

Regulatory Update March 2019

[Tessa's blog for the email content of this month's Regulatory Update]

This year's annual Authorisation to Practise (AtP) process opened at the end of February. If you have not done so already, please ensure that you renew your practising certificate by **31 March** at the latest.

When completing AtP, you will need to pay your Practising Certificate Fee (PCF) and make a number of obligatory regulatory declarations to us about your practice, including a declaration that you complied with your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements in 2018.

You will also be asked to provide the data we need to monitor the diversity of the profession. Please do answer these questions. We do need accurate data across the whole profession to inform our annual diversity reporting and our whole regulatory approach to promoting equality and diversity at the Bar.

You should complete AtP online by logging into your account on [MyBar](#), so you will need to make sure that the email address you used to register is accurate and up-to-date. You can read more about this year's AtP on our website.

As I mentioned last month, we are recruiting two new barrister Board members. The successful applicants will work with me and my fellow Board members to govern and oversee the work of the BSB. We are seeking applications from a wide variety of practice backgrounds and we would particularly welcome applications from those at the employed Bar or practising outside London and the south-east to complement the skills and experience of our existing Board members. The closing date for applications is 9am on Monday 25 March 2019. More information is available on [our website](#).

At the end of March, we expect to publish a new version of the BSB Handbook to include:

- new Bar Qualification Rules, following our review of Bar training over the past few years, our approval of the [new rules in October 2018](#), and their subsequent approval by the Legal Services Board;
 - changing the rules which apply the criminal standard of proof to professional misconduct proceedings to the civil standard of proof for all alleged breaches of the Code occurring after 31 March 2019, following our [consultation in 2017](#); and
 - in the event of there being a “no-deal” Brexit, changes to the rules regarding Registered European Lawyers.
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We will provide more details on the above in next month's Regulatory Update including information about when and how we will implement various aspects of the new Bar Qualification Rules. In the meantime, if you are a Pupil Supervisor or

represent an organisation which provides pupillages and you are not already aware of the changes relating to pupillage, you should familiarise yourself with them on [our website](#).

If you are currently an organisation authorised by us to provide pupillage then you will need to be authorised under the new rules. We asked you to complete a survey about this in 2018. We are analysing your responses, but in the meantime, you will be able to continue providing pupillages for the time being and we will be in touch with you later this year. If your organisation has not completed the survey, then you must do so as soon as possible.

Last November, we announced that our new Independent Decision-Making Body (IDB) which will take decisions about disciplinary action and hear appeals against executive decisions such as those regarding waivers, authorisations and licenses, would start operating in June 2019. Our proposed new method for assessing incoming information, the Contact and Assessment Team, was scheduled to begin at the same time. In order to ensure, however, that both can benefit fully from our new Case Management System, which is currently under development, we have decided that they will now start operating from October.

Finally, I would like to welcome all those pupils currently on their second six to whom we are sending Regulatory Update for the first time this month. These emails contain important regulatory information, so please do look out for them every month.

[RU articles to appear only on the website – ie not in the email]

More about this year's Authorisation to Practise process

The 2019 [Authorisation to Practise \(AtP\)](#) period is now open. Please ensure that you renew your practising certificate by 31 March.

This year, you should be aware that new fee levels have been introduced following the Bar Council's and BSB's [2019 PCF and Budget Consultation](#). These changes include:

- the lowest band being reduced from £123 to £100 and;
- the introduction of two new bands for individuals earning over £500k and £1m annually.

The full income and fee bands are as follows:

Band	Income Band	2019/20 Fees
1	£0 - £30,000	£100
2	£30,001 - £60,000	£246
3	£60,001 - £90,000	£494
4	£90,001 - £150,000	£899
5	£150,001 - £240,000	£1,365
6	£240,001 - £500,000	£1,850
7	£500,000 - £1,000,000	£2,500
8	£1,000,000 and above	£3,000

The fee period that the self-employed Bar should use when making their declaration has been changed to be the last full calendar year (ie 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018). This is the same reporting period that is currently used for insurance arrangements with the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund (BMIF).

The 1.5% discount for block payments for five or more barristers is being removed. However, the block payment scheme is still highly recommended as it is a convenient way for chambers and organisations to ensure that all of their barristers have a valid practising certificate in place.

Please ensure that you have your correct log in credentials to hand. You must use the email address that is linked to your MyBar account and ensure that you have the correct password. Owing to the large number of emails and calls received during this time, it may not be possible for Records to provide it.

BSB seeks up to two new barrister Board members

We are recruiting two new barrister Board members.

The successful applicants will work with others on the Board to govern and oversee our work. There are up to fifteen members of the Board – with a majority of lay members, including the Chair, and practising barrister members, of whom one is the Vice Chair.

We seek applications for the current vacancies from a wide variety of practice backgrounds. We would particularly welcome applications from those at the employed Bar or practising outside London or the south-east, who would complement the skills and experience of its current Board members.

The closing date for applications is 9am on Monday 25 March 2019. Interviews will be held in central London on Tuesday 16 April 2019.

More information about the vacancies and the application process can be found in the [Candidate Pack](#). Read more [on our website](#).

Have we got correct details of your practice address?

Please ensure that you have given us your correct practice address in accordance with rS69 of our Handbook. If your practice address changes, you must tell 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.