

The role of the Board

The Bar Standards Board regulates barristers called to the Bar in England and Wales in the public interest. It is led and governed by a Board made up of 15 people, some of whom are barristers and some of whom are non-barristers. It has a non-barrister majority and a non-barrister Chair. This statement sets out the Board's primary responsibilities.

Leadership

The Board is responsible for leading the organisation. It sets the direction of the organisation, and approves policy and strategy aligned with the direction. It expects the Executive to contribute to the development of direction, strategy and policy but is ultimately responsible for the direction of the organisation. The Board provides support to the executive team at the BSB and leads through the application of its collective wisdom, experience and judgement. The Board represents the BSB with external stakeholders and accepts collective accountability for the organisation's work in regulating barristers in the public interest.

Culture

The Board is responsible for shaping the BSB's organisational culture and values. It will lead by example and ensure that the culture and values are developed and adopted appropriately.

Oversight

The Board monitors the work and performance of the organisation and holds the executive to account for its delegated responsibilities. Where necessary it will constructively challenge the executive. It aims to be sufficiently knowledgeable about the workings of the BSB to be answerable for its actions, yet able to stand back from the day-to-day management of the BSB in order to retain an objective, longer-term view.

Strategy

The Board will ensure that strategy is designed to achieve the aims, objectives and mission it has agreed upon. The Board sets and approves the strategy for the organisation, taking account of the wider regulatory and risk landscape. When approving its strategy, it takes account of short-term pressures but also maintains sight of broader long-term trends.

Good Governance

The Board is responsible for ensuring that sound and effective governance arrangements are in place so that the organisation can operate in accordance with the good governance principles and organisational values agreed by the Board.

Each Board member is expected to contribute personally to the successful implementation of the governance principles and the achievement of the BSB's aims, objectives and mission, and to accept collective responsibility for the Board operating in accordance with this role statement.