



REGULATING BARRISTER

The Bar Council

Financial Statements for the year to 31 March 2015

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Statement under s.51 Legal Services Act 2007Statement under s.51 Legal Services Act 2007 - PCF30

# **Officers and Professional Advisers**

### The Bar Council

<b>Officers</b> Chairman: Vice Chairman: Treasurer:	}to December 2014	Nicholas Lavender QC Alistair MacDonald QC Stephen Collier
Chairman: Vice Chairman: Treasurer:	}to March 2015	Alistair MacDonald QC Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC Lorinda Long
Chief Executive		Stephen Crowne
Bar Standards Board		
Chair:	to December 2014 to March 2015	Baroness Ruth Deech QC (Hon) Sir Andrew Burns KCGB
Vice Chair:		Patricia Robertson QC
Director-General		Dr Vanessa Davies
Corporate Advisors		
Independent Auditor		haysmacintyre 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4AG
Bankers		Child & Co., The Royal Bank of Scotland Group 1 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1BD
Investment Portfolio Manager		Schroders & Co Ltd (trading as Cazenove Capital Management Limited) 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA

# Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The purpose of this statement is to distinguish the responsibilities of the Council Members of the General Council of the Bar from those of the Auditors as stated in their report.

The Constitution of the General Council of the Bar requires that the Council Members of the General Council of the Bar, as a body, shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to the affairs of the General Council of the Bar. The Members are required to prepare Accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the General Council of the Bar and its subsidiaries and of their income and expenditure for the period. The Members of the General Council of the Bar are also responsible for safeguarding the General Council of the Bar's assets, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of error, fraud and other irregularities.

In preparing the accounts, the Members of the General Council of the Bar will:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the General Council of the Bar will continue in operation.

The Members are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Bar Council's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Bar Council on 26 September 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman of the Bar Council

Treasurer of the Bar Council

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The General Council of the Bar

We have audited the group financial statements ("the financial statements") of the General Council of the Bar for the year ended 31 March 2015, which comprise the Consolidated Income & Expenditure Statement, the Consolidated Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Group and Parent Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and the related Notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the members of the General Council of the Bar, as a body, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the General Council of the Bar or its members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

### Respective Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Council Members' responsibilities, set out on page 3, the Council Members of the General Council of the Bar are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's ("APB's") Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate.

#### Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Show a true and fair view of the state of the General Council of the Bar's and the Group's affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of the Group's surplus for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

haysmacintyre Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4AG

Date: 26 September 2015

### **Treasurer's Report**

I am delighted to have been elected Treasurer and inherit a position where the financial results are improving and I can report a surplus in my first year. However, the underlying financial picture is mixed highlighting some areas where we intend to make further improvements.

These accounts report the financial results of the group made up of the association, The General Council of the Bar (GCB), and its two subsidiary organisations: the Bar Services Company Ltd trading as BARCO, and the Bar Council Scholarship Trust, a charitable trust.

We really want to help our members and other stakeholders to better understand the financial performance of the GCB and so have taken the step of distinguishing more clearly between the results of the separate operations of the Bar Standards Board (BSB), the independent regulator; and the Bar Council, the representation function and Approved Regulator; and between the different streams of funding that we receive. These accounts also highlight more clearly the financial effect of the non-operating activities for which GCB remains liable. Readers should note that the presentation is different from previous annual accounts but prior year comparatives are provided. The accounting information in this report is complimented by analysis of the organisations' activities and priorities described in the Bar Council Annual Report and the BSB Annual Report.

We have successfully maintained our Practising Certificate Fees (PCF) for 2014/15 at 2013 levels and in 2015 introduced a new approach to PCF which is designed to collect the same amounts but in a fairer manner. The details of those results will be included in the 2015/16 financial statements.

I am pleased to announce that we achieved an operating surplus of £129k which is an improvement on last years' result. Our operating income was down 3% and expenditure reduced by £1m on the prior year demonstrating that our decision to invest in our office space enabling us to reduce our office footprint was a good one.

However, our performance against our targets was a little disappointing and illustrates some of the challenges we face. Two areas in particular are important. Our Bar Representation Fee (BRF) subscription income, which supports the representative work that the PCF cannot, continues to reduce. This funding is essential as it enables us to undertake representation work outside of the limited remit of the PCF. We want to significantly increase the participation amongst the practising Bar to enable this work to continue. Secondly, the level of fees and charges raised by the regulator has been difficult to predict and we expect this income to fall over the medium term. These income streams offset the cost of regulation and so subsidises the PCF which means that we will need to closely monitor delivery of our financial targets so as to be able to react appropriately to events to ensure we maintain overall corporate financial performance.

We have suffered a significant adverse swing in the liabilities of the defined benefit Pension scheme as a result of the link between these liabilities and long term bond rates. This does not translate into a direct increase in the cash needs of the pension fund however. Please be assured that we are aware of the risk and will be reviewing the existing funding agreement to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

#### **Financial Report**

### **Key Financial Results**

Total revenue was £17.0m (£16.7m 2013/14) including £11.3m (£10.7m) of Practising Certificate Fee (PCF) income and Levies from the profession. Our total expenditure reduced to £15.8m from £16.4m in 2013/14 and the overall surplus increased to £1.2m (£0.3m). Our operating revenue was £14.3m (£14.7m) and expenditure was £14.1m, a drop of £1m on the previous year (£15.2m) resulting in an operating surplus of £0.1m (£0.5m loss). The reduction in expenditure arose from the cost savings achieved by our smaller office footprint following the successful 2013/14 Space programme and the related lower project spend. Non-operating expenditure, consisting of the costs of support of the Legal Services Board (LSB), Legal Ombudsman (OLC) and the defined benefit pension scheme charges, was unchanged on last year at £1.2m.

The total General Reserve has increased slightly to £4.0m (£3.9m). We distinguish in the detailed notes between that element of reserves that has arisen from regulatory and permitted purpose activities, called PCF Reserves, and that from other funds, the other General Reserves. The level of other General Reserves are £3.8m (£3.8m 2013/14.) and PCF Reserves are £0.2m (£0.1m).

Net Assets have reduced significantly to £1.1m (£5.1m) due to adverse changes in the Defined Benefit pension scheme (the DB Scheme). In 2014/15 we saw a sharp increase in the actuarial valuation of the liabilities of the DB scheme to £28m (£20m) due to a fall in long term bond rates whilst the value of scheme assets increased only £3.7m. This movement in liabilities is one of the indicators of risk within the scheme and may vary significantly from year to year but does not equate directly to an immediate increase in costs for the GCB. We remain on track with the funding plan for the DB scheme agreed with the Trustees and are monitoring this closely.

Cash levels decreased £2.4m on the previous year reflecting the slightly later timing of collections of PCF and Bar Representation Fee (BRF) subscriptions in 2015 following technical issues at the year end.

# Funding the GCB



The main source of funding for the GCB is the PCF paid by barristers operating in England and Wales. Other sources of funds include BRF subscriptions, donations from the Inns of Court, fee income from regulatory activity and services to members.

### Practising Certificate Fee (PCF)

PCF collections increased 0.3% to £9.5m (2013/14 £9.4m) following a small increase in the number of practising barristers paying PCF, the PCF fees having been maintained at 2013/14 levels.

The PCF collected is apportioned between the Bar Standards Board and the Permitted Purposes activities of the Approved Regulator to cover the direct costs and apportioned overheads.

In 2014/15, 62% of the PCF income, £5.9m (£5.8m), was allocated to the BSB, equivalent to an average of £377 per barrister. £3.6m (£3.5m) was allocated towards the Bar Council's Permitted Purposes representational activity, equivalent to an average of £234 per barrister.



### **Other Levies**

The GCB sets a separate levy to meet the funding obligations towards the LSB and OLC. These expenditures and incomes are treated as non-operating costs. This levy collected £0.6m (£0.5m) to meet the total charge of £0.8m (£0.8m) leaving a small deficit at the year-end caused by the timing of cash receipts. This timing deficit was fully funded following final receipts of the levy during April. Fee levels in 2015 were raised to £51 per capita (£32 per barrister 2014) to ensure the collection levels would meet the expected charges following the full utilisation of excess collections from prior years.

The Pensions levy ceased in 2013/14 but is included as the residue of the funds collected have been paid over to the DB pension fund (2014/15 £0.5m, 2013/14 £0.5m) and recognised as operating costs. We also made a payment in advance of the required 2015/16 contribution of £0.5m to make best use of the funds available and this is recognised in non-operating costs.

### Funding the Bar Council – Representation & Policy

Representational activities are funded by PCF, earned income and surpluses arising from the commercial activities of the Services division (formerly Member Services). This arrangement allows the Representation activities to extend beyond those of the Permitted Purposes set out in the Legal Services Act 2007.

Total funding for representation activities fell 3% to £4.6m (£4.7m). Total PCF received by Representation increased 3% to £3.6m (£3.5m); to an equivalent of £234 (£225) per capita. £0.9m of non-PCF originated funds were applied including a £0.7m (£0.9m) surplus from the Services activities and £0.3m (£0.3m) of other earned income.

Direct costs increased slightly following an in-year restructure. Staffing costs increased to £2.2m (2.3% change) and headcount closed slightly lower. Non-staffing costs increased 6.3% to £0.9m (£0.9m). Total costs dropped £0.1m to £4.5m (£4.6m) reflecting the lower property overheads.

### Services (formerly Member Services)

Services provides added value services, events and training for barristers and promotes the Bar Representation Fee subscriptions. These activities generate a surplus to reinvest in the non-Permitted Purpose representation activities. This year the Services division made a surplus of £0.7m (£0.9m) most of which was used to subsidise Representation activities. This reduction in surplus arises from reductions in income, in particular BRF income.

Total Services income dropped 12.5% to £2.1m (£2.4m) following a reduction in BRF subscriptions levels and a correction to the VAT treatment to treat as a part VAT-able service. BRF subscription income fell 11% to £1.1m (£1.2m) and subscription levels fell to 64% of the practising Bar (68%), most heavily in the self-employed Bar. This is an important income stream for Bar Council providing much of the revenue that supports the activities that cannot be funded by PCF. Other income dropped 5% to £1m, (£1.1m). We had lower footfall at our annual conference in the autumn leading to a 21% income reduction. Our training courses and seminars continue to be popular and income for this grew 2% to £510k (£497k) during the year. Income from administration of the specialist bar associations dropped £32k to £76k.

Staffing costs increased to £437k (£325k) in line with headcount changes from filled vacancies. Nonstaffing costs increased to £547k (£442k). Allocated costs shrank to £388k (£534k) and so total costs decreased to £1.4m (£1.5m). As a result, overall margins shrank to £0.7m (£0.9m).

### **Bar Standards Board**



In the year ending 31 March 2015, the BSB received £8.3m (£8.6m) funding including £5.9m PCF (£5.8m), £1.6m (£1.6m) of income from Fees and Charges (broken down below) and £0.8m (£1.1m) of Inns Subvention. An additional £38k (£52k) was raised from regulatory fines paid. The reduction in funding is all due to the drop in the Inns Subvention contribution and which was expected.

Fees and Charges income was level on the prior year at £1.6m. The number of Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT) applications was down 20% on 2013-14, which is consistent with trends in the market. CPD accreditation

revenue increased to £281k (£245k) after a change to a new scheme of authorising providers. The number of students applying for the Bar decreased leading to a £51k reduction in Bar Professional Training Course fee income.

Direct costs reduced £0.1m to £5.2m (£5.3m) driven by staffing costs reductions. Staffing costs were down £0.1m to £4.2m. Non staff costs remained level at £1m. Total costs including overhead allocations reduced £0.4m to £8.2m (£8.6m).

Treasurer September 2015

	Conso	lidated Inc	ome & Expend	iture State	ment by Fu	and Source		
	Divisional Results – Note 4a			Note 4b	Year to	Year to		
							31/03/15	31/03/14
		Bar	Bar Cou	ncil	Subtotal	Non-	Total	Total
		Standards			Operating	Operating	GCB	GCB
		Board			Results	Results		
			Representation	Services				
	Notes	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Practising Certificate Fees	3a, b	5,863	3,641	-	9,504	1,786	11,290	10,757
Inns Contributions		804	-	- 1,053	804 1,053	-	804 1,053	1,137 1,209
Bar Representation Fee Subscriptions		-	-	1,055	1,055	-	1,055	1,209
Fees, Charges & Services	3c,d,e	1,611	275	1,026	2,912	-	2,912	2,990
Interest on Pension Assets	,f	-	-	-	-	953	953	602
Total Income		 8,278	 3,916	2,079	 14,273	2,739	 17,012	 16,695
		-,	0,010	_,		_,	,•.=	10,000
Expenditure								
Operating	4a 4b	8,244	4,508	1,392	14,144	493	14,637	15,224
Non-Operating Expenditure	40					1,161 	1,161 	1,193
Surplus arising		34	(592)	687	129	1,085	1,214	278
Transfer of Funds	5a,b	-	669	(669)	-	-	-	-
Surplus for the period		34		18	 129	 1,085	 1,214	278
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Analysis of Surplus by Source								•
PCF		34	66 11	- 18		-	100	94 194
Other		-	11	10		1,085	1,114	184

The results for the year are all derived from continuing activities. The Notes on pages 14-29 form an integral part of these Statements.

	Note	Group Year to 31/03/15 £000	Year to 31/03/14 £000
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period		1,214	278
Realised gain on investments		-	-
Unrealised gain on investments	11	82	137
Actuarial (loss)/gain on Pension Fund	16	(5,281)	2,920
Total recognised Gain / (Loss) for the period		(3,985)	3,335
		=====	=====

# Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

The Notes on pages 14-29 form an integral part of these Statements.

# **Balance Sheets**

		Pare	Parent		oup
		31/03/15	31/03/14	31/03/15	31/03/14
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	1,489	1,734	1,489	1,734
Investment in Subsidiaries	10	316	316	-	-
Other Investments	11	1,252	1,194	1,942	1,860
		3,057	3,244	3,431	3,594
Current Assets:					
Debtors & Prepayments	12	1,601	1,590	1,600	1,541
Cash at Bank		8,429	10,850	8,508	10,956
		10,030	12,440	10,108	12,497
Creditors: due within	13	(8,295)	(11,064)	(8,305)	(11,068)
one year					
Net Current Assets		1,735	1,376	1,803	1,429
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		4,792	4,620	5,234	5,023
Pensions Liability	16	(4,104)	92	(4,104)	92
Net Assets including Pensions		688	4,712	1,130	5,115
Poproconted by:		=====	=====	=====	=====
Represented by: General Reserve	15	4,307	4,193	4,009	3,902
Pensions Reserve	15	(4,104)	92	(4,104)	92
		203	4,285	(95)	3,994
Revaluation Reserve	15	485	427	485	427
Charitable Trust	15	-	-	740	694
		688	4,712	1,130	5,115
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The Notes on pages 14-29 form an integral part of these Statements.

Approved by the Bar Council on 26 Sept 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman

Treasurer

# **Cash Flow Statement**

		Gro	up
		Year to 31/03/15 £000	
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Deficit</b>			
to Net Cash-flow:			070
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus Loss on Disposal of Assets		1,214	278 22
Pension scheme service cost	15c	18	18
Net Pension scheme contributions		(986)	-
Pension scheme interest cost	15c,4b	836	365
Pension scheme: return on assets		(953)	(602)
Depreciation charge (Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		508 (50)	400 (502)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		• • •	2,083
		(=,: •••)	
Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating	g Activities	(2,185)	(276)
		=====	=====
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment:			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(263)	(1,050)
Purchase of Other Investments		(535)	
Sale of Other Investments		535	<b>476</b>
Increase in Investment Cash		-	8
Cash (Outflow): Investing Activities		(263)	(1,049)
Cash (Outliow). Investing Activities		(203)	(1,049)
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash in the period		(2,448)	1,013
Cash at Bank: 1 April		10,956	9,943
Cash at Bank: 31 March		 8,508	10,956
		=====	=====

The Notes on pages 14-29 form an integral part of these Statements.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### 1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments to fair value and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The preparation of the accounts requires the Council Members to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of income, expenses, assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. If in the future such estimates and assumptions, which are based on the Council Members' best judgement at the date of the accounts, deviate from the actual circumstances, the original estimates and assumptions will be modified as appropriate in the year in which the circumstances change.

#### 2. Accounting policies

#### **Basis of consolidation**

The group accounts comprise the accounts of the General Council of the Bar, a subsidiary company (the Bar Services Company Limited) and a charitable trust (the Bar Council Scholarship Trust). The charitable trust has been consolidated, as the Bar Council has the power of appointment over the Trustees and is therefore deemed in control of its funds. A second subsidiary (the Bar Council Properties Limited) has been excluded on the grounds of immateriality. All of these accounts are made up to 31 March.

Separate non-consolidated Statements have not been prepared for the General Council of the Bar and this omission is considered immaterial to an understanding of these accounts. The separate results of the subsidiary and the charitable trust are shown in Note 10.

#### Income recognition

#### **Operating activities**

All income from the Bar is accounted for in the period to which it relates. Practicing Certificate Fees and the Bar Representation Fee are usually collected in the financial years prior to the year in which they are applied.

Other Income is recognised when goods or services have been supplied.

#### Levies

In addition to funding core activities, The Bar Council makes a separate levy on the profession towards the running costs of the Legal Services Board and the Office of Legal Complaints. These levies are treated as restricted funds. Amounts recognised are those amounts charged in the year. Any residual balances from collections are carried forward.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all Tangible Fixed Assets and is calculated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic lives. The rates of depreciation per annum are as follows:

Leasehold improvements: Over the remaining period of the lease Office furniture: 33.3% IT equipment: 33.3%

#### Database: 20.0%

Computer software is written off in the year in which the expenditure is incurred, unless it can be demonstrated that the software has a useful economic life longer than one year.

Depreciation is usually charged from the date that an asset is first brought into use. In respect of databases, depreciation commences once the asset is fully functional: see Note 9.

#### Other investments

Investments are stated at market value. Unrealised gains and losses are recognised in the Revaluation Reserve until the investment is disposed of, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in the Revaluation Reserve is transferred between reserves.

#### **Pension scheme**

The Bar Council operates two pension schemes for staff: a defined contribution scheme and a defined benefit scheme, now closed to accrual.

For the defined contribution scheme, the cost recognised for the year is the employer contributions paid during the year recognised in Staff Costs.

For the defined benefit scheme, the amounts charged for pension costs are the service costs, the gains and losses on settlements and curtailments, the interest cost and the expected return on assets. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses.

The defined benefit scheme is funded, with the assets of the scheme held separately from those of the Bar Council, in a Trustee-administered Fund. Scheme assets are measured at fair value, while liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis, using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities. The FRS17 valuation is obtained at each Balance Sheet date. The resulting pension scheme asset or liability is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the Balance Sheet.

#### **Operating leases**

Operating lease rentals payable are charged to the Income & Expenditure Statement in equal annual amounts over the lease term. Any rent-free period is amortised evenly over the period to which it relates and the balance is carried forward in Other Creditors.

3. Income	Veer te 24/02/45	Veer to 21/02/11
3a LSB/OLC Levy	Year to 31/03/15 £000	Year to 31/03/14 £000
Balance at 1 April LSB/OLC Levy Collected in year	5 600	334 499
Total Held	605	833
LSB/OLC Levy Recognised/spent (note 4b)	800	828
Balance at 31 March	(195) =====	 5 =====
3b Pension Levy		
Balance at 1 April Pension Levy Collected in year	846 -	549 830
Total Held	846	1379
Pension Levy Recognised/Spent	986	533
Balance at 31 March	(140) ======	846 ======
Income (Other) LSB Levy Recognised Pension Levy Recognised	800 986  1,786 ======	828 533  1,361 ======
<b>3c Regulatory Fees and Charges</b> Enforcement & Disciplinary Fines Education & Training (including Exams and Assessments) Qualifications Other Total	38 1,318 252 3  1,611 =====	52 1,238 314 0  1,604 =====
<b>3d Representative Income</b> Pupillage Gateway International Total	31 117  148 ======	46 61  107 ======

3. Income (continued)	Year to 31/03/15	
3e Services for Members	£000	£000
Training and Seminars	510	497
Conferences	117	149
Commission	222	239
SBA Administration	76	108
Counsel magazine royalties	69	81
Subsidiary Income	32	17
-		
Total	1,026	1,091
	=====	=====
3f Other Income		
Investment Income	29	61
Other Income	98	127
Total	127	188
	=====	=====
Other Income includes fee income arising fr	rom tinancial administrati	on printing and

Other Income includes fee income arising from financial administration, printing and meeting room services to third parties. Other Income is applied to Representation.

#### 4a Expenditure – Divisional Expenditure Year to 31/03/15

Year to 31/03/15	Bar Standards Board	Bar Council		Resources Group Overheads	Total GCB	
		Represent- ation	Services			
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Direct Staffing	4,169	2,229	437	1,610	8,436	
Other Direct	1,026	911	547	3,195	5,679	
Direct Costs	5,195	3,140	984	4,805	14,124	
Overhead Allocation	3,049	1,368	388	(4,805)	-	
Subsidiary Ops	-	-	20	-	20	
Divisional Operating Costs	8,244	4,508	1,392	0	14,144	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	
2013/14 Comparatives	8,566	4,630	1,477	-	14,673	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	

#### 4a Expenditure – Divisional Expenditure (cont)

Direct Staff costs include salaries, wages and employment related costs (note 6) and exclude defined benefit scheme contributions paid of £986,000 (£551,000).

Resources Group costs are allocated to business areas where business specific costs arise otherwise are apportioned according to average headcount.

#### 4b Other Expenditure

	Year to 31/03/15 £000	Year to 31/03/14 £000
Payments:		
LSB Running costs	423	439
OLC Running costs	377	389
Subtotal	800	828
Pension Obligations (15c)	854	916
	 1,654	1,744
	=====	=====
Recorded as Operating Costs	493	551
Non-Operating Costs	1,161	1,193
	=====	=====

#### **5a Transfer of Funds – Regulatory Funds**

Sa Transfer of Funds – Regulatory Funds Year to						
	Education & Training	Qualifications	Assessments	31/03/15	Year to 31/03/14	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Direct Costs	708	481	531	1,720	1,652	
Overheads	319	388	182	889	1,108	
Total Regulatory Cost	1,027	869	713	2,609	2,760	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	
Funded By:						
Fee Income	1,125	235	181	1,541	1,551	
Other inc PCF	(98)	634	532	1,068	1,209	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	

Regulatory Income within BSB is treated as part of the same restricted fund as PCF revenue and represents the extent to which PCF is subsidised by fees on regulatory activities.

# 5b Transfer of Funds - Analysis of Permitted Purpose activity (Representation)

Cost area	Permitted Purposes <b>£000</b>	Non Permitted Purpose <b>£000</b>	Total <b>£000</b>
Corporate	1,031	211	1,242
Professional Affairs	918	91	1,009
Remuneration	769	136	905
International	413	103	516
Communications	385	128	513
Other Permitted Purposes	323	0	323
Total	3,839	669	4,508
	=====	=====	=====
2013/14 Comparatives			
Part Permitted Purpose	2,998	841	3,839
100% Permitted Purpose	791	0	791
Total 2013/14	3,789	841	4,630
	=====	=====	=====

# 6. Operating result

The Operating Result has been arrived at after charging:	Year to 31/03/14 £000	Year to 31/03/13 £000
Auditors' remuneration:		
Audit fees	32	31
Non-audit services	9	4
Taxation compliance	2	5
Depreciation Operating lease property rentals	508 611	400 860

# 7. Employment costs

7. Employment costs		
	Year to	Year to
	31/03/15	31/03/13
	£000	£000
Salaries	6,698	6,192
National Insurance	698	666
DC Pension Contribution 2014/15	493	453
DB Pension Contributions for 2014/15	511	551
Other Staff Costs, Temporary Staff & Recruitment	368	667
Subtotal 2014/15 Employment Costs	8,768	8,529
DB Pension Contributions 2015/16	493	
Total Costs of Employment	9,261	8,529
	======	======

# 7. Employment Costs (continued) Office Holders

The Chairman of the Bar was paid  $\pounds$ 199,806 (2014 -  $\pounds$ 174,500) and the Chair – BSB was paid  $\pounds$ 89,264 pro rata (2014 -  $\pounds$ 88,000).

The Vice-Chairman of the Bar was paid  $\pounds$ 88,113 (2014 -  $\pounds$ 87,300). The Vice-Chair of the BSB received  $\pounds$ 35,525 (2014 -  $\pounds$ 35,000).

The Treasurer was paid £Nil (2014 - £Nil).

#### 8. Taxation

No provision for Corporation Tax has been made in these accounts. Taxable income arising within the Bar Council is offset by tax-deductible expenditure and Gift Aid payment to charities.

The Bar Council Scholarship Trust is a registered charity and all its income is exempt from tax under ss. 521-536 ITA 2007.

#### 9. Tangible fixed assets

GCB/Group	Leasehold Impr'ment £000	Office Furniture £000	IT Equipment £000	Database £000	Total £000
Cost					
Balance: 1 April 2014	397	330	277	1,144	2,148
Additions	8	4	51	200	263
Balance: 31 March 2015	405	334	328	1,344	2,411
	===	===	===	===	=====
Depreciation					
Balance: 1 April 2014	0	0	120	294	414
Charge for the year	81	112	99	216	508
Balance: 31 March 2015	81	112	219	510	922
	===	===	===	===	=====
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2015	324	222	109	834	1,489
	===	===	===	====	=====
At 31 March 2014	397	330	157	850	1,734
	===	===	===	====	===

There are no material differences between reported Group and Parent fixed asset values.

#### 10. Subsidiaries & associated bodies

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of the General Council of the Bar and two subsidiaries together with the charity under the Council's control.

#### **Bar Council Properties Limited**

This company is dormant and has undertaken no transactions since its incorporation. It acts as nominee for the Bar Council and holds the leases of the various floors occupied at Celcon House, 289-293 High Holborn, London.

The company's Balance Sheet is not material and so is not included within these accounts.

#### **Bar Services Company Limited**

The company continued trading during the year as the vehicle through which the Bar Council provides an escrow facility to barristers. The Bar Council has advanced a total of £316,000 to the company as working capital in prior periods.

The results of the company for the year ending 31 March 2015 are as follows:

	Year to	Year to
	31/03/15	31/03/14
	£000	£000
Trading Income	5	3
Administration Expenses	(14)	(87)
Operating (Loss)/Profit	(9)	(84)

The Bar Council consider this operation a going concern.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March Tangible Fixed Assets	2015 £000 1	2014 £000 1
Debtors Cash at Bank Current Liabilities Net Current Assets Intercompany Loan Net Liabilities	29 (9) 20 (316) (295)	67 (43) 24 (316) (290)

#### **Bar Council Scholarship Trust**

The General Council of the Bar appoints the Trustees of a charity, The Bar Council Scholarship Trust. The Trust provides funding to young men and women seeking to become practising members of the Bar in England and Wales. At 31 March 2015, the net assets of the Trust stood at £741,000 (2014 - £694,000).

### 10. Subsidiaries & associated bodies (continued)

The results of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2015 are as follows:

#### **Bar Council Scholarship Trust (continued)**

Bar obarion borionaromp made (borningou)		
	Year to	Year to
	31/03/15	31/03/14
	£000	£000
Incoming resources	27	15
Charitable activities	(5)	(24)
Net incoming resources,	22	(9)
Before other recognised (losses)/gains	===	===
Balance Sheet as at 31 March	2015	2014
	£000	£000
Investments	691	666
Cash at Bank	50	39
Accruals	-	(11)
Net Current Assets	50	28
Net Assets	741	694

### 11. Other investments

	Parent		Group	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Market Value				
Balance: 1 April	1,194	1,083	1,860	1,679
Additions at cost	318	446	535	482
Disposals at open mkt. value	(318)	(451)	(535)	(477)
Revaluation	58	94	82	137
Balance: 31 March 2015	1,252	1,194	1,942	1,860
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Analysis: Investments	1,203	1,172	1,874	1821
Cash	49	22	68	39
	=====		=====	=====
Historical Cost	1,014	751	1,630	1,282

The investments held comprise units in a number of Cazenove Capital Management Limited investment funds, and some direct holdings of UK Government Bonds.

### 12. Debtors & prepayments

	Parent		Group	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trade Debtors	456	306	456	267
Accrued Income	222	822	222	812
Prepayments	568	384	568	384
Other Debtors	355	78	354	78
	1,601	1,590	1,600	1,541
	=====	====	=====	====

The amount of trade debtors is stated net after deducting a general bad debt provision of  $\pounds$ 10,000 (2014 -  $\pounds$ 10,000).

#### 13. Creditors: due within one year

	Parent		Group	)
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trade Creditors	508	326	508	326
Accruals	400	782	413	786
Deferred Income: PCF& BRF	7,021	8,822	7,021	8,822
LSB/OLC Levy	-	5	-	5
Pensions Levy	-	846	-	846
Pension contributions	54	51	54	51
PAYE & Social Security	206	189	206	189
VAT	16	43	16	43
Other Creditors	90	-	87	-
	8,295	11,064	8,305	11,068
	=====	=====	=====	=====

#### 14. Commitments

(a) As at 31 March 2014, the Bar Council had non-cancellable commitments for operating leases as follows:

	Land & Buildings		
	2015	2014	
	£000	£000	
Expiring: Within 2-5 years	741	729	

The gross property rental charge for the period was £612,000 (2014 - £860,000).

(b) As at 31 March 2015, the Bar Council had capital expenditure commitments of £Nil (2014 - £Nil).

### 15. Reserves funds

GCB Group	Genera	I Reserves				
	PCF	Other	Pension	Revaluati	Charity	Group
	Reserves	General	Reserve	on	Reserves	Total
		Reserves		Reserve		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance: 1 Apr 2014	94	3,808	92	427	694	5,115
Changes in year:						
Operating surplus	89	18	1,085	-	22	1,214
Pension scheme:						
Actuarial Gain/(Loss)	-	-	(5,281)	-	-	(5,281)
Gain on investments:						
- Unrealised	-	-	-	58	24	82
Balance: 31 Mar 2015	183	3,826	(4,104)	485	740	1,130
	=====	=====	=====	===	===	=====

#### 16. Pension scheme

The Bar Council operated a final salary defined benefit pension plan through The General Council of the Bar Pension and Life Assurance Fund. The scheme closed to new members in July 2006 and closed to accrual for current service on 28 February 2013. The Council now only offers pension provision to members of staff through a defined contribution (stakeholder) arrangement.

A full actuarial valuation of the scheme was carried out as at 1 October 2012, under scheme specific funding regulations. This has been updated to 31 March 2015 by a qualified independent actuary.

This update shows the scheme to be in deficit of £4,104,000 due to:

- Reduction in the discount rate that has increased the present value of the liabilities
- The purchase of immediate annuities to secure pensions of three members reaching retirement age.

These factors have been partially offset by the following:

- The actual return on the assets in the period has been better than expected.
- Contributions by the employer have been greater than expected.

The Bar Council has paid the contributions to The General Council of the Bar Pension and Life Assurance Fund of £493,200 for 2015/16 in advance.

# 16. Pension scheme (continued) Financial Reporting Standard 17 – Retirement Benefits

(a) Assumptions:

The major financial assumptions agreed with the Bar Council and used by the Actuary were:

Pates nor annum.	2015 %	2014 %
Rates per annum:	70	/0
Inflation (CPI)4.34	2.40	2.70
Salary increases	N/A	N/A
Discount Rate	3.10	4.20
Pension in payment increases (CPI, max 5%, Min 3%)	3.00	3.00
Proportion of employees opting for early retirement	Nil	Nil
Expected return on scheme assets	4.34	4.66
Revaluation rate for deferred pensions	5.00	5.00

The mortality assumptions adopted imply the following life expectancies:

	2015	2014
Male retiring at age 65 today	24.7	24.4
Female retiring at age 65 today	26.7	26.6
Male retiring at age 65 in 20 years	27.9	27.8
Female retiring at age 65 in 20 years	29.9	29.7

(b) The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Fair value of scheme assets: see (e) below	23,906	20,280
Present value of scheme liabilities: see (d) below	(28,010)	(20,188)
(Deficit)/Surplus in scheme	(4,104)	92
(Liability)/Asset to be recognised	(4,104)	92

# 16. Pension scheme (continued) Financial Reporting Standard 17 – Retirement Benefits

(c) The amounts recognised in the Income & Expenditure Statement are as follows:	2015	2014
	£000	£000
Income		
Expected Return on Scheme Assets	953	602
Expenditure		
Current service cost	18	18
Interest Cost	836	898
Loss on curtailment	-	-
Total Expenditure recognised	854	916

(d) Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation in the period are as follows:

	2015	2014
	£000	£000
Scheme Liabilities: 1 April	20,188	22,538
Current service cost	18	18
Interest cost	836	898
Actuarial (gain)/loss	7,572	(3,068)
Loss on curtailment	nil	nil
Benefits paid & Life Assurance Premium	(604)	(198)
Scheme Liabilities: 31 March	28,010	20,188

### 16. Pension scheme (continued) Financial Reporting Standard 17 – Retirement Benefits

(e) Changes in the fair value of scheme assets in the year are as follows:

	2015 £000	2014 £000
Scheme Assets: 1 April	20,280	19,491
Expected return on scheme assets	953	602
Actuarial gain/(loss)	2,291	(148)
Contributions by employer	986	533
Benefits paid & Life Assurance Premium	(604)	(198)
Scheme Assets: 31 March	23,906	20,280

The most important assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities are the rates of interest applied to discount the estimated cash-flows arising under the increases in pensionable salaries and the pensions in payment. The assumptions used, especially in the discount rate, are influenced by market conditions and can change dramatically, causing the value of scheme liabilities to vary substantially in subsequent accounting periods. The valuation of the assets in the scheme is not affected by the actuarial assumptions because assets are measured at fair value.

(g) The major categories of the scheme's assets as a percentage of the total scheme assets are:

	2015	2014
	°⁄o	%
Equities	25.2	28.4
Bonds	52.7	35.4
Property	1.5	0.8
Cash	4.2	14.8
With Profits Fund	16.4	20.6
Total Assets	100.0	100.0

### 16. Pension scheme (continued) Financial Reporting Standard 17 – Retirement Benefits

(h) Pensions Levy/Funding

	Year to	Year to
	31/03/2015	31/03/2014
	£000	£000
Excess of receipts over payments: 1 April	846	549
Pensions Levy received in year	-	825
Interest earned on receipts	-	5
Total	846	1,379
Levy paid to Pension Fund	986	533
(Shortfall)/Excess of receipts over payments: 31 March	(140)	846

(f) History of experience gains and losses:

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2010
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair value of scheme assets	23,906	20,280	19,491	12,551	11,798
Present value of scheme liabilities	28,010	20,188	22,538	15,897	12,937
(Deficit)/surplus in the scheme	(4,104)	92	(3,047)	(3,346)	(1,139)
Experience adjustment on assets	2,291	(148)	98	(101)	485
Experience adjustment on liabilities	(152)	69	869	89	(1,168)

### 17. Related party transactions

The General Council of the Bar appoints the Trustees of the Pension and Life Assurance Fund, the Bar Council Scholarship Trust and the Directors of Bar Council Properties Limited and the Bar Services Company Limited. The Bar Council has borne administration expenses for these four bodies of £51,955 (2014 - £75,039).

The General Council of the Bar is the sole shareholder in the Bar Services Company Limited and the Bar Council Properties Limited. The Chief Executive of the Bar Council holds the one share in issue from each company on trust on behalf of the Council.

At 31 March 2015, there was an amount due to the Bar Council from the Bar Services Company of £316,000 in the form of a working capital loan (2014 - £316,000).

The General Council of the Bar and the Law Society are the sole members of Queen's Counsel Appointments ("QCA"). The Chief Executive of the Bar Council and the Chief Executive of the Law Society have been appointed as Directors of QCA.

The General Council of the Bar provides accounting and secretarial services to QCA at a charge of £7,000, plus VAT per annum. In addition, both of the members of QCA received a management fee in 2015 of  $\pounds$ 25,000 plus VAT (2014 - £25,000 plus VAT).

Information on the honorarium paid to the Chairman of the Bar is shown in Note 6. Expenses paid in respect of members of the Bar Council, including the Chairman, when acting on the Bar Council's business totalled £13,817 (2014 - £49,979).

### For information only: this report does not form part of the audited Financial Statements

# Independent Report to the General Council of the Bar in respect of the Statement under s.51 Legal Services Act 2007

#### Scope

In accordance with our engagement letter, we report on the procedures that we have performed on the accompanying Statement under section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 ("LSA Statement") for the year ended 31 March 2015, the preparation of which is the responsibility of the General Council of the Bar.

We have carried out the procedures set out below, as agreed with you, and as specified in our engagement letter. These procedures performed do not constitute an audit and therefore we do not express any opinion on the allowable expenditure met by other income on the LSA Statement. This report does not extend to any financial statements of the General Council of the Bar.

#### **Purpose of procedures**

The specific procedures that you have requested that we perform are required by you to assist in enabling you to demonstrate, if required, that income from practising certificate fees has been used for the purposes set out in section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007.

#### **Procedures performed**

We have carried out the following procedures:

- Confirmed the arithmetical accuracy of the LSA Statement;
- Verified that the PCF income and expenses, as categorised on the LSA Statement, has been accurately derived from the accounting records used in the preparation of the audited financial statements: and
- For a sample of items of expenditure, agreed the amount to supporting documentation, verified that the expenditure has been incurred and that it is properly chargeable as an expense in respect of the year in question.

#### Findings

No errors or exceptions were identified in our work.

For information only: this report does not form part of the audited Financial Statements

# Independent Report to the General Council of the Bar In respect of the Statement under s.51 Legal Services Act 2007 (Continued)

### Use of this report

Our report is prepared solely for the use of the General Council of the Bar and solely for the purpose of assisting you in demonstrating that income from practising certificate fees has been used for the purposes set out in section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007. It may not be relied upon by the General Council of the Bar for any other purpose whatsoever. Our report must not be recited or referred to in whole or in part in any other document without our prior written approval. We confirm that access to our report may be given to representatives of the Ministry of Justice for the purposes set out in section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 although, as our report is addressed to you as our client, Haysmacintyre neither owes nor accepts any duty to any party other than yourselves and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by their reliance on our report.

haysmacintyre Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4AG

Date: September 2015

# Statement under s.51 Legal Services Act 2007

	2014/15 Spend Analysis		of Spend	F	Funded By							
	Direct	Allocated	Total	Permitted	Other	Direct	Inns	BRF	Other	PCF (P.P.	Total	Gain /
	Spend	Costs	Spend	Purposes	Purpose	Income	Subt'n			only)	Income	(Loss)
Expenditure/Costs:	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(A) Regulation (BSB)												
Professional Conduct	(1,938)	(1,366)	(3,304)	(3,304)		38	804			2,386	3,228	-76
Assessments	(531)	(182)	(713)	(713)		181				532	713	0
Education and Training	(708)	(319)	(1,027)	(1,027)		1,137				0	1,137	110
Qualifications	(482)	(388)	(870)	(870)		252				618	870	0
Regulatory Policy	(629)	(251)	(880)	(880)						880	880	0
Entity Regulation	(179)	(110)	(289)	(289)		2				287	289	0
Supervision	(463)	(296)	(759)	(759)		1				758	759	0
QASA	(112)	(46)	(158)	(158)						158	158	0
Equality and Diversity	(153)	(91)	(244)	(244)						244	244	0
	(5,195)	(3,049)	 (8,244)	 (8,244)	0	 1,611	 804	0	0	 5,863	 8,278	34
		(3,043)		(0,244)								
(B) Permitted Purposes:												
Approved Regulator: Corp.	(780)	(222)	(1,002)	(791)	(211)			84	127	801	1,012	10
Donations: exc. Representative	(240)		(240)	(240)						240	240 	0
	(1,020)	(222)	(1,242)	(1,031)	(211)	0	0	84	127	1,041	1,252	10
Representation:												
Professional Affairs	(567)	(442)	(1,009)									
Training for the Bar				(240)	0	31		50		166	247	7
Young Bar				(103)	(23)			25		106	131	5
Professional Practice/Ethics				(119)	0					123	123	4
Alternative Disputes Resolution				(66)	(12)			12		66	78	0
IT Panel				(94)	(17)			17		97	114	3
Employed Bar				(70)	(18)			18		71	89	1
Legal Services				(64)	(16)			16		66	82	2
Law Reform				(86)	0					87	87	1
Direct Access	(542)	(202)	(005)	(77)	(4)			4		78	82	1
Remuneration	(543)	(362)	(905)	(768)	(137)	117		172 135		751 261	923 513	18 -3
International	(395) (120)	(121) 0	(516) (120)	(413) (120)	(103) 0	117		135		261 126	126	-3
Europe Communications	(352)	(161)	(120)	(385)	(128)			136		389	525	12
E&D BC	(143)	(101)	(203)	(203)	(120)			130		213	213	10
	(3,140)	(1,368)	 (4,508)	(3,839)	(669)	 148	0	 669	 127	3,641	4,585	 77
(C) Member Services:												
to member bervices.												
Member Services	(984)	(388)	(1,372) 	0	(1,372)	994 		384 			1,378 	6
Principal Activities	(9,319)	(4,805)	(14,124)	(12,083)	(2,041)	2,753	804	1,053	127	9,504	14,241	117
Subsidiary organisations	(20)		(20)		(20)	32					32	12 
Bar Council Operating Activities	(9,339) ======	(4,805) ======	(14,144) ======	(12,083) ======	(2,061) =====	2,785 =====	804 ======	1,053 ======	127 ======	9,504 =====	14,273 ======	129 =====