



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2017

### Brexit

[Politics Home](#) reported on the Bar Council's response to the Justice Select Committee Brexit report.

Politics Home quoted a spokesperson "The Justice Committee have reached some sensible conclusions in their report. Effective cross-border arrangements to ensure continued co-operation with the EU on criminal justice need to be maintained. Likewise in civil justice, choice of jurisdiction together with mutual recognition and enforcement of judgments (as well as equivalent arrangements in family law) are in the UK's interest as well as in the EU's interest post-Brexit. They are recommendations for which the Bar Council, the Family Law Bar Association, and the Criminal Bar Association have been arguing."

Read more [here](#).

According to [Legal futures](#), The Justice Select Committee has described the impact of Brexit on legal services as "a cause for concern, but not hyperbole".

In its report on the implications of Brexit for the justice system, MPs warned that without the protection of existing practising rights in the EU, the ability of the legal services sector to facilitate economic activity "will diminish".

The report referred to evidence from **Andrew Langdon QC, Chairman of the Bar Council**, that "without the free movement of lawyers nothing else of much importance will be salvaged".

Read more [here](#).

[New Law Journal](#) – “Britain’s exit from the EU is not inevitable once Prime Minister Theresa May triggers Art 50 on 29 March”, a senior barrister has said.

**Hugh Mercer QC, of Essex Court Chambers, Chair of Bar Council’s Brexit Working Group** was quoted saying: “Though Art 50 includes no express provision for revocation of the UK notice, it is clearly arguable for example on the grounds of the duties of sincere cooperation between member states (Art 4(3) of the Treaty on European Union) that, were the UK to feel on mature reflection that leaving the EU and/or the European Economic Area (EEA) is not in the national interest, the notice under Art 50 could be revoked.”

New Law Journal went on to report the [Brexit Papers: Second edition](#) as “an easy-to-read legal guide to Brexit, with a plan to fill the gaps in the labour market and retain the status of the City post-Brexit while maintaining UK sovereignty and autonomy.”

Read full article [here](#).

## Judiciary

[Sky News](#), [The Guardian](#) - Lord Chief Justice attacks Liz Truss for failing to back article 50 judges.

According to The Guardian earlier this month, Liz Truss said “I think it is dangerous for a government minister to say, ‘this is an acceptable headline and this isn’t an acceptable headline,’ because I am a huge believer in the independence of the judiciary. I am also a very strong believer in the free press.”

Read more [here](#).

## Rape reforms

[Daily Mail](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Times](#), [Legal Cheek](#) all report on the Lord Chief Justice comments about the Justice Secretary rape reform plans.

Reforms to shield women alleging rape during trials by allowing them to pre-record their testimony were halted by England's most senior judge yesterday.

Lord Chief Justice Lord Thomas said "the announcement of the dramatic change to sex crime cases made by Justice Secretary Liz Truss at the weekend was 'wrong'".

## Online courts

Raconteur reports on "the rise of the online courtroom" and states that "England and Wales have so far lagged behind other jurisdictions when it comes to making use of online dispute resolution, dubbed by detractors as "eBay justice".

In England and Wales, **the Bar Council** and the Law Society, the groups that represent barristers and solicitors respectively, support reforms to increase efficiency and make better use of resources, but they are circumspect about the manner and speed of change, which appears to be driven by the Justice Ministry's court closure programme.

Read more [here](#).

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



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**Blackstones Criminal** @blackstonescrim · 3h  
@thebarcouncil warns MPs not to jeopardise quality of justice in online court reforms [bit.ly/2mkVrUQ](https://bit.ly/2mkVrUQ) #criminaljustice

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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 22h  
Thanks to @Wilberforce\_Bar #Hull @BankHouseClerks @SJBnews #Sheffield @DSBarristers #York for meeting us this week. Next stop #Leeds

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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Mar 22  
Brexit @CommonsJustice report out now: [bit.ly/2n6V8dB](https://bit.ly/2n6V8dB). See inside for a number of very sensible conclusions [bit.ly/2nRfJTO](https://bit.ly/2nRfJTO)



House of Commons  
Justice Committee

## Implications of Brexit for the justice system

Ninth Report of Session 2016–17

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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Mar 22

#Wellbeing at the Bar - lessons learned  
and what next?



Wellbeing  
at the Bar

### Wellbeing at the Bar - Lessons Learned and Next St...

The Bar Council initiated our wellbeing work fully aware that we were going to be in it for the long haul. We recognised we had a mountain to climb in challenging ... [wellbeingatthebar.org.uk](http://wellbeingatthebar.org.uk)

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