



The Bar Council

Annual General Meeting of the Bar 2025
Minutes of Bar Council AGM, Saturday 13 September 2025, 11.00am
at the Bar Council offices, 289-293 High Holborn and Microsoft Teams

Present:

Barbara Mills KC	Chair of the Bar	BMKC
Kirsty Brimelow KC	Vice Chair of the Bar	KBKC
Heidi Stonecliffe KC	Vice Chair Elect 2026	HSKC
Lucinda Orr	Treasurer	LO

Abigail Bright, Adam Baradon KC, Aimee Stokes, Alex Gunning KC, Alexandra Sutton, Alice Hands, Amanda Jepson, Amrit Dhanoa, Amy Mannion, Andrew Howe, Anna Soubry, Anton van Dellen, Anushka Kangesu, Aoife Kennedy, Asad Maqsood, Barbara Connolly KC, Bella Dennis, Brittany Buckell, Cait McDonagh, Caroline Rees KC, Cathrine Grubb, Charlie Woodhouse KC, Christina Michalos KC, Claire Davies KC, Cleon Catsambis, David Christopher Taylor, David Bunting, David Grant KC, Deshpal Panesar KC, Dilpreet Dhanoa, Elaine Banton, Emily Formby KC, Emma Southern, Emma Torr, Emma Walker, Faisel Sadiq, Fenner Moeran KC, Gaynor Wood, Guy Williamson, Harpreet Sandhu KC, Harry O'Sullivan, Harry Stratton, Henry King KC, Hollie Gilbery, Ian Clarke KC, Ivor Collett, Jaime Hamilton KC, James Hines KC, James Kane, James Lewis KC, James Roberts KC, Jasmine Chen, Jason Pitter KC, Jo Martin KC, John-Paul Swoboda, Kama Melly KC, Katrina Mather, Lachlan Stewart, Leanne Targett-Parker, Lee Marklew, Linda Turnbull, Lorinda Long, Lucy Reed KC, Luke Wygas, Maddy Charlesworth, Marion Smith KC, Martyn McLeish, Mary Prior KC, Matthew Keliris-Thomas, Melissa Coutino, Michael Polak, Mike Jones KC, Minka Braun, Dr Mirza Ahmad, Natasha Shotunde, Nicholas Johnson KC, Owen Thomas KC, Paul Powlesland, Peter Grieves-Smith, Philip Moser KC, Philip Stott, Riel Karmy-Jones KC, Rory Brown, Ruth Kirby KC, Saira Kabir Sheikh KC, Samantha Singer, Sara Ibrahim, Sarah Gaunt, Sarah Gerrard, Sarah Williams, Sean Jones KC, Sean Summerfield, Shazia Akhtar, Shobana Iyer, Simon Atkinson, Simon Regis, Stephanie Hall, Stephen Kenny KC, Tahmina Rahman, Tomas McGarvey, Tony Singla KC, Winston Hunter KC, Yaa Dankwa Ampadu-Sackey.

In attendance:

Anna Pinch	Director of Services	AP
Jamie Shaw	Head of Strategy, Planning and Governance	JS
Justina Naik	Governance and Committees Manager (minutes)	JN
Malcolm Cree	Chief Executive Officer	MC
Phil Robertson	Director of Policy	PR
Sally Burnell	Director of Communications	SB

Apologies

Daniel Sheridan, Eleena Misra KC, Emma Hughes, James Paterson, James Pickering KC, James Robinson, Kate Lumsdon KC, Rachel Crasnow KC and Shoshana Mitchell.

The Chair of the Bar chaired the AGM. The meeting was confirmed as quorate with over 60 subscribers present.

The Chair welcomed and thanked those present at the Bar Council AGM.

Declarations of Interest

The meeting Chair received no declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

Subscriber Proposed Resolutions

With reference to the Constitution, it was noted that there were no Subscriber proposed resolutions brought forward for discussion and decision, in accordance with due notice prior to the meeting.

1. Chair's Address

The Chair of the Bar presented her report as follows:

The Bar Council Annual Report for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 had been published and was the first under the new strategic plan 'Standing for Justice'.

The work of the Bar Council included engagement in relation to the Independent Review of Criminal Courts; chaired by Sir Brian Leveson, continued monitoring and updates regarding the Legal Aid Agency cyber-attack and international business development with the UAE and East Africa.

The Bar Council had agreed recommendations from the published report of the Independent Review of Bullying and Harassment, by The Rt Hon. the Baroness Harman KC. Implementation of the recommendations would include a new Commissioner for oversight role.

Since the last AGM, changes in the Constitution had been adopted by the Bar Council (in September 2025), which gave effect to the *Removal of Officers of the Bar Policy*. This policy was continued governance regarding the mechanisms by which an Officer of the Bar may be removed from Office.

2. Treasurer's Report, including Annual Report and Accounts

Lucinda Orr, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report including the Annual Report and Accounts, by giving an overview of the following highlights.

Financial Review

This year the General Council of the Bar delivered a surplus before tax of £1,580k, which was significantly better than the budgeted surplus for the year of £26k. This included an investment gain of £140k, and adjusting for this resulted in an operating surplus of £1,440k.

The surplus was driven by a number of non-recurrent factors, including additional regulatory income, greater than anticipated interest income and savings in the Bar Council due to activity being deferred into 2025/26.

Non-recurrent costs included overspend within the Bar Standards Board (BSB) due to redundancies resulting from organisational restructuring.

The defined Benefit Pension Scheme was in surplus on an actuarial and accounting basis. Total reserves for the group were £13,889k and total revenue had increased against the prior year by £3,837k.

Bar Council

The financial report for Bar Council included all representation and approved regulator activities as well as services to the profession. The Bar Council aimed to minimise the amount of PCF needed to fund representation activities by building and maintaining a variety of income sources. 67% of the Bar Council's income was drawn from PCF (2023/24: 65%).

Total income increased 12%, £896k, to £8,400k (2023/24: £7,504k). Income from services to the bar rose by 8.5%, £168k, to £2,135k (2023/24: £1,967k), which was mostly driven by the increase in training and events registration fees and an increase in recharged UK Visa and Immigration costs.

Bar Standards Board

Total income increased by 19%, £2,891k to £18,453k (2023/24: £15,562k). Most of this was due to the £2,508k increase in revenue from practising fee income.

Expenditure increased by £2,668k to £18,193k (2023/24: £15,525k). Staffing costs were £1,401k greater, £8,713k (2023/24: £7,312k), due to restructuring costs. BSB non-staff costs increased by £585k, largely attributed to legal representation costs. This increase in costs had been combined with the proportional share of Resources Group costs of £696k and the movement in the holiday pay accrual of £66k.

AGREED On voting, the 2024-25 Annual Report and Accounts were unanimously adopted by subscribers present.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report as follows:

Subscribers were encouraged to read the [Annual Report](#) located on the Bar Council website.

The year in numbers saw:

1. 3,948 ethical enquiries answered
2. 26 Bar Council responses to consultations
3. 24 mentions in Parliament,
4. 100 training courses delivered, and
5. 875 media hits.

In this 'year of the review', the Bar Council had engaged in huge efforts with the Leveson review of the criminal courts and the Gauke review of sentencing. Commissioned by the Bar Council in 2024, Baroness Harriet Harman KC had undertaken her independent review of bullying and harassment at the Bar, and the Bar Council welcomed the report on helping to change the culture at the Bar.

4. Any Other Business

There was no further business discussed.

The meeting closed at 12:00pm