

Regulatory Update May 2019

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

Subject to final Legal Services Board approval, we hope to be able to introduce our [new transparency rules for the Bar](#) soon. The new transparency standards are designed to improve the information available to the public before they engage the services of a barrister. They relate to information about the areas of law in which barristers practise, the legal services provided by barristers, what those services cost, and a client's right to redress.

All barristers will be required to make sure that their practice complies with the new rules once they are made live, but there will be an implementation period until January 2020 with compliance spot-checking by us not starting until then. Even then, our emphasis will be on helping you to comply rather than considering disciplinary sanctions. We will announce when the new rules are made live and hope to provide more details about your obligations in next month's Regulatory Update email.

This month, we have announced that we are writing to interested parties about whether it should be made mandatory for chambers and other Authorised Education and Training Organisations (AETOs) providing the pupillage / work-based learning component of Bar training to bring their recruitment timetable into line with the Bar Council's Pupillage Gateway. This runs between November and May, but we believe that obliging all those offering pupillage to recruit to the same timetable would make recruitment fairer for all candidates and, indeed, for all those offering pupillage too.

At the same time, we are also asking for views on whether written agreements between pupils and AETOs should be compulsory, so that both parties have a clearer record of what is expected of them.

When we introduced the new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for barristers of more than three years' standing in 2017, we committed ourselves to carrying out a period of further research to assess the impact of the new scheme.

To help us do this, we have commissioned an independent research company, to explore barristers' views and experiences of the new CPD scheme. The research involves an online survey, focus groups and in-depth interviews with barristers. You may well receive an email from us about this issue but if you do not, and are interested in taking part, there is more information on our website. [LINK TO ONLINE VERSION OF RU] Any information you provide to the researchers will be treated in confidence, reported anonymously and will only be used for the purposes of this research.

Finally, we have recently signed a [Memorandum of Understand with the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund \(BMIF\)](#). This will give us better oversight of the factors affecting insurance provision at the Bar.

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

Pupillage Proposals 2019

We have written to key stakeholders to ask whether it should be made mandatory for Chambers and other Authorised Education and Training Organisations (AETOs) providing the pupillage / work-based learning component of Bar training to bring their recruitment timetable into line with the [Pupillage Gateway](#).

Currently, the Gateway timetable is between November and May. All pupillages must currently be advertised on the Gateway but we believe that obliging all those offering pupillage to recruit to the same timetable would make recruitment fairer for all candidates.

We are also asking for views on whether written agreements between pupils and AETOs should be compulsory, so that both the AETO and the pupil have a clearer record of what is expected of them.

All views should be submitted to us by 5pm on Wednesday 31 July 2019.

Share your views and experiences of the new CPD scheme

As you may know, in 2017, we introduced a new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for barristers of more than three years' standing. At that time, we also committed to carrying out a period of further research to assess the impact of these changes.

We have commissioned IRN Research, an independent research company, to explore barristers' views and experiences of the new CPD scheme. The research involves an online survey, focus groups and in-depth interviews with barristers.

We emailed more than 8,000 barristers on the Established Practitioner's CPD Programme asking them to share their views on CPD by completing a brief online survey using a unique link.

If you have not received an email but you would like to take part in the interviews or focus groups, please contact IRN by:

- emailing dmort@irn-research.com or;
- calling 07905 239599

Any information you provide to IRN will be treated in confidence and reported anonymously and will be used only for the purposes of this research.

If you provide information via a survey for research purposes, the information will be deleted or kept in an anonymised format once the information has been analysed and reported upon. Please read our privacy statement <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/footer-items/privacy-statement/>

Memorandum of Understanding with the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund (BMIF)

Together with the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund (BMIF) we have agreed a new MOU, which you can find [on our website](#). Under this new MOU BMIF will annually provide us with a report on the state of the insurance market. It will include, among other things, the results of any customer (both barrister and Specialist Bar Association) satisfaction surveys BMIF may have undertaken and the actions BMIF has taken to assure itself that it remains efficient and effective. It will also include the conclusions that BMIF draws from the above data, its view on broad trends in the market, and its view on possible emerging risks. This will be a valuable source of evidence of the factors affecting insurance provision at the Bar.

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.