

BAR STANDARDS BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS



Who we are and what we do

Bar Standards Board

We regulate barristers called to the Bar in England and Wales in the public interest.

Setting the regulatory policy for barristers



We decide what a barrister can and cannot do and then set the rules for practice at the Bar. We publish those rules in the BSB Handbook, which includes the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct sets out the core duties a barrister has, as well as more detailed rules about what they can and cannot do.

Download the latest edition from our website:

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/regulatory-requirements/bsb-handbook/>

Supervising barristers' services to assure quality



We assure and maintain high standards across the profession by supervising individual barristers, chambers and entities. We take a risk-based approach to supervision which means that we focus our attention in those areas where there is greatest evidence of risk to the public interest and the regulatory objectives. We visit chambers and entities in which barristers practise as part of what we do.

The Barristers' Register on our website has accurate and up-to-date information about individual barristers who have a current practising certificate.

The register can be found on our website:

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/regulatory-requirements/the-barristers'-register/>

Setting the education and training requirements to become a barrister



We set the education and training requirements to ensure newly qualified barristers have the knowledge

and understanding they need to provide quality advocacy to the public. This includes making sure barristers maintain their skills and knowledge throughout their careers with CPD.

We also look at individuals who may be exempt from all or part of the normal training requirements to qualify as a barrister.

More information about training to become a barrister in England and Wales can be found on our website: <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/>

Increasing equality and access to justice



We believe the Bar should reflect the diversity in our society and promote equality. As a regulator acting in the public interest, we want to improve access to justice for consumers. Barristers must not discriminate against another person on the basis of “protected characteristics” as described in the Equality Act 2010 and the BSB Handbook.

Equality and access to justice informs every area of our work, including the diversity of those Called to the Bar, career progression of barristers from all walks of life and equity of access for consumers of legal services.

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/about-bar-standards-board/equality-and-diversity/>

Assessing complaints and taking action if appropriate



We assess complaints about the professional conduct of barristers and entities and can take regulatory action by either taking disciplinary action or working

with barristers, their chambers or with the entities we regulate, in order to address any risk posed to the public.

If you have concerns about the professional conduct of a barrister who does not act for you, then you can bring those concerns to our attention either by reporting them to us or by making a formal complaint.

More information about complaints that we deal with can be found on our website:

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/complaints-and-professional-conduct/>

If you are a client of a barrister and you have a complaint, you should first raise it with the chambers where your barrister works. If you are unable to resolve the complaint with the barrister's chambers, you can complain to the Legal Ombudsman:

www.legalombudsman.org.uk

If you are a barrister who is the subject of a complaint, then we also provide guidance for you.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on our services, so that we know what we are doing right and what needs to be improved. Feedback can be sent via our website at: **www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/contact**

Contacting us

Bar Standards Board

289-293 High Holborn
London WC1V 7HZ
DX 240 LDE

Tel: 020 7611 1444

Fax: 020 7831 9217

contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

