



Notice of 2026 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bar of England and Wales will be an in-person meeting held at the Bar Council Offices, 289-293 High Holborn at 11.00am on Saturday 12 September 2026. It will follow a meeting of the Bar Council.

The agenda for the AGM will be made available to Subscribers, Circuits, Specialist Bar Associations and the Inns of Court as soon as possible after **the closing date for resolutions (Monday 17 August 2026)**, but not less than seven clear days before the meeting (Friday 4 September 2026). In accordance with Part II, paragraph 16(a) of the Constitution, the Bar Council shall present its annual report and accounts at this meeting.

Regulation 32(c) of Part II of the Constitution of the General Council of the Bar states that the terms of any alteration to the Regulations in the Constitution shall be notified to all Subscribers in the notice convening the General Meeting (whether Annual or Extraordinary) next following the meeting of the Bar Council at which the alteration was made.

In compliance with that undertaking, this notice confirms any changes to the Constitution since the last AGM on 13 September 2025. All changes to the Constitution of the General Council of the Bar must be put to Bar Council members for approval by way of an Extraordinary Resolution. Such resolutions for a **change** to the constitution have been received prior by the Bar Council and additionally, one such resolution will be put to the Bar Council at the meeting preceding the AGM and are detailed below.

Those wishing to attend the AGM should contact Justina Naik, Governance and Committees Manager: Governance@barcouncil.org.uk

Changes to the Constitution

At its meeting on 15 November 2025, the Bar Council considered and adopted, a set of provisions to reflect the introduction of a new officer role: "Commissioner for Conduct", and a change to the name of the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association to the "London Bar Association for Common Law and Commercial Barristers (following prior approval by the General Management Committee). Last year, GMC and Bar Council approved the appointment of a new Commissioner for Conduct to tackle bullying, discrimination and harassment at the Bar arising from the Harman review which necessitated a change to the Constitution to reflect that this position is a formal officeholding of the GCB.

The Bar Council meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting on 12 September 2026 will consider with a view to adopt, one provision amendment to reflect the Commissioner for Conduct as a defined Officer within the formal Definitions.

The constitutional amendments arising are detailed below:

New proposed amendment to 'Part 1 Introduction Definitions' (Bar Council 12 September 2026):

Current clause:

"The Officers" shall mean the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Treasurer of the Bar Council.

Proposed amended clause:

"The Officers" shall mean the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer and the Commissioner for Conduct of the Bar Council.

Agreed at prior Bar Council meetings since the last AGM (for information):

Composition of the Bar Council

New clause:

2 (a)(iv) The Commissioner for Conduct, who shall be a member of the Council ex-officio and operationally independent.

Other amendments:

Previous clause:

2 (b)(iii) The Chairman or Chair for the time being of the Criminal Bar Association, the Family Law Bar Association, the Chancery Bar Association, the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association, the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry and the Commercial Bar Association ex officio.

Amended clause:

2 (b)(iii) The Chairman or Chair for the time being of the Criminal Bar Association, the Family Law Bar Association, the Chancery Bar Association, the London Bar Association for Common Law and Commercial Barristers, the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry and the Commercial Bar Association ex officio.

Amended clause:

2 (b)(vi) 15 subscribers elected by the Criminal Bar Association, the Family Law Bar Association, the Chancery Bar Association, the London Bar Association for Common Law and Commercial Barristers, the Intellectual Property Bar Association, the Bar European Group, the Revenue Bar Association, the Technology and Construction Bar Association, the Planning and Environment Bar Association, the Administrative Law Bar Association, the Professional Negligence Bar Association, the Commercial Bar Association, the Personal Injuries Bar Association, the Employment Law Bar Association, and the Property Bar Association all of whom shall be self-employed barristers or employed barristers at the date of their election

Election of Officers

Amendment:

Prior clause:

12 (a) The Officers shall be elected by the members of the Bar Council and shall at the time of their proposal for election each be a member of the Bar Council. The Chair, the Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be elected not later than 21st May in each year. The Officers shall hold office from the Relevant Date next after their election until immediately before the next Relevant Date.

Amended clause:

12 (a) The Officers (apart from the Commissioner for Conduct) shall be elected by the members of the Bar Council and shall at the time of their proposal for election each be a member of the Bar Council. The Chair, the Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be elected not later than 21st May in each year. The Officers shall hold office from the Relevant Date next after their election until immediately before the next Relevant Date.

New clause:

12 (f) The Commissioner for Conduct to tackle bullying, harassment and sexual harassment at the Bar shall be an Officer of the Council ex-officio, who is operationally independent. The Commissioner shall be appointed by the executive in accordance with the Seven Principles of Public Life and taking account of best practice for public appointments, including the Governance Code on Public Appointments. On appointment, the Commissioner shall maintain equal standing with the elected Officers of the Bar Council.

Resolutions

The Constitution provides that any barrister holding a valid practising certificate or subscribing voluntarily to the Bar Council (other than retired or overseas subscribers) is at liberty to bring forward any resolution (whilst noting the provisions of paragraph 7 of Part II, Schedule III of the Constitution of the General Council of the Bar) for discussion and decision of the AGM, provided that prior notice of the intention to do so shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive, and provided that the resolution is seconded by another subscriber. It is suggested that resolutions are phrased "*this meeting invites the Bar Council to examine ...*"

Resolutions should be forwarded to Jim Morris at the Bar Council by 10:00am on Monday 17 August 2026, via Jamie Shaw, Head of Strategy, Planning and Governance: JShaw@barcouncil.org.uk.

Proxy Voting¹

"A Subscriber shall be entitled to vote by proxy at an Annual General Meeting if he or she shall at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting have delivered or caused to be delivered to the Chief Executive a certificate that he or she is prevented from attending the meeting for due medical or religious cause and shall have nominated either some specified Subscriber present in person at the meeting or the Chair of the meeting ex officio to vote on his or her behalf (in which case any show of hands shall be so conducted as to ensure that the proxy has a further vote on behalf of the Subscriber in question in addition to his or her own vote)."

Forms for the certification and lodging of proxy votes can be obtained from the Executive Office.

Completed forms should be delivered to Jim Morris at the Bar Council by 10.00am on Thursday 10 September 2026, via Jamie Shaw, Head of Strategy, Planning and Governance: JShaw@barcouncil.org.uk.

AGM speaking limits²

"No Subscriber shall be permitted, without the consent of the Chair of the meeting, to speak more than once or for more than five minutes on the same matter, save in the case of the proposer of the resolution under debate, who shall be entitled to speak for not more than seven minutes."

¹ Constitution, Schedule III, para 15.

² Constitution, Schedule III, para 9.