



BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

March 2016

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Blog: Monthly message from our Chair Sir Andrew Burns KCMG

Just a quick update from me this month. Due mainly to an early Easter this year, it feels to me as if our January, February and March Board meetings fall in particularly rapid succession.

Furthermore, we are dealing with a number of weighty and significant matters at the moment. Not least of these, is...[read more on our website.](#)

Reminder: renew your practising certificate before 31 March

Chair and members of Independent

We would like to remind you that the authorisation to practise process is open for renewals.

If you have not yet renewed your practising certificate for 2016-17 please log into [Barrister Connect](#) to complete the process. If you are unable to remember your password please click on the forgotten password link on the home page. An email will then be sent to your registered email address so that this can be re-set. If you are not intending to renew your practising certificate for 2016-17, we would be grateful if you could change your status to that of an unregistered barrister, so that we do not contact you unnecessarily. You can do this by completing the [notification form on our website](#) and sending it back to our Records Department so that we can ensure your records are current.

If you have any difficulty with your account or password, please contact the Records Department on 020 7242 0934 or email Records@BarCouncil.org.uk. We strongly recommend that you register at the earliest opportunity so that we can assist you if you experience any difficulties. We would not wish you to incur the 20% surcharge that is imposed for renewals after 31 March 2016.

Barristers who wish to delegate block payment to their Chambers or Organisation should complete the Authorisation to Practise Declarations, select their Income Band and delegate in order to enable your Online Administrator to request their invoice on time. Your Chambers or Organisation may have a specific date that they need you to have delegated by to be included in the Block Payment, so please check this with your Online Administrator.

Barristers who fail to complete the renewal process by 29 April 2016 will no longer appear on our Barristers' Register and will not be authorised to practise. From 2 May 2016, any barrister believed to be practising without a certificate should be flagged to us for appropriate action. Undertaking reserved legal activities without a valid practising certificate is a breach of the Legal Services Act as well as a professional conduct issue.

We want your views on our draft Professional Statement threshold standard and competences

We have launched a new consultation to gather your views on our draft Professional Statement threshold standard and competences.

The Professional Statement threshold standard and competences will be an invaluable resource for all qualified barristers and those designing training. [Read more on our website.](#)

Appointments Panel needed

We are seeking at least three lay people for our Independent Appointments Panel, one of whom to serve as the Chair.

Are you experienced in good recruitment practices? Are you committed to the "Nolan" principles of public life?

Are you able to influence others to ensure that what the Panel does reflects excellent equality and diversity practice?

Do you have the presence and experience to lead the Panel in recruiting new members for the Bar Standards Board who will protect and promote the public interest?

If so, you may be the next Chair of our Independent Appointments Panel or one of the other independent members on it. For details about how to apply, [please visit our website](#). The closing date for applications is 29 March

Unregistered barristers – you need

the *Regulatory Update* too!

A reminder – the duty to report charges, cautions and convictions

You are reminded that you must report to us promptly if you are charged with an indictable criminal offence (Handbook rC65.1).

Core Duty (CD5) requires that you do not behave in a way that is likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in you or the profession. Receiving a caution or a criminal conviction, regardless of the circumstances in which they arise, may breach this duty.

Rule C65.2 of our Handbook requires that...[read more on our website](#).

Each month, we send the *Regulatory Update* to the entire Bar, including those without practising certificates. Why do we do this? It is because you are still bound by elements of the BSB Handbook. The Core Duties apply if you are providing any legal services. Even if you are not providing legal services the following Core Duties apply: [read more on our website](#).

New report on diversity within our complaints-handling system

Monitoring complaints against barristers to make sure disciplinary processes are carried out in a fair and unbiased manner has always been our priority.

This is important, because it enables you, us and the public to be sure that everyone is treated fairly if a complaint is made about a barrister's professional conduct. Last month, we published a new statistical report on our website titled [Complaints at the Bar: An analysis of ethnicity and gender 2012-2014](#).

Regulatory Requirements

BSB Handbook Explained: advertising pupillage



Are you planning to advertise a pupillage? If so, you need to ensure that all vacancies are advertised on the website designated by the Bar Council; the Pupillage Gateway.

This applies to all chambers and entities. There is a list of information that you will need to provide when advertising a pupillage vacancy set out at rQ61. A chambers or entity must advertise a pupillage vacancy in this way. However, it does not mean other steps in the recruitment process (eg receiving applications for pupillage vacancies) have to be carried out through the Bar Council's website.

Finally, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that every member of all selection panels is trained in fair recruitment and selection processes (rC110.c) and that objective and fair criteria are used throughout all recruitment and selection processes (rC110.d). Further guidance on this can be found at gC142-144 and within the equality rules supporting information [in our Handbook](#).



Have we got correct details of your primary practice address?

Please ensure that you have informed us of your correct primary practice address in accordance with rS69 of our Handbook. If your practice address changes, you must inform our Records Department within 28 days.

Give us your feedback

If you have any thoughts about how we can improve the Regulatory Update or what content you would like to read, please email contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk.

Please let us know (records@barcouncil.org.uk) about any changes to your contact and practising details so that we can work together to maintain accurate records as per the requirements set out within our Handbook (rC64.1).



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