

# Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

August 2016

## Top stories:

- [Annual Report highlights progress during 2015-16](#)
- [Enforcement report published](#)
- [Alternative Business Structures and opportunities for the Bar and the wider legal profession](#)
- [Pupillage Handbook 2016 launched](#)

## Pupillage Handbook 2016 launched

Last month, we published a significantly revised version of our 2016 [Pupillage Handbook](#). The Handbook offers clear advice and guidance about requirements for pupillage. For more information about pupillage [visit our website](#).

## Annual Report highlights progress during 2015-16

We have published our latest [Annual Report](#), which summarises our achievements during the 2015-16 business year and during the course of our last three-year strategic plan which concluded on 31 March 2016.

Our key achievements in 2015-16 were:

- The publication of a Risk Outlook – an important document which provides an overview of the biggest risks in the legal services market and which sets out our regulatory priorities;
- Improving our dialogue with the Bar, consumers and other key stakeholders and holding a number of events throughout the year to seek their views on a wide range of topics, such as the future of Bar training;
- Publishing the new Professional Statement, which describes the skills, knowledge and attributes expected of barristers at the point of authorisation;
- Piloting an improved, more flexible Continuing Professional Development (CPD) regime for barristers in preparation for its roll-out in 2017;
- Undertaking a major piece of research into women's experiences at the Bar;
- Beginning a review of immigration advice and services;
- Commissioning research into Youth Court advocacy standards and adopting the resulting recommendations; and
- The Legal Services Board (LSB) recommending that we should begin authorising Alternative Business Structures

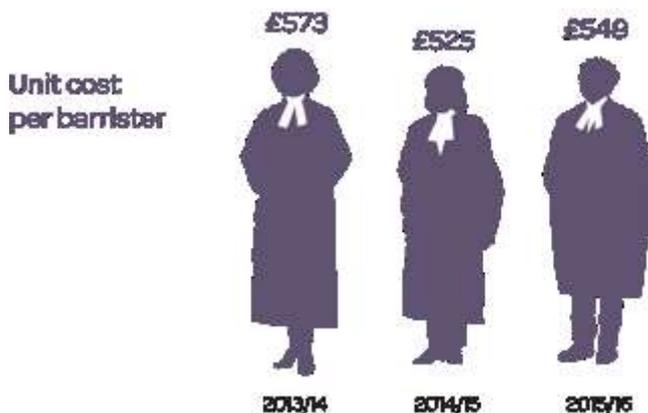
## Experts needed

We are seeking applications for seven vacancies on a new [Advisory Pool of Experts \(APEX\)](#) by 15 August at 9.00am.

As part of our agreed new governance structure, we want to develop a pool of experts to provide advice and support for our policy development. We want to engage a range of people, from all kinds of backgrounds, who are

(ABSs) – a recommendation which the Lord Chancellor has now approved.

During the period of our last strategic plan, we reduced the overall cost of regulation by two per cent.



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## Enforcement report published

We have published our [Enforcement Annual Report for 2015-16](#). This 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 highlights how taking a risk-based approach to enforcement – focusing attention on situations that pose the biggest threat to the public – has enabled us to make significant improvements to our complaints-handling processes. [Read more on our website.](#)



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## Are you manager of Chambers or an entity? Participate in our legal services market survey

We are launching a survey on 5 September to explore how legal services are delivered by barristers. The survey will provide a snapshot of how the provision of legal services is evolving in response to current market characteristics. Responses will be treated confidentially and provided to us anonymously. [Read more on our website.](#)

experts in their respective fields to help us.

We are offering a flexible way of providing input on big, interesting topics in policy development, rather than requiring a fixed amount of input per month. We will recognise your appointment and your expertise by publishing details of APEX members on our website and telling people when you have contributed to our work. You will be paid for your time. You will become part of a group of experts from a range of different specialisms, with regular opportunities to come together and learn. You will be able to discuss issues with our staff, our Board, other experts and often our other stakeholders too. You will have the opportunity to make a difference, at an early stage, in how policy develops in the legal sector. There is a lot going on so there are plenty of big, complex issues to get involved with. [Read more on our website.](#)

## Recruitment of Lay Members of the Bar Standards Board

We are now recruiting for lay Members to join our Board. The new members will provide visible leadership of the BSB at a critical time in the Bar's history.

The Board is made up of 15 people, eight of whom are not

## Alternative Business Structures and opportunities for the Bar and the wider legal profession

Last month, we welcomed the Ministry of Justice's notice that we are on track to become a licensing authority for Alternative Business Structures (ABSs).

On 15 October we are running a workshop about ABSs at [the Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference](#) in London. Our Director of Regulatory Assurance Oliver Hanmer is moderating this event with speakers to be confirmed. The workshop runs between 3:30pm and 4:40pm.

Starting to commence the authorisation of ABSs builds on our entity regulation regime which has been in effect for the last 18 months. ABSs will provide lawyers and non-lawyers with an opportunity to develop innovative and competitive models for the delivery of legal services which will broaden choice for members of the public.

In an increasingly competitive legal market there are growing challenges for barristers to think creatively about how they deliver legal services.

Our Bar Conference session will provide information about the genesis of the ABS regime, the approach to its regulation and the opportunities that arise from their availability to barristers. You will hear from the regulator and innovators within legal services who are at the forefront of pushing the boundaries in the provision of legal services. To book your place at the conference visit [the conference website](#). For more information on ABSs, visit our [revamped webpages](#).

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## Lively debate on Future Bar Training options

Last month, we hosted a lively debate about the future of Bar training. The debate considered five possible future routes to qualification as a barrister. The event was attended by a wide variety of interested parties including barristers, students, training providers and other stakeholders with an interest in how the next generation of barristers are trained and how they qualify.

We have yet to publish a view as to which option we think is best, so we were keen to listen to arguments for and against each of the options before we publish a full consultation later in the year.

Five guest speakers made arguments in support of the three broad options under consideration. [Read more on our website](#).

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barristers; a lay majority.

The new members will be appointed by an Independent Appointments Panel for a three year fixed term, starting 1 January 2016. This can be renewed once for up to a further three years.

The closing date for applications is Friday 19 August 2016...[Read more on our website](#).

### Prosecutor Panel Recruitment

Our Professional Conduct Committee maintains a [panel of prosecuting barristers](#) to represent us at Disciplinary Tribunals and other related hearings, including appeals before the High Court and it is currently looking to replenish its panel.



**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](mailto:contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk).



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