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BAR  
STANDARDS  
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

# Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

August 2017

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## Pupillage Handbook 2017 launched

This month, we published a revised version of our [Pupillage Handbook](#). The Handbook offers clear advice and guidance about requirements for pupillage. For more information about pupillage visit [our website](#).

**Blog: Monthly message from our Chair Sir Andrew Burns KCMG**

**Wanted: your views on proposed Handbook rule changes**



It may be summer, but the Board and I had another packed agenda at our meeting at the end of July. As always much of our discussion was in public session: we are the only legal services regulator to be so transparent.

One of the things that we finalised then was our Annual Report for the 2016-17 business year. You can [read the Report in full on our website](#). As you'll see, effective regulation in the public interest – mandated by Parliament in the Legal Services Act of 2007 – covers a wide range of issues, needs to be well-founded on good evidence, risk-based and proportionate in the remedies we propose and in the rules we lay down in the Handbook.

Highlights during what was the first year of our current three-year Strategic Plan included: [read more on our website](#).

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## BSB meets its efficiency targets for handling complaints

This week, we published our [Enforcement Annual Report for 2016-17](#).

The report provides an overview of our enforcement work during the year and includes a number of statistics about the volume and outcome of complaints of professional misconduct about barristers.

The report demonstrates how we targeted most of the attention of our Professional Conduct Department on situations where the most serious instances of misconduct by barristers may have taken place. This continues the trends seen in recent years and has enabled us to make further improvements in the efficiency of our complaints-handling processes.

We have launched [a consultation seeking views on a number of proposed rule changes to the BSB Handbook](#). These changes would require barristers to provide us with additional information when completing the Authorisation to Practise process from 2018.

At the BSB, we take a risk and evidence-based, proportionate, approach to regulation. We also work hard to minimise regulatory costs.

We are asking for this information because...[read more on our website](#).

**Respond to our consultation on rule changes for Licensed and Public Access schemes**

We have published [a new consultation](#) on potential changes to the rules governing the Public and Licensed Access schemes for barristers.

These schemes allow members of the public and other lay clients to instruct barristers directly without first instructing a solicitor or other intermediary.

The main statistical findings in the report are as follows:[read more our website.](#)

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## Barristers are serving family law clients well, says new BSB research

Last month, we published [the findings of our research with people who have used barristers' services during family legal proceedings.](#) The findings show that most of those who took part in the research were positive about the service they received from their barrister.

The research is the most in-depth that we have conducted with barristers' clients to date.

The results indicate that when a family law matter goes to court, the majority of people are represented by a solicitor, and around one third use a barrister. As most family law matters never go to court, this means that only 13 per cent of people with a family law issue of any type used a barrister.

Interviews with respondents who used a barrister highlighted the following: [read more on our website.](#)

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## BSB Handbook Explained – Associations with Others Rules

Are you a practising barrister who uses a procurement company, or shares premises or costs with any person or organisation not regulated by the BSB?

If so, you are practising in an association and must comply with the Associations with Others Rules in the BSB Handbook (Rules C79 - C85).

In particular, if you are practising in 'an association' on more than a one-off basis, you must complete the [Associations Notification Form](#)

Our new consultation follows our [recent review](#) of the Public and Licensed Access schemes. The review found that although both schemes are working well and provide a valuable service, improvements to the rules governing the schemes could result in a better service for clients and deliver greater access to justice for the wider public.

Our latest consultation proposes a number of recommendations including: [read more on our website.](#)

### BSB opens recruitment for lay Chair and lay Board members

We have begun the process of recruiting a new Chair to succeed Sir Andrew Burns KCMG whose term of office ends on 31 December 2017. We are also seeking three new lay Board members to take up position at the same time.

There are 15 members of the Board – 8 lay members (including the Chair) and 7 barrister members, of whom one is the Vice Chair.

and return it to the BSB's Supervision Department ([Supervision@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk](mailto:Supervision@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk)). The Associations Notification Form is [available on our website](#).

If you are an employed barrister working for an authorised body which is not regulated by the BSB, and share premises or costs in that capacity, you do not need to complete and return the Associations Notification Form.

The closing date for applications for the position of Chair is 10 August, and for the lay member positions, it is 15 September.

More information about the vacancies and [the application process](#) can be found online.

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## 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.

### Feedback

If you have any thoughts about how we can improve the Regulatory Update or what content you would like to read, [please email us](#).



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