

# Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

September 2016

## Top stories:

- [Sir Andrew's blog: We are going on the road!](#)
- [Come to a CPD workshop](#)
- [Join our market study of the provision of legal services](#)
- [Take part in our workshops to define youth advocacy competencies](#)
- [Have your say... on the future of training for the Bar](#)

**Academic Stage Handbook 2016/17 published**

On 1 September, we published a revised version of our [2016/17 Academic Stage Handbook](#). The Handbook offers clear advice and guidance about requirements for the academic stage. For more information about the academic stage [visit our website](#).

## Sir Andrew's blog: We are going on the road!

Next month we are formally launching our consultation on [Future Bar Training](#) to gather views on the proposed options for how barristers should qualify; please take this opportunity to help us make our decision in 2017. Those interested in sharing their opinions can submit their response to us through a formal consultation paper or attend one of our events hosted across the country. See the 'Have your say... on the future of training for the Bar' section to find out more. We will also be represented at the Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference (15 October), the Bar Council's National Pupillage Fair (22 October) and TARGETjobs Law National Pupillage Fair (5 November). [Read more](#).

**Annual Report highlights progress during 2015-16**

We have published our latest [Annual Report](#), which summarises our achievements during the 2015-16 business

---

**Come to a CPD workshop**

Our [new Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\) regime](#) for barristers on the Established Practitioner Programme launches in 16 weeks' time on 1 January 2017.

We are holding a series of workshops around the country over the next few months to help you prepare for the new CPD regime. The workshops are designed to give you a head start with regard to your CPD planning for 2017 and will be an excellent opportunity to find out more about the new regime and to ask us any questions that you may have about the new arrangements. The workshops are located as follows: [Read more.](#)



**We are helping to improve education and training**

---

## Join our market study of the provision of legal services

This month we launched [an online survey](#) into how legal services are being delivered by barristers so that we can understand the current legal services market better. The survey provides an opportunity for participants to let us know how future regulation can promote improved business practices, service delivery and client experience. Responses will be treated confidentially and provided to us anonymously. To participate, please click the button below.

[Read more.](#)

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

---

## Take part in our workshops to define youth advocacy competencies

This month we are holding workshops with barristers as well as other key organisations working within the youth justice sector to define the competencies that should be expected of an advocate (barrister) working within youth justice. Our aim is to develop a

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: [Read more.](#)

### 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.](#)

**Legal Services Board launches consultation to modify some of our regulatory powers and to put them on a statutory footing**

competency framework which clearly sets out what is expected of advocates who undertake youth proceedings and build upon and encourage good practice across the professions. In addition to this, the workshops will enable us to shape our guidance and advice as to how these competencies can be satisfied.

The workshops will be held on:

- Tuesday 20 September 2016, 5.00pm - 7.30pm (Just for Kids Law - 180 North Gower St, London, NW1 2NB)
- Thursday 22 September 2016, 5.00pm - 7.30pm (Garden Court North Chambers - 3rd Floor, Blackfriars House, Parsonage, Manchester, M3 2JA)
- Tuesday 27 September 2016, 5.00pm - 7.30pm (Just for Kids Law - 180 North Gower St, London, NW1 2NB)

[Read more.](#)

---

## Have your say... on the future of training for the Bar

From October until December we will be hosting a series of consultation events seeking your views on proposed reforms to the Bar training market. The proposed reform will change how the education and training sector for the Bar is regulated to improve access to the profession.

The consultation, which includes us hosting events around the country, will explore what possible new routes to qualification for barristers may emerge in response to new regulation. We have already released an overview of these options and hosted a lively debate exploring each one. For further information about the options please see our [press release](#).

The proposed changes are part of our Future Bar Training programme (FBT) which focuses on improving future education and training for the Bar. The changes are being developed to: [Read more.](#)

---

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

A new Legal Services Board (LSB) consultation has been issued. The proposals would give the Bar Council new powers (delegated to the BSB) which would enable us to exercise our regulatory functions more effectively and efficiently. These powers would be obtained via a statutory order under section 69 of the Legal Services Act 2007. [Read more.](#)

### 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. [Read more.](#)

### Have you heard about the Witness Service?

Are you practising at the criminal Bar? Are you aware that you are able to refer any witnesses in your trials to the Citizens Advice Witness Service?

## Specialist session hosted by the Bar Standards Board

“Alternative Business Structures and opportunities  
for the Bar and  
the wider legal profession”

In October 2016, the BSB aims to commence the authorisation of Alternative Business Structures (ABS). This will build on its entity regulation regime which has been in effect for the last 18 months.

ABS will provide lawyers and non-lawyers with an opportunity to develop innovative and competitive models for the delivery of legal services which will be able to broaden access to justice for members of the public.

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

This 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.

Book your place  
before **Friday 2  
September** (to  
receive the Early  
Bird rate) to listen,  
learn and have your  
say!

Up to 5  
CPD Hours  
available

Moderator:

**Oliver Hanmer**

Director of Regulatory Assurance,  
Bar Standards Board



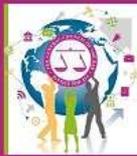
**Lively discussion  
Debates  
Informative  
Useful**

Highlights from 2015:

*“Meeting and speaking with a wide range of  
people who together make up the Bar”*

*“All the sessions were very stimulating indeed”*

*“Love it all, general comments: very good venue  
and well organised”*



**Annual Bar Conference and Young Bar Conference 2016**  
Saturday 15 October 2016  
Westminster Park Plaza, London

[Please click here for information or to book your place](#)

The Witness Service provides free, independent and confidential support for witnesses in every crown and magistrates court in England and Wales. Their trained volunteers provide practical information about the court process, as well as emotional support to help witnesses feel more confident and able to give their best evidence.

There are a range of ways in which the Witness Service can help reduce the stress of going to court, like giving witnesses the opportunity to visit the court building and familiarise themselves with the courtroom or explaining court processes before the trial.

You can refer witnesses to the Witness Service using the form [on their website](#).

[Read more.](#)



**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).



**Bar Standards Board**  
289-293 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HZ  
Phone: 020 7611 1444

---

*Copyright © 2016 The Bar Standards Board, All rights reserved.*  
You work for The General Council of the Bar.

**Our mailing address is:**

The Bar Standards Board  
289-293  
High Holborn  
London, Lnd wc1v 7hz  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)