



To: All practising barristers

Friday 5 September 2025

Elections for the 2026 Bar Council of England and Wales

1. Candidates are sought for the annual elections to the Bar Council, which will take place this autumn.
2. Successful candidates will join from 1 January 2026 for a three-year term, except where otherwise indicated. Those members who are due to retire from the Bar Council on 31 December 2025 are eligible for re-election.
3. Categories for elected members are fully defined in Part II, paragraphs 2(b)(viii) and (ix) of the Bar Council Constitution:
 - (viii) *39 subscribers elected by subscribers who are self-employed barristers or self-employed registered European lawyers and whom, at the date of their election, all shall be self-employed barristers or self-employed registered European lawyers, and 12 shall be Juniors who first became eligible for a full practising certificate less than 7 years before the date of their election, 21 shall be Juniors who first became eligible for a full practising certificate 7 years or more before the date of their election and 6 shall be King's Counsel, or self-employed registered European lawyers of equivalent seniority since registration.*
 - (ix) *15 subscribers elected by subscribers who are employed barristers or registered European lawyers in employment and of whom, at the date of their election, all shall be employed barristers or registered European lawyers in employment and 6 shall be Juniors who first became eligible for a full practising certificate less than 7 years before the date of their election, and 9 shall be Juniors who first became eligible for a full practising certificate 7 years or more before the date of their election or King's Counsel or registered European lawyers in employment of equivalent seniority since registration.*

4. There are vacancies in the following categories:

Self-employed King's Counsel	2 x full-term vacancies
Self-employed Junior Counsel over seven years in practice	7 x full-term vacancies
Self-employed Junior Counsel under seven years in practice	4 x full-term vacancies
Employed Junior Counsel over seven years in practice or King's Counsel	3 x full-term vacancies
Employed Junior Counsel under seven years in practice	2 x full-term vacancies

5. Dual practitioners are invited to stand in the category which best represents the area in which the majority of their practice is conducted i.e. employed or self-employed.
6. The names of the present representatives whose terms of office end on 31 December 2025 are listed in the table below.

SELF-EMPLOYED		
King's Counsel	Junior Counsel over 7 years in practice	Junior Counsel under 7 years in practice
Barbara Mills KC Tony Singla KC	Sara Ibrahim James Paterson Michael James Polak Paul Powlesland Natasha Shotunde Anna Soubry David Taylor	Alice Hands Shoshana Mitchell Sean Summerfield Emma Walker

EMPLOYED	
Junior Counsel over 7 years in practice or King's Counsel	Junior Counsel under 7 years in practice
Simon Regis Heidi Stonecliffe KC Emma Torr	Sarah Gerrard Cait McDonagh

The Role

7. The role of each elected Bar Council member is to represent their constituency – whether that is practice area, Circuit or colleagues who have been practising for a similar amount of time – and bring their views to the Bar Council’s attention for discussion and debate. Becoming an elected member of the Bar Council provides a real chance to get involved in how the Bar Council discharges its representative functions and an opportunity to represent the profession.
8. The Bar Council is due to meet six times in 2026 (including meetings on Saturday mornings) and all elected and representative members are encouraged to attend as many of these meetings as possible. Meetings are usually held in person with hybrid facilities. Elected Bar Council members also serve on one or more representative committees which meet on average six to ten times a year, normally on a weekday evening. Representative committee meetings have dial-in facilities for those who are unable to attend committee meetings in person.

Eligibility for Nomination

9. To be eligible a candidate must:
 - (a) hold a valid practising certificate; and
 - (b) submit a completed and signed nomination form no earlier than 09:00 on Monday 8 September 2025, and no later than 17:00 on Friday 19 September 2025.

Procedure for Nomination

10. All candidates wishing to stand for election should be “subscribers”. “Subscriber” is defined in Part 1 of the Bar Council Constitution and includes any barrister with a current practising certificate.
11. Candidates must sign the nomination form to indicate their consent to serve if elected.
12. The nomination form should state the candidate’s name exactly as it is intended to appear on the ballot paper.
13. A nomination form is attached. This form, signed by the candidate, must be emailed to the Bar Council (Elections@BarCouncil.org.uk) no later than 17:00 on Friday 19 September 2025. It should be accompanied by a short statement (see paragraph 16).

14. Receipt of nomination forms will be acknowledged after checking validity. If, for whatever reason, prospective candidates do not receive an acknowledgement, they should contact the Bar Council before the deadline for delivery of nominations.
15. Candidates are asked to include a short statement, for which a template comprising three questions is provided. Completed statements, which should be in a Word format, are also to be emailed to Elections@BarCouncil.org.uk. These will be accessible to all voters during the voting process. Candidates will also be given the opportunity to record their statements should they wish.

Voting

16. If the number of eligible candidates proposed does not exceed the number of vacancies in each category, as specified in paragraph 3 above, such candidates shall be automatically elected.
17. If the number of eligible candidates proposed exceeds the number of vacancies in one or more categories, members of the profession will be invited to vote via MyBar. Voting via MyBar will open no later than Friday 3 October 2025 and votes must be cast no later than 10.00 on Friday 17 October 2025. The elections will be conducted by single transferable vote (STV) and the results of the elections will be announced by listing candidates in the order of voter preference.

Term of membership

18. Those elected will take office on 1 January 2026 and will retire after three years' service, with the exception of those specifically elected for a shorter period. Where a shorter term is indicated for a post, the successful candidate with the least number of votes in the relevant category will be appointed for the shorter term.

Bar Council Constitution

19. You can read more about the election process in the Bar Council Constitution [here](#).

Election Timetable

20. The complete timetable for the election is as follows:

Date	Action
Between Monday 1 September 2025 to Friday 5 September 2025	E-mail notification of election with nomination form and candidate statement template to be sent to all subscribers Information to be posted on website on Monday 1 September 2025
Monday 8 September 2025, 09:00	Start time for submission of nominations for the election of members (Rule 6)
Friday 19 September 2025, 17:00	Deadline for submission of nominations for the election of members (Rule 6)
By Tuesday 23 September 2025	List of candidates published (Rule 8)
By Friday 3 October 2025	Ballot goes live on MyBar (Rule 11)
Friday 17 October 2025, 10:00	Voting deadline (Rule 13)
As soon as practicable	List of elected members published (Rule 17)
Friday 31 October 2025	Bar Council members invited to vote on casual vacancies (if applicable)
Friday 7 November 2025	Closing date for ballot on casual vacancies (if applicable)
Wednesday 3 December 2025 'First meeting of the Bar Council 2026'	Final list of Bar Council members for 2026 published

21. The Bar Council is keen to ensure that Bar Council members reflect the diversity of the profession and would like to encourage all eligible members of the Bar to consider standing for election.

Justina Naik
Governance and Committees Manager