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BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

January 2017

In this edition....

[A new CPD scheme for established practitioners came into force on 1 January](#)

[BSB Handbook update](#)

[BSB Handbook Explained: independence and conflicts of interest](#)

Diversity Data – Responsibilities for Chambers and Individuals

All chambers are required to collect diversity data from their members, regularly review it and publish it every three years. [Guidance is available on our website](#) setting out how chambers can meet this Handbook requirement.

It is important for chambers to gather diversity data so that they can check that policies and action plans are being implemented and whether or not they are having an impact.

Without data, it is impossible to establish the nature or extent of any inequality and therefore devise appropriate measures to reduce or remove it.

A new CPD scheme for established practitioners came into force on 1 January



If you are a barrister with three or more years of experience, please remember that our new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme has come into force.

We recently published a range of guidance and other new materials about your CPD requirements [on our website](#). Please familiarise yourself with how the new scheme operates and what you are required to do.

The diagram above illustrates the simple four-stage process for successfully completing your CPD. The helpful material on our website includes [frequently asked questions](#), [a sample of a compliant CPD record](#) and [a template for you to use to record your CPD](#).

Blog: Monthly message from our Chair Sir Andrew Burns KCMG

Let me begin by wishing you all a happy and successful 2017.

The next twelve months promise to be another challenging year – for the Bar, and for us as your regulator. But there are opportunities too.

For example, our new approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for established practitioners will provide you

Non-compliance with data collection can result in supervision or disciplinary action.

Individual barristers

We would like to remind all barristers to update your diversity information on the [Barrister Connect portal](#). It only takes a moment and can be done at the same time as renewing your practising certificate. [Read more.](#)

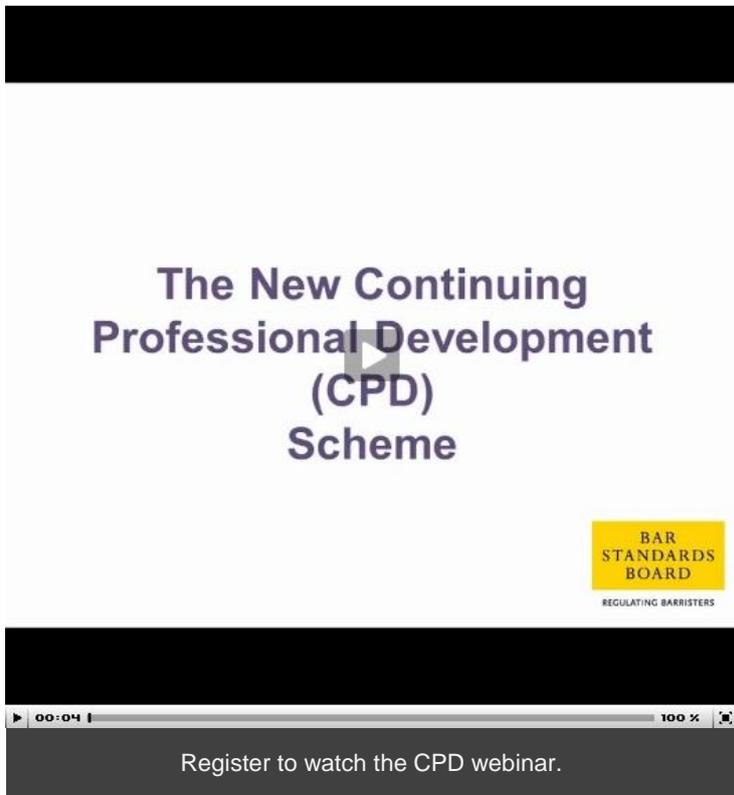
Insurance Requirements for Self-Employed Barristers

If you hold a self-employed practising certificate, you must be a member of the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund (BMIF). The only exception is where the BSB has previously granted you a waiver from the requirement to be a member of BMIF on the basis that you are only practising in another jurisdiction and fully insured there. 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.

with an opportunity to count a wider range of learning activities as CPD and to plan your training more independently. We think this could make a noticeable difference in helping you develop your practice. In case you missed it, we recently published [detailed guidance](#) about the new CPD scheme which came into force on 1 January.

Just before Christmas, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) published the results of their [market study into the supply of legal services in England and Wales](#). As the regulator of the Bar, acting first and foremost in the public interest, we broadly welcome the CMA's findings and their recommendations. [Read more on our website](#).



The New Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme

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Register to watch the CPD webinar.

BSB Handbook update

We have now updated the second edition of our Handbook. The updated version includes new rules relating to continuing professional development. This is available to [download from our website](#). If you are linking to the BSB Handbook please link to <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/regulatory-requirements/bsb-handbook/the-handbook-publication/> to ensure you are always accessing the latest version.

Revised Future Bar Training consultation including the COIC/ Bar Council proposal

On 3 October, we issued a consultation document outlining three possible approaches towards the future of Bar training.

Following a request from the Council of the Inns of Court (COIC) and the Bar Council, [we have now added to our consultation document](#) so that you can have the opportunity to study and comment on [a specific proposal which has been published by COIC with the support of the Bar Council](#).

Please evaluate the new proposal against the questions set out in the consultation document and the principles of:

- flexibility;
- accessibility;
- affordability; and
- sustaining high standards

which were set out in the consultation.

You can read [the consultation](#) and the COIC/Bar Council proposal on our website.

We have extended the deadline for responses

until 5pm Tuesday, 31
January 2017.

Take the Forensic Accounting course online

The Forensic Accounting course is now available online. It is a requirement that new practitioners complete the course either during pupillage or during the first three years of practice. The course provides delegates with practical guidance in the use of financial information and accounts (both corporate and individual), and is provided by BPP Professional Education.

Ensure you leave sufficient time to complete the course. While it is an online module, delegate numbers are capped and courses are not always available each month.

It is generally felt that the earlier this course is taken, the better.

To book the course please visit the [BPP Professional Education website](#).

BSB Handbook Explained: independence and conflicts of interest

Core Duty 4 of the BSB Handbook requires that barristers must maintain their independence. Examples of how you may be seen as compromising your independence include:

- Paying or receiving referral fees (which are prohibited by Rule C10);
- Giving or receiving of entertainment at a disproportionate level;
- Expressing a personal opinion in the media in relation to any future or current proceedings in which you are briefed.

Further [guidance on this](#) is available online. [Read more on our website](#).

**Vacancy: Assistant
Chief Examiner,
Criminal Litigation**

We are recruiting for a part-time Assistant Chief Examiner, Criminal Litigation.

Our role setting the education and training requirements for becoming a barrister includes stipulating the vocational requirements which are currently fulfilled by completing the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). The BPTC ensures that students intending to become barristers acquire the skills, knowledge of procedure and evidence, attitudes and competence needed to prepare them for pupillage.

[Read more.](#)



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.



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