

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Regulatory Update

Monthly update from the Bar Standards Board

February 2017

In this edition....

[Authorisation to Practise 2017/18](#)

[BSB report shows diversity at the Bar heading slowly in the right direction but that further progress is needed](#)

[Future of Training for the Bar: Future Routes to Authorisation – update](#)

Future of Training for the Bar: Future Routes to Authorisation – update

Authorisation to Practise 2017/18

Authorisation to Practise (ATP) 2017/18 is due to open soon and will conclude on Friday 31 March. 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 you can pay your practising certificate fee via [Barrister Connect](#).

Please provide your Equality and Diversity information when prompted during the online ATP process. You can read elsewhere in this issue of Regulatory Update how we use that data confidentially to help fulfil our statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent Future Bar Training consultation which closed last month.

We are pleased that so many people – and so many barristers in particular – have engaged with us on this important topic. It is vital that we settle on a way forward that leaves a robust method for tomorrow's barristers to train and qualify for practice at the Bar.

With this in mind, we expect to make a final decision on the best way

If you have any questions about authorisation to practise, [please visit our website](#) or call 020 7611 1444 to speak to someone in our Records Department.

forward in Spring. We will let you know when that decision has been made.

BSB report shows diversity at the Bar heading slowly in the right direction but that further progress is needed

Insurance Requirements for Self-Employed Barristers

Last month we published [our annual report on Diversity at the Bar](#). We have a statutory responsibility to monitor and promote equality and diversity both as an employer and as the regulator of barristers in England and Wales. The report shows that progress was made in 2016 with regard to both diversity and to the disclosure rates of barristers providing data.

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.

While the diversity of barristers is improving, the report shows there is some way to go before the Bar is fully representative of the public it serves especially at the level of QC.

Disclosure rates amongst barristers have improved markedly since we started collecting diversity data. The lowest rate of disclosure, which was between 3 and 5 per cent in some categories in 2012, is now 30.8 per cent (for declaring caring responsibilities for others). The disclosure rate for gender is now only just below 100 per cent and it is 91.8 per cent for ethnicity.

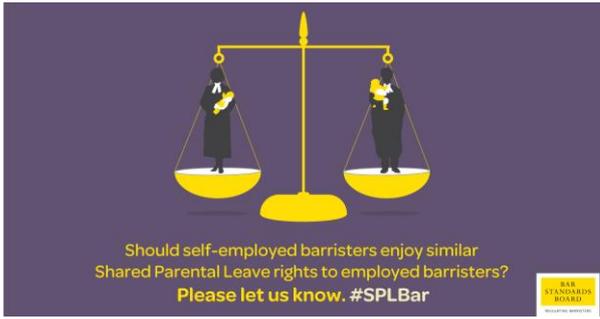
You should be aware that we check our records against the records of the BMIF to verify individual declarations and we will take appropriate action in cases of non-compliance.

We have also published our [Equality and Diversity Strategy for 2017-19](#). [Read more](#).

Should self-employed barristers enjoy similar Shared Parental Leave rights to employed barristers?

BSB and King's College London host event on future of the academic study of law

That is the question that we are asking [in our latest consultation](#) which closes at 5pm, Friday 17 February 2017. [Read more](#).



Along with King's College London, last month we hosted a forum to discuss how the proposed regulatory reform of training for the Bar will affect the academic study of law. [Read more.](#)

Blog: Monthly message from our Chair Sir Andrew Burns KCMG

BSB Workshop: CPD 2017 - Understanding the new regime

As we mention above, with the annual "Authorisation to Practise" period due to start soon, it is almost time for you to renew your Practising Certificate. Please look out for communications from our Records team about "Authorisation to Practise" and renew online.

When you do so, can I please join the Bar Council in urging you to answer all of the questions to do with Equality and Diversity. If you would rather not answer all of the questions, there is the option to enter "Prefer Not To Say". We would much rather you select "Prefer Not To Say" than simply leaving the field blank please. In this way, it will be clear to us that you do not want to provide the information, rather than us not knowing whether or not you have completed the questions.

The information that you provide in this area is very important. It is the only reliable source of data available to help us understand the make-up and diversity of the practising Bar.

Why is understanding this so important? [Read more.](#)

On 15 February, we are running a workshop in conjunction with the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance & Industry (BACFI) to explain the new CPD regime for barristers on the Established Practitioners' Programme (EPP). Dr Vanessa Davies, Director General, Bar Standards Board is presenting the workshop.

The session, which runs between 6pm and 7pm, includes a short presentation on the rule changes and guidance on how to plan your CPD under the new rules. With handouts available, this workshop provides an opportunity to ask any questions you may have, directly to the BSB. The workshop is open to all barristers.

BSB Handbook Explained: Rules about having a valid practising certificate in order to administer oaths

Followed by drinks, the event is being held at our

We would like to remind you that the administration of oaths is a reserved legal activity under the Legal Services Act 2007.

You are therefore required to hold a current practising certificate in order to undertake this service. Carrying on the activity when not authorised to do so is an offence under the Act.

If you hold a valid practising certificate as a barrister, you will automatically be authorised to undertake the administration of oaths. (Rule S67 of the BSB Handbook).

office, 289-293 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7HZ. To register, or if you have any queries please email events@bacfi.org or call 01525 222 244.



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.



Bar Standards Board

289-293 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HZ

Phone: 020 7611 1444

*Copyright © 2017 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](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)