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BAR  
STANDARDS  
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

# Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

March 2017

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## Authorisation to Practise is now open

As you know, [Authorisation to Practise \(ATP\) 2017/18](#) opened on 16 February and closes on Friday 31 March.

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your practising certificate. 16 February was the highest opening day response by the profession since we started this process.

As in the previous two years, the Practising Certificate Fee (PCF) is based on earnings rather than years of Call. There are six fee levels. The renewal process is simple and

## New regulatory approach to improve advocacy standards within Youth Courts



At our Board meeting last month we agreed new measures to improve standards of advocacy within Youth Courts.

We have published [new guidance for barristers](#) working in youth proceedings based on a set of essential competences that are expected of all advocates working with vulnerable young people.

This represents the first phase of regulation in the light of the Youth Advocacy Proceedings research which we commissioned and published in November 2015. [Read more.](#)

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

Our key stories this month are about Future Bar Training and Youth Advocacy.

Our Future Bar Training consultation received a record number of responses, for which we are most grateful. Among many thoughtful responses we had detailed comments from both the Council of the Inns of Court (COIC) and the Bar Council. Over 500 barristers signed a letter in support of the model put forward by COIC and the Bar Council. Many barristers also wrote to us after the Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR) and the Chancery Bar Association asked their members to respond to the consultation. And we received. [Read more.](#)

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you can pay your practising certificate fee via [Barrister Connect](#). [Watch this video](#) to see how to complete the Authorisation to Practise process this year, and read the [frequently asked questions](#). [Read more.](#)

### Insurance requirements for self-employed barristers

If you hold a self-employed practising certificate, you must be a member of the [Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund \(BMIF\)](#) even if you are not actually intending to provide legal services. The only exception is where we have previously granted you a waiver from the requirement to be a member of BMIF. Insurance premiums must be paid promptly to the BMIF together with such information as the BMIF may require.

You should be aware that we check our records against the records of the BMIF to verify individual declarations and we will take appropriate action in cases of non-compliance.

## BSB Handbook Explained: Social media guidance

We have published [guidance on our website](#) for barristers with advice about using social media channels such as Twitter and LinkedIn. [Read more.](#)

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## BSB Workshop: CPD 2017 - Understanding the new regime



On 15 February, we held a workshop with the [Bar Association for Commerce, Finance & Industry \(BACFI\)](#). Our Director General Dr Vanessa Davies gave a presentation to help more than 50 barristers with the new CPD regime for Established Practitioners. [Read more.](#)

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### Barristers' Register

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



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