



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2018

Working Lives Survey

[The Times \(print edition\)](#), [Politics Home](#), [The Brief](#), [Legal Futures](#), [Lawyer Monthly](#), [Law Society Gazette](#), [The Barrister](#), [Irish Legal News](#), [Scottish Legal News](#), [Legal Cheek](#), [The Lawyer](#), [Lawyer2b](#), [Crime Line Complete](#), [Lawyer Firm News](#) – There is widespread 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.

Chair of the Bar, Andrew Walker QC, said: “While there are some clear positives in our report, there is a notable difference between those practising in crime (and, to a degree, in family work) and the rest of the Bar. It should also be recognised that the survey was conducted in the summer of 2017, since when legal aid fees have been eroded further by inflation.

“The fact that many saw their workload, stress and work-life balance deteriorate yet further between 2013 and 2017 is a worrying trend. It shows that we must all maintain our efforts across the Bar to support those who are finding practice ever more difficult to sustain, both financially and in terms of maintaining and enjoying a healthy and fulfilling life both at work and at home.

“It shows, too, how important it is for the leadership of the Bar to be making our case to the Government, in Parliament and to the public about the long-term consequences of failing to recognise and pay properly for the delivery of justice in England and Wales.”

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



The Bar Council ✓
@thebarcouncil



Young barristers, don't get left behind. Join the 21st Century @YoungBarristers #LawTech #Wellbeing #advocacy #softskills



The 21st Century Advocate

Saturday 9 June 2018 13:30 – late Charles Russell Speechlys, 5 Fleet Place, London EC4M 7RD Join the Young Barristers' Committee's Annual Workshop, entitled, The youngbarhub.com

7:44 AM - 28 May 2018

8 Retweets 9 Likes

