



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2017

Chief Executive

The Brief, [The Barrister](#), [AllAboutLaw](#) – The legal media report that Stephen Crowne, Chief Executive of the Bar Council, has announced his retirement for the end of August 2017.

He said: “I have greatly enjoyed working with all involved at the Bar Council, and am enormously grateful for all the support and encouragement I have received. It has been a privilege to work with exceptional Officers and staff, and I am very proud of what we have achieved together in what will be a little over four years in post.”

Andrew Langdon QC, Chairman of the Bar, said: “There will be an opportunity at a later stage to thank Stephen properly for all that he has achieved at the Bar Council. We are grateful that he will be staying on until later in the year and welcome his decision to continue his vital leadership of the organisation until then.”

Legal Ombudsman

[The Law Society Gazette](#) – The Gazette reports on the Bar Council’s recent response to a Legal Ombudsman consultation.

The Gazette reports that the Bar Council has poured more cold water on the Legal Ombudsman’s enthusiasm for price comparison services. In a consultation response the representative body said that comparison sites can lead to ‘distortions in the market’ because some consumers can be influenced by the outcome of their case rather than the capability of the provider that acted for them.

Public Legal Education

[Politics Home](#) – The Chairman of the Bar, Andrew Langdon QC, writes for Politics Home that claims made in the media that judges were ‘enemies of the people’ were not supported by even a ‘rudimentary knowledge’ of our constitution.

His article looks at a new initiative from the Bar Council and Citizenship Foundation which takes constitutional lessons into schools.

The Chairman writes: “News coverage of the Article 50 case brought the role of the judiciary to the attention of mainstream media, but many of the headlines generated more heat than light. That is why last week, the Bar Council and Citizenship Foundation collaborated to give every secondary school in the UK access to [classroom resources](#) that explain how judges help citizens to hold Government to account and how the British constitution helps to guard against persecution and the arbitrary exercise of power by the state.”

Youth Courts

[LawCareers.net](#) - New measures aimed at improving the quality of advocacy in youth courts have been announced by the Bar Standards Board (BSB).

The BSB has now published guidance for barristers working in the field, setting out an essential set of competencies which all advocates who work with young people are expected to have. Reforms include compulsory registration for barristers practising in the youth courts later in 2017.

Former Chairman of the Bar

City AM, The Brief – The immediate past Chairman of the Bar, Chantal-Aimee Doerries QC, has been elected head of chambers at Atkin Chambers, reports City AM and The Brief.

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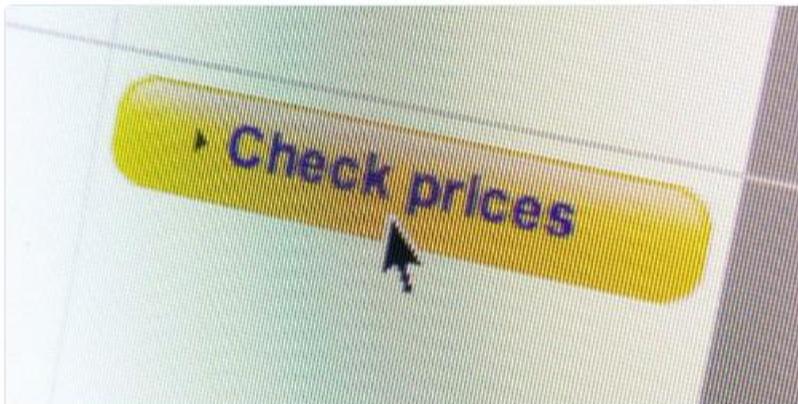
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Bar Council warns LeO over comparison sites

Barristers' body says sites can lead to 'distortions in the market'.

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