

# The Bar Council – 2015/16 At a Glance

The Bar Council set itself ambitious targets for 2015/16 as the apex representative body for all barristers in England & Wales. The 2015/16 annual report details the Bar Council's achievements for the year and is available to view online [www.barcouncil.org.uk/about-us/annual-reports](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/about-us/annual-reports).



Here is a brief overview of just some of the Bar Council's achievements in 2015/16.

## Influencing justice policy

A key element of the Bar Council's activities involves working with Westminster and Whitehall to shape justice policies in the public as well the Bar's interests. In 2015/16, the Bar Council took a leading role in a number of relevant campaigns for the better.

In 2015/16 the Bar Council:

- Submitted [amendments](#) to the Investigatory Powers Bill to strengthen protection for legal professional privilege.
- Through the Chairman of the Bar, gave [evidence](#) to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee on Court Fees and to the Labour Party Commission on Legal Aid and Access to Justice.

- [Responded](#) to Lord Justice Briggs' interim review on the civil courts structure.
- Designed for the Ministry of Justice a [redrawn Advocates Graduate Fee Scheme](#) for advocacy in Crown Court cases.
- Campaigned for the Government to abolish the criminal courts charge, which it agreed to do in December 2015.

In addition, the Bar Council responded to 50 external consultations on justice matters and those impacting barristers.

## Supporting barristers

The Bar Council provides a great deal of support for barristers and chambers. In 2015/16 new and existing initiatives designed to meet the changing needs of the Bar included:

- Launch of the [Direct Access Portal](#).
- Delivery of international programmes – China Training Scheme, trade mission to Kazakhstan.
- Initiation of the [Wellbeing at the Bar](#) programme.
- Publication of research on [women at the Bar](#), and on [equality and diversity](#).
- Establishment of its first [Bar Pro Bono Board](#).
- Issuing a [guide](#) to assist chambers with tackling sexual harassment issues, adding to its growing [Practice & Ethics](#) support for the Bar.

## The next generation

The Bar Council supports barristers throughout their careers. In 2015/16, the Bar Council broadened its suite of initiatives aimed at opening up the profession to a wider talent pool, as well as providing help for those already on a career path at the Bar. These include:

- [Young Bar Hub and Toolkit](#).
- [e-mentoring](#) for students, part of the Bar Mentoring Service.
- New online [mini pupillage hub](#).
- First Bar Council Pupillage Fair.
- Moving the [Pupillage Gateway application window](#), following feedback from students and chambers.

## More information

Find out more about what the Bar Council does and how you can keep updated with its activities:

- Visit the Campaigns page on our website: [www.barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/campaigns](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/campaigns).

- Follow our Twitter account: [www.twitter.com/thebarcouncil](https://twitter.com/thebarcouncil).
- Subscribe free to BarTalk, our fortnightly newsletter: [BarTalk@BarCouncil.org.uk](mailto:BarTalk@BarCouncil.org.uk)

# The Bar Council by numbers

600

Barristers have volunteered to inspire young people to enter the profession through the Bar Council

5,500

Telephone queries dealt with by the Ethical Enquiries Team

1,200

Mentions of the Bar Council and the Chairman in the media

50

Responses to consultations submitted

447,299

Visits to the Bar Council website



27,000

People/organisations who follow the Bar Council Twitter feed

64%

New website visits

1.2m

Web page views

52%

Pay the £30 pro bono contribution

60%

of barristers pay the Bar Representation Fee



71

Chambers use BARCO

