letter to @Jeremy_Hunt urging action for #NasrinSotoudeh & all human rights #lawyers detained & persecuted in #Iran. Read the full letter & statements by BHRC Chair @WomaninHavana & Bar Council Chair @AtkinsQC---> barhumanrights.org.uk/uk-barristers-...



20 March 2019

To the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt,
Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Dear Secretary of State,

The Bar Council of England and Wales and the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales ("BHRC") invite the Secretary of State to join them in condemning the sentencing of human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh to a total of 38 years' imprisonment and 148 lashes for undertaking her professional obligations to her clients by enabling them to exercise the basic human right of access to justice. Her important and courageous work includes defending women prosecuted under Iran's laws on compulsory veiling and peaceful public protest. In 2012, she received the European Union's most prestigious human rights award, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

