

Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

November 2016

Top stories:

- [Do you have views about the way barristers should train?](#)
- [Continuing Professional Development CPD 2017: the countdown continues](#)
- [Research shows room for improvement on Client Care Letters](#)

Blog: Monthly message from our Chair Sir Andrew Burns KCMG

Do you have views about the way barristers should train?

It has been a busy month here at the BSB. We have been travelling the length and breadth of the country to explain the forthcoming changes to barristers' CPD. We have had an appreciative reception everywhere, with people apparently pleased to hear us explain the advantages of the changes we are proposing and full of useful advice about the accompanying guidance.

It has been good too to get out of London and to have had the opportunity to meet and speak with so many of you directly on this and other matters of practical importance.

We were also pleased to be present at the Bar Conference on 15



On 3 October, we launched our [second consultation on the future of training for the Bar](#). As part of our [Future Bar Training Programme](#), we have developed three illustrative approaches. We want to assess those approaches against four criteria:

- flexibility
- accessibility
- affordability
- maintaining high standards

Training must enable students to meet the requirements of the [Professional Statement](#). We have set out the details of each of these approaches in our consultation which can be found [on our website](#). The Council of the Inns of Court have also set out [further proposals](#) which we have welcomed and which we would also encourage you to consider against those criteria.

We are hosting events across the country for barristers and students to give you the opportunity to have your say. We have already held events in London, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle, and we will be visiting:

- Birmingham, University of Law Birmingham, 10 November, 5.30pm – 8.00pm
- Cardiff, Cardiff University, 16 November, 5.30pm – 8.00pm
- Bristol, University of West England, 17 November, 5.30pm – 8.00pm

To register your interest, please email futurebartraining@barstandardsboard.org.uk stating the event you would like to attend and any dietary and/or accessibility requirements.

October. Our conference session about Alternative Business Structures (ABSs) was well attended. ABSs are not for everyone but their flexibility may offer some of you intriguing new opportunities. [Read more.](#)

Research shows room for improvement on Client Care Letters

New research commissioned by us together with other legal regulators and the Legal Services Consumer Panel (LSCP) has identified principles to help legal services providers better communicate with their clients.

Client Care Letters are required of all regulated professionals providing legal services, including barristers.

The independent researchers have recommended eight key principles for preparing effective Client Care Letters. They are:

1. Show a clear purpose
2. Keep it concise
3. Put it in plain English

Continuing Professional Development CPD 2017: the countdown continues



We are changing CPD for established practitioners. The changes will give you more choice and greater flexibility in planning your training. We will focus on helping you to comply instead of issuing sanctions for non-compliance. The new CPD regime for established practitioners comes into force on 1 January 2017 but the arrangements for those in their first three years of practice, who are on the New Practitioners Programme, will not change.

To assist practitioners to prepare for the new CPD arrangements and to help finalise our guidance, we have been busy meeting barristers up and down the country in a series of workshops. We have already held workshops in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds and Manchester, but there are still places available at the following sessions:

- Winchester: 15 November 2016, 5.30pm – 7.30pm, The Winchester Royal Hotel, St Peter's Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8BS

To register your attendance at either of these sessions, please email us at contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk.

We are also holding a webinar on Thursday 10 November.

If you cannot attend any of the remaining sessions or the webinar, we will be publishing a recording of the webinar on our website. We will also share this recording with you in next month's Regulatory Update email. [Read more.](#)

4. Prioritise information
5. Personalise information
6. Make it easy to read
7. Highlight key information
8. Consider additional opportunities to engage clients

You can read ['Research into Client Care Letters'](#) report on our website. [Read more.](#)

The BSB is recruiting lay members for its Professional Conduct Committee

Do you know anyone who is not a barrister who might be interested in helping us with our work?

We are seeking new non-barrister members for our Professional Conduct Committee. We would welcome applications from lay people with a range of executive and non-executive experience, with expertise in equality and diversity in particular. [Read more.](#)

Reminder: participate in our market study of the provision of legal services

Before 18 November, do please consider helping us to develop our plans for regulation in the future by participating in [our ongoing market study of the provision of legal services by barristers](#). We have commissioned the research consultancy [Pye Tait](#) to conduct this study which entails an online survey and interviews. This research is conducted independently and confidentially and in accordance with the MRS code of conduct. We will not have access to any personal data collected by Pye Tait and participation in the online survey is not compulsory.

We appreciate your help and we hope that we can continue to receive your support to get a better understanding of the current market.

[Enter: Provision of legal services survey](#)



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.



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