



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

Social mobility – ‘I am the Bar’

[MyLondon](#) – Online news outlet, MyLondon, runs an in-depth interview with 2018 Bar Council ‘I am the Bar’ Social Mobility Advocate Natasha Shotunde, who talks about overcoming obstacles to make a successful career at the Bar.

As well as talking about the I am the Bar social mobility campaign, Natasha also talks about how she helped establish the Black Barristers Network.

Criminal justice

[Daily Mail, p5 \(print and online\)](#) – The Mail reports on a policeman with almost 20 years’ service, who quit his job in disgust after being hounded over a car chase.

The Mail quotes Richard Atkins QC, Chair of Bar, in the article, recycling a previous quote in which he said that many (criminals) are “going about their business unchallenged”.

Criminal courts

[Politics Home](#), [South Wales Argus](#) – Further media coverage appears of the Bar Council’s reaction to the latest Ministry of Justice criminal courts statistics, which showed the number of criminals being brought to trial has fallen to a record low amid warnings that Britain’s justice system is “grinding to a halt”.

Official figures show the number of trials in magistrates’ and Crown Courts is down by a third since 2010 and by 10 per cent in the past year to 152,000.

Richard Atkins QC, Chair of the Bar, said: "On the face of it, prosecutions are down, many courts are sitting empty and now these latest figures suggest that trials coming to Magistrates’ Courts and Crown Courts are at their lowest levels since records began. This would be good news if not for the fact, as the police have recently

admitted, crime detection rates are appalling. Statistics show that crime is actually rising and there is a backlog of court cases piling up.

“While Parliament is squabbling over Brexit, criminals are free to walk the streets as the justice system begins to grind to a halt leaving the British public at risk. These latest Ministry of Justice statistics must be ringing alarm bells at the Treasury and No 10. Criminal justice needs more than simply boosting police ranks. It needs investment in the entire system.”

Supreme Court independence

[The Guardian](#), [Yahoo News](#) - Further reports emerge in the media on the issue of whether senior judges could face US-style confirmation grillings from MPs before taking up their posts, after the Attorney-General suggested the idea last week.

The media report that the Bar Council and Law Society said last week that politically appointed judges would threaten the independence of the judiciary.

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With parents arriving in the UK as refugees, growing up in temporary housing, & attending a local State school with frequent drug searches/police presence; Rabah Kherbane now practices as a barrister. Read this [#IAmTheBar](#) Social Mobility Advocate's story barcouncil.org.uk/careers/i-am-t...



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