



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 1 JUNE 2018

Working Lives Survey

[HR Magazine](#), [New Law Journal](#), [The Times](#) – There is further media coverage of the Bar Council's new report 'Barristers' Working Lives 2017: Barristers' attitudes towards their working lives, reveals that barristers across England and Wales are struggling with a number of factors affecting their overall working lives, such as workload, stress, and work-life balance.

The survey, which received 4,092 responses (representing over a quarter of the profession) brings to light evidence that, in fulfilling their professional duties, barristers are routinely working the equivalent of at least one or two days of work per week unpaid. Barristers are also working more hours and suffering from greater levels of stress than in 2013. Funding cuts, lack of work-life balance and stress were listed as the major factors for those thinking of changing career.

The Times reports that the report showed 89 per cent of barristers across all areas of practice found their work interesting. And 61 per cent said that most days they were enthusiastic about their work.

Future training of the Bar

[Legal Futures](#), [The Lawyer](#), [Law Society Gazette](#), [The Brief](#), [Politics Home](#) – The legal media reports on the Bar Council's reaction to the Bar Standards Board's (BSB) latest Future Bar Training Policy Statement, which included plans for pupil barristers to be guaranteed the minimum living wage in future.

Previously, the minimum allowed pupillage award was £12,000, a figure which has been static since 2011. The BSB has published now a policy statement which says that "the minimum award paid to those undertaking pupillage or another form of work-based learning will be set in line with the wages recommended by the Living Wage Foundation, and will increase annually in line with that figure." If the award were to have been made on this basis in 2018, it says, it would have increased from £12,000pa to £17,212.50pa in London, and £14,765.63pa outside London.

Guy Fetherstonhaugh QC, the chair of the Bar Council's Education and Training Committee, is quoted across the media. He said: "We support, in principle, the decision to bring pupillage awards in line with the Living Wage to improve access to the Bar irrespective of background. However, the impact of this on the number of pupillages on offer must be monitored."

The news comes a week after the Bar Council revealed that two thirds of criminal barristers work the equivalent of one day a week for free.

Harassment

The Times – The Times reports on the recent Behind the Gown event on ending harassment at the Bar and quotes **Sam Mercer, the Head of Equality & Diversity at the Bar Council**, who said: "We welcome the Behind the Gown initiative and look forward to working in conjunction with it to find additional and better ways to prevent harassment."

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

Barristers struggling with stress under cuts, with many working the equivalent of one or two days a week unpaid, finds the
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