

BAR STANDARDS BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Research priorities in 2019-20

1. Research supports the BSB in developing, reviewing and evaluating policy and provides evidence to support decisions on the setting or revision of professional standards and the introduction of rules and guidance for barristers and entities.
2. By monitoring and gathering evidence about what is happening in the market, the Research Team supports ongoing regulatory risk management. This work, combined with the BSB Assurance Framework, supports the development of a good understanding of the impact being made by the BSB as regulator.
3. To enable us to achieve the objectives set for 2019-20, we have identified the research needs set out below. This will support and contribute to the programme of work set out in the BSB's Business plan for 2019-20.
4. A key focus will be evaluating the impact of the projects we have implemented. This will include:
 - a. ongoing work to assess the implementation process and impact of the FBT reforms;
 - b. assessing the impact of the changes to Continuing Professional Development;
 - c. assessing the impact of the Bar Course Aptitude Test; and
 - d. gathering evidence to provide a baseline for future evaluation of price transparency changes.
5. We will continue to use research to underpin our work on equality and access to justice, which will include:
 - a. reviewing the effectiveness of equality policies and practice in vocational education;
 - b. considering research on the experiences of the profession around discrimination and positive action
 - c. updating differential attainment analysis in the light of new centralised assessments; and
 - d. surveying the profession in relation to the reporting requirement for harassment.
6. We will consider what further evidence needs to be gathered to inform:
 - a. a review of the Handbook;
 - b. scope of practice changes; and
 - c. assuring standards.
7. We will also continue to produce the following:
 - a. The annual BPTC Key Statistics Report;
 - b. The annual Diversity at the Bar Report;
 - c. more detailed annual statistics on the profession for the BSB website; and
 - d. regularly updated summaries of available/emerging evidence to inform the BSB's Regulatory Risk Reporting.