



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2017

Brexit

[The Brief](#), [Scottish Legal](#), [Politics Home](#) - The UK could remain a member of the EU single market and customs union after Brexit, the barristers' profession has said.

Chair of the Bar, Andrew Langdon QC said: "There is no logical or practical necessity for the UK to be a member of either the EU or the EEA [European Economic Area] in order to be a member of the internal market or the customs union," the Bar Council's Brexit working group said in a report published yesterday.

Chair of the Bar Council Brexit Working Group Hugh Mercer, QC said: "By building on the legal framework covering the EU's existing opt-outs, the government could solve some of the most difficult issues in the current talks, while keeping the power to negotiate bilateral deals on agriculture, fisheries, competition, trade and environment, which would end ECJ [European Court of Justice] jurisdiction in those areas."

[CDR Magazine](#) - In the closing address of CDR's Autumn Arbitration Symposium, [Hugh Mercer QC](#), of [Essex Court Chambers](#), gave an overview of the impact of Brexit on dispute resolution, and international arbitration in particular.

Mercer, who chairs the Bar Council of England & Wales' Brexit Working Group, first looked at the United Kingdom government's most recent paper on enforcement and dispute resolution.

Having published The Brexit Papers, a series of detailed legal briefings produced by the group, Mercer noted that the UK government's paper bore striking similarities to the conclusions reached by the group's own work on that subject, "which is very flattering", he remarked, tongue-in-cheek.

Pupillage

[Politics Home](#) - Aspiring barristers competing for coveted pupillage positions, and those in pupillage, will now receive wellbeing support from new online resources, created by the Bar Council's Wellbeing at the Bar Working Group, with input from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust (CWMT), who specialise in young people's mental health.

These [resources](#) are specifically aimed at those post-BPTC, seeking pupillage, and pupils up until they complete their training to become a barrister.

Sam Mercer, Head of Equality, Diversity & CSR at the Bar Council, said:

“The Bar Council and the Inns of Court recognise the unique challenges faced by those applying for pupillage and pupils themselves, and the wellbeing issues that commonly arise as a result. We felt there was a particular gap in support for those that had completed their BPTC but not yet achieved pupillage – particularly considering the pressure and level of competition often experienced by individuals seeking to secure their professional futures.”

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



Middle Temple
@middletemple

Following

Fantastic news for [#aspiringbarristers](#)! You will now receive support from new online services, created by [@thebarcouncil](#) aimed at post-BPTC, seeking [#pupillage](#), & pupils up until completion of training to become a [#barrister](#). Find out more!
ow.ly/WSX130h4xCS



Bar Council and the Inns of Court back students in search to pupillage application season

Aspiring barristers competing for coveted pupillage positions, and those in pupillage, will now receive wellbeing support from new [online resources](#) created by the Bar Council's Wellbeing at the Bar Working Group, with input from the Charlie Walker Memorial Trust (CWMT), who specialise in young people's mental health. These resources are specifically aimed at those post-BPTC, seeking pupillage, and pupils up until they complete their training to become a barrister.

The new wellbeing resources cover personal wellbeing issues, such as stress, panic attacks, and low mood and depression, as well as those triggered by problems in the workplace – potentially pertinent to pupils – for example, balancing and becoming overwhelmed by work. Resources are chosen in alphabetical order and can be found [here](#) with additional support available [here](#).

Sam Mercer, Head of Equality, Diversity & CSR at the Bar Council, said:

“The Bar Council and the Inns of Court recognise the unique challenges faced by those applying for pupillage and pupils themselves, and the wellbeing issues that commonly arise as a result. We felt there was a particular gap in support for those that had completed their BPTC but not yet achieved pupillage – particularly considering the pressure and level of competition often experienced by individuals seeking to secure their professional futures.

“These resources were created with the needs of this specific target group in mind, and have had endorsement from BPTC providers and Inns of Court representatives, as well as direct input from the Charlie Walker Memorial Trust. We hope students and pupils find them useful during what is often a difficult and stressful period in their lives.”

[Charlie Walker Memorial Trust](#) added their support for the resources, saying:

to manage their personal wellbeing throughout their professional lives.

Links

Notes to Editors

The Wellbeing Working Group consists of representatives from the Bar Council, the Inns of Court, Specialist Bar Associations, the Circuit, the Institute of Barristers' Clerks (IBC) and the Legal Practice Management Association (LPMMA).

Wellbeing at the Bar (WVATB) aims to:

- Provide barristers and clerks/assistants with the information and skills they need to stay well
- Support members of the profession through education that affects their professional life
- Hold those responsible for or who are supporting them to **accountability** in ethics

Wellbeing at the Bar has over 100,000 hits in 12/16/17

Further information is available from the Bar Council Press Office on 020 7320 2200 and by email Shayne.Hewson@barcouncil.org.uk or Barbar@barcouncil.org.uk

The Bar Council represents barristers in England and Wales. It promotes:

- The fair high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services
- Fair access to justice for all
- The highest standards of ethics, equality and diversity across the profession, and
- The development of business opportunities for barristers at home and abroad

The General Council of the Bar is the Appointed Regulator of the Bar of England and Wales. It challenges its regulatory functions through the independent Bar Standards Board.

The Charlie Walker Memorial Trust (CWMT) was set up in 1997 in memory of Charlie Walker, a young man who took his own life while suffering from depression. CWMT's core mission is to provide support and help to others who are struggling with mental health issues.

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ChambersStudentGuide @chambersstudent · Dec 7

.@thebarcouncil Pupillage Gateway is now open for browsing. 100+ sets are advertising vacancies. Some more will follow. Research sets using our Chambers Reports here: goo.gl/ZEHYuo

