



The Bar Council

Meeting of the Bar Council

Saturday 13 September 2025 at 10:00

The Bar Council, 289-293 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7HZ,

held via Video Conference

Present:

Barbara Mills KC	Chair of the Bar	BMKC
Kirsty Brimelow KC	Vice-Chair of the Bar	KBKC
Lucinda Orr	Treasurer	LO
Anneli Howard KC	Co-Chair, European Committee	AHKC

Members in attendance (in alphabetical order):

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, Faisal Sadiq, Fenner Moeran KC, Gaynor Wood, Guy Williamson, Harpreet Sandhu KC, Harry O'Sullivan, Harry Stratton, Heidi Stonecliffe KC, 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 IyerSimon Atkinson, Simon Regis, Stephanie Hall, Stephen Kenny KC, Tahmina Rahman, Tomas McGarvey, Tony Singla KC, Winston Hunter KC, Yaa Dankwa Ampadu-Sackey.

THE BAR COUNCIL

www.barcouncil.org.uk

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In attendance:

Anna Pinch	Director of Services	AP
Christopher Bones	Chair, BSB	CB
Jamie Shaw	Head of Strategy, Planning and Governance	JS
Justina Naik	Governance (minutes)	JN
Malcolm Cree	Chief Executive Officer	MC
Mark Neale	Director General, BSB	MN
Phil Robertson	Director of Policy	PR
Sally Burnell	Director of Communications	SB

Apologies were received from:

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

1. Conflicts of interest and announcements

None noted.

2. Minutes of the last meetings and matters arising

The minutes from the meeting held on 24 June 2025 were APPROVED as an accurate record.

3. International Committee Chair Appointment and Bar Council Co-option

Members noted and APPROVED Marion Smith KC as the new Chair of the International Committee and Co-opted member of the Bar Council.

4. Statement by the Chair of the Bar Council

The Chair highlighted the following points from the report:

Subscriber Elections 2026 – Timetable

The Chair asked members to note the Subscriber Elections timetable for the 2026 office year.

Bar Council Public Affairs

The Chair updated members in relation to the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts, Chaired by Sir Brian Leveson, of which the Part 1 report had been published.

Meetings

The Chair had met with the Lord Chancellor, Sarah Sackman MP, Sir Brian Leveson and attended a ministerial roundtable with each Sarah Sackman MP and Nic Dakin MP, to discuss David Gauke's Independent Sentencing Review proposals.

Legal Aid Agency Cyber-attack

The Chair updated that continued monitoring and updates had been issued via email and website in relation to the cyber-attack on the Legal Aid Agency (LAA). Work continued closely with the policy team.

General Management Committee Meeting Discussions

The Chair provided a summary of the discussions held at the GMC meetings that had taken place over the previous quarter.

International Activities

The Chair's international activities, meetings and attendances, were outlined including the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in Toronto and planned business development visits to the UAE and East Africa.

5. Independent Review of Bullying and Harassment (Rt Hon. the Baroness Harman KC) Report

The Chair outlined the recently published Bullying and Harassment report outlining the review and recommendations as undertaken and released by Rt Hon. the Baroness

Harman. Members were asked to note the report outcomes. The Bar Council were working to review the recommendations for agreement and implementation.

Members noted and discussed the recommendation for a Commissioner oversight role and programmes required in place to provide guidance to Chambers on complaints processes which were more independent and accountable. Members were asked to note that steps had been taken to get such guidance available to Chambers. Members expressed support for the report, and some expressed concern that the recommendations would not provide adequate redress for those complainants who had been dismissed and overlooked in the past. Members noted the anticipated timelines and would await the formal plan for recommendation implementation.

6. Bar Standards Board Report

Professor Christopher Bones, newly appointed Chair – BSB, presented the Bar Standards Board report taken as read. The following was highlighted:

BSB Chair

Members were asked to note this as the first meeting attended by Professor Christopher Bones as the newly appointed Chair of the BSB. An acknowledgement tribute was expressed to predecessor Kathryn Stone OBE. Members were also asked to note the high esteem held of the profession and maintenance of its reputation.

Enforcement Process Consultation

- In July 2025, a consultation was launched following a review and redesign of the end-to-end enforcement process as part of work to modernise delivery of enforcement functions. The consultation would be open until Wednesday, 15 October 2025.

Voluntary Undertaking Agreement

- The BSB had agreed to some voluntary undertakings with the Legal Services Board, which would reflect delivery of the BSB's Reform Programme. A key part of this agreement was to improve its timeliness and efficiency.

Members discussed and raised matters concerning treatment and support for witnesses in cases managed by the BSB. The BSB Chair noted the matters raised and would review these for further discussion with the Board.

7. Statement by the Chief Executive

Malcom Cree, CEO of the Bar Council advised that there were no substantive matters of update, however, would take forward to present the remaining relevant agenda items.

8. Removal of Officers of the Bar Policy

The Chief Executive presented the Removal of Officers of the Bar Policy, of which approval was sought. The policy was continued Governance housekeeping regarding the mechanisms by which an Officer of the Bar may be removed from Office, to be managed alongside the existing Disciplinary, Grievance, Whistleblowing and Raising Concerns policies. Changes to the Constitution were required in order to give effect to the policy. After due consideration members APPROVED the policy and changes to the Constitution.

9. Risk Register

The Chief Executive presented the Risk Register. Members were asked to note the new and pending *Fraud, Bribery or Corruption* risk which was under review by the Auditors. There were no material changes since the last management risk review.

10. Treasurer's Report

Lucinda Orr, Treasurer, presented an overview of the July 2025 Management Accounts.

- The forecast year-end position showed a surplus of £300k, compared to £50k on the original budget.
- The main drivers for the additional surplus had been additional income and savings from staff cost vacancies at the BSB.
- The savings had been mitigated by non-recurrent fixed terms roles in the BSB.
- The early year-end forecast surplus was likely to be reduced by additional in-year costs and the Q2/Q3 forecast position would be more reliable.

11. European Committee

Anneli Howard KC, Co-Chair of the European Committee presented a report to the Bar Council, and highlighted the following points:

- The Chair's visit to Brussels was outlined, which was part of the EU reset, and positive support had been given to those initiatives.
- An update was provided on the question of UK accession to the Lugano Convention 2007. This would no longer remain a focus but would continue to be kept under consideration.
- Longstanding plans to host a conference on Comparative Approaches to Collective Redress had been advanced. The event would be held at Kings' College London on 8 May 2026.

12. Any other business

There was no further business discussed.

13. Date of next meeting:

Saturday, 15 November 2025, 11:00