



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

### Justice system

[The Times](#) – The justice system is “not fit for purpose”, a judge has complained in a courtroom outburst at the lack of police, prosecutors and court staff.

Judge Lowe, 65, a recorder since 2005 and a circuit judge in the Midlands since last January, told the court: “This is a justice system that is just breaking at every point — from the number of police, the number of CPS [Crown Prosecution Service], the number of court staff, the number of courts, the number of delays.

“Everywhere you look, our justice system is beginning to be not fit for purpose. Slow justice is bad justice.”

His comments come amid growing concerns about the justice system. A survey carried out on one day last month found that nearly half of all courtrooms at crown courts were left empty that day.

Figures released by the Ministry of Justice on August 15 revealed that the number of people dealt with by the justice system had fallen to the lowest level on record, despite an increase in crimes being reported.

[Richard Atkins, QC, chairman of the Bar Council](#), said that “criminals would be rubbing their hands with glee” over the figures, which showed that 1.59 million people were dealt with in England and Wales in the year to March, a fall of 2 per cent on the previous year and the lowest level since 1970. There were 5.9 million crimes reported in the same period, an increase of 8 per cent.

### International Weekend

[Law Society of Ireland Gazette](#) – The European Young Bar Association has organised an international weekend in London from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 September. The weekend is an annual event put together with the Junior

Lawyers' Division of the Law Society of England and Wales, **the Young Barristers' Committee of the Bar Council**, and the London Young Lawyers' Group.

Delegates are offered a mix of seminars at the Law Society, an exciting social programme and an introduction to the city. Day events and seminars are aimed at both international and British junior lawyers.

On Sunday, the EYBA will hold its annual general meeting. More details and a full programme can be viewed at [internationalweekend.mystrikingly.com](https://internationalweekend.mystrikingly.com)

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



You Retweeted



**Western Circuit Women's Forum** @WCWF\_ · 4h

Last chance today to register your interest for this inspiring event!

**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Aug 28

Calling all barristers - join us and @cpsuk to celebrate 100 years of Women in Law. Listen and engage with inspiring women including Lady Justice Nicola Davies and Chair-Elect of the Bar Amanda Pinto QC to discuss the #Next100Years.

Don't miss out. Book your places now.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE  
AND HEAR FROM INSPIRING WOMEN  
INCLUDING LADY JUSTICE NICOLA DAVIES

WHEN: 24 SEPTEMBER, 17:30  
WHERE: 102 PETTY FRANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, EMAIL  
NFEIFEL@BARCOUNCIL.ORG.UK  
BY 4 SEPTEMBER

The poster features the logo of the General Council of the Bar on the left and the CPS logo on the right. The background is dark with white text.

5 2



**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 23h

Banks and law firms in UK demand more female barristers  
[ft.com/content/bcc298...](https://www.ft.com/content/bcc298...) via @financialtimes



Banks and law firms in UK demand more female barristers  
Clifford Chance, Allen & Overy, Barclays and Lloyds among those pushing for gender diversity  
[ft.com](https://www.ft.com)

1 13 17

You Retweeted



**Times Law**  @TimesLaw · Sep 2

From The Brief's Blue Bag diary column today: [@thebarcouncil](#) leaders tear up paper ballots [bit.ly/2lslhHc](https://bit.ly/2lslhHc) Daily legal affairs updates from [@thetimes](#) Click here to subscribe [thetimes.co.uk/article/newsle...](https://thetimes.co.uk/article/newsle...)

