

International grant programme
 LawCare
 Bar mentoring Young Bar
 Direct Access Portal Equality
 Media Relations
 Tax guidance Formulating policy
 Consultations Direct Access Portal BARCO
 Training Mediation Diversity Pulillage Gateway Rule of law
 2016/2017 Wellbeing
 Directory of Services Bar Talk
 Pro Bono
 Bar Nursery Dispute resolution
 Foreign exchanges Ethical guidance
 Governance Bar mentoring Law reform
 Legal experts LawCare Remuneration Bar Placement
 Rule of law Arbitration International advice
 Young Bar
 Practice development Training Law reform
 Wellbeing BARCO



The Bar Council
Integrity. Excellence. Justice.





Where you see this logo, the work carried out has been funded partly or entirely by the Bar Representation Fee

Quick reference guide*

BARCO



T: +44 (0)20 7611 4680

Bar Representation Fee



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1329

Chambers' arbitration and mediation



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1366

Direct Access Portal



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

Equality and diversity helpline



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1320

International grant programme and immigration support (Non EEA nationals)



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

*If you have a QR reader on your phone, please hold over the icon to be taken directly to the corresponding website. If you don't have a QR reader, it is free to download in most app stores.

Member benefits



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1329

Pupillage Gateway



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

**Parental support hub and
Bar nursery**



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

Training and events



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1329

Wellbeing at the Bar



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1320

Young Bar Hub and toolkit



T: +44 (0)20 7611 1323

This Directory highlights the benefits to you of supporting the work of the Bar Council and how critical the £100 per year Bar Representation Fee (BRF) is in enabling us to represent your interests. It will help you access information and resources to explain how the Bar Council can assist and support you both within, and outside of your practice.

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Our values

The Bar Council's role is to promote and improve the services and functions of the Bar, and to represent the interests of the Bar on all matters relating to the profession. All of the Bar Council's work is firmly underpinned by the values we embrace: fairness, respect, integrity, excellence and value for money.

The Bar Council seeks to ensure that the justice system continues to develop, that the Bar as a whole continues to thrive, and that individual barristers have the help and support they need. We are fortunate to have the commitment and expertise of a large number of barristers who contribute to our work, and of a highly professional staff. We are committed to ensuring that the Bar Council raises its game to achieve bigger impact with more effective use of our resources, and to be seen as exemplary in all that we do.

Message from the Chief Executive



It is vital that you are aware what the Bar Council, your representative organisation, is doing on your behalf.

All barristers who want to practise must pay the Practising Certificate Fee ('PCF'). Around two-thirds of the money raised from the PCF supports the work of the front-line regulator, the Bar Standards Board. The remainder supports work on 'permitted purposes' (defined in s.51 of the Legal Services Act 2007), such as promoting the rule of law, which is undertaken by the representative side of the Bar Council. However, for the Bar Council to continue to be effective, support is also required through the Bar Representation Fee ('BRF'), a separate, voluntary contribution which funds essential work that cannot be funded through the PCF.

Critically, the Bar Council campaigns on the profession's behalf on a wide range of issues, and is respected by and influential with policymakers in Westminster and Whitehall, and with the media. We also represent the Bar on the international stage, heightening the profession's global reputation, promoting the rule of law and generating business

opportunities for the Bar. Without your BRF contributions, essential Bar Council initiatives, such as the Bar Mentoring Service may not exist. So we need your support to continue this important work.

Barristers who pay the BRF also have access to a series of benefits including discounts on all training and events, subscription to Counsel magazine (worth £100), unlimited copies of Certificates of Good Standing (otherwise £100 per certificate), and for those who are qualified to do Direct Access work, membership on the Direct Access Portal. Many barristers find that paying the BRF actually saves them money overall.

This directory of services highlights our work as well as the range of benefits the Bar receives from paying the £100 per year fee, which, compared to other professional bodies, is extremely competitive.

Best wishes,
Stephen Crowne
Chief Executive

The Bar Council for you

The Bar Council promotes the Bar's high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services, and strives to provide all the resources the Bar needs in order to grow and develop as a profession, to manage the challenges in the legal sector and to be ready for the future.

The Bar Council supports the Bar through a wide range of assistance, resources and services. Some of these methods of support are available to all members of the Bar while others are restricted to those barristers who support the Bar Council's activities by paying the Bar Representation Fee ('BRF').

Why pay the BRF?

The BRF provides essential funding for the vital campaigning and representative work of the Bar Council. Unfortunately there has been a misunderstanding that the BRF funds the commercial activity of the Bar Council, however, this is not true. To the contrary, the BRF does not fund any of the commercial work carried out by the Bar Council, which is in itself a further source of funding that has allowed us to freeze the BRF payment for many years.

Activities supported by the BRF include:

- Bar mentoring schemes
- Equality and Diversity helpline
- LawCare
- Immigration support for non EEA lawyers
- Pupils' helpline, and
- Seminars to help run and develop practices.

The individual benefits to payees total a saving of more than the £100 annual BRF payment. The benefits include:

- **1 year free subscription to Counsel Magazine** (worth £96)
- **Unlimited Certificates of Good Standing** (saving £100 per Certificate)
- **Free listing on the Direct Access Portal** for those accepting public access instructions
- **Discounts on all training courses and events**, which offer vital CPD hours, and
- **Xexec membership**, (over 500 benefits for commercial companies and services).

How to pay the BRF

The BRF can now be paid monthly by Direct Debit to spread the cost throughout the year. A monthly payment of only £8.34 will not only provide you with the individual benefits listed above but also help to support the work the Bar Council does for the profession.

Alternatively, the annual fee of £100 can be paid through the Barrister Connect online portal or by sending a cheque to the Bar Council's offices. Please make cheques payable to the General Council of the Bar.

For information on either methods of payment, please use the QR code or the contact details on page 2.



The Bar Council 2015 Key Highlights

Briefed MPs on [Part 4](#) of the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

Formed the Professionals for Information Privacy [Coalition](#) in response to the draft Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

Responded to Sir Brian Leveson's [Review](#) of Efficiency in Criminal Proceedings'

January

One profession

The Bar Council represents over 15,500 practising, employed and self-employed, barristers in England and Wales, and a further 7,200 non-practising barristers in this jurisdiction and overseas. It discharges its regulatory functions through the independent Bar Standards Board.

The Bar Council promotes:

- The Bar's high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services
- Fair access to justice for all
- The highest standards of ethics, equality and diversity across the profession, and
- The development of business opportunities for barristers at home and abroad.

Influencing Policy

BRF

The Bar Council successfully ensured, through talks with the Ministry of Justice, that planned cuts to the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS) did not go ahead in 2015.

Keeping barristers informed

BRF

2015 saw the Bar Council launch BarTalk, a free, fortnightly email newsletter to keep the Bar and chambers informed of its work in promoting barristers' interests.

In executing its representative role, the Bar Council supports the Chairman of the Bar and a number of representative committees, panels and working groups.

Key Bar Council activities include:

- **Communicating regularly with the profession** about key matters affecting its interests through BarTalk, the Bar Council's fortnightly e-newsletter, and other channels
- **Influencing the development of public policy and legislation** affecting the provision of specialist advocacy and advisory services and, more widely, in the profession's and the public interest
- **Developing and promoting the work (and the values) of the Bar** at home and abroad, to governments, legislatures, the media and other stakeholders, and
- **Working to improve entry to the profession** (with the aim of ensuring that the Bar is open to all with the requisite ability), to provide rewarding careers and to sustain the long-term future of the Bar.

February

Implemented a **new and fairer** method for calculating a barristers' Practising Certificate Fee (PCF) as part of the Authorisation to Practise process

Responded to the Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) **report**, 'Implementing Reforms to Civil Legal Aid'

Launched BarTalk member newsletter

Global Law Summit held in London to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta

March

Launched 'A Manifesto for Justice'

Responded to the Government's [Part 2](#) consultation on enhanced court fees

Responded to the Justice Committee's [report](#) 'Impact of changes to civil legal aid under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012'

Launched a [new mentorship programme](#) for Omani Lawyers

Responded to the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament's [report](#) 'Privacy and Security: A Modern and Transparent Legal Framework'

Launched the 'Criminal Justice, Advocacy and the Bar' [report](#) by His Honour Geoffrey Rivlin QC

Adapting to change

The Bar Council recognises the need of adapting to the changes affecting our profession, therefore it strives to establish and implement bespoke support services for its members. Most of these services are provided to BRF payers at a discounted rate while some are included within the BRF package. None of these services are funded by the BRF.

In 2015, the Direct Access Portal was established to provide the best platform to acquire Direct Access clients. It is an exclusive benefit for all BRF payers. The Bar Council also provides an extensive portfolio of training, events, lectures and seminars, all tailored to member's needs, to ensure all involved with the Bar are provided with the best tools to adapt to any changes in the legal sector.

Among the wide portfolio of Bar Council's services, BARCO's escrow account has been developed to provide a simple solution to avoid the handling of client money.



A trusted, insured and secure escrow account service for lawyers practising in England and Wales, for domestic and international instructions.

BARCO delivers a simple and secure system, operated through one of the world's leading financial institutions, for handling client payments.

BARCO is now providing a new Verify ID service, helping barristers in their work with their clients. This way, BARCO is assisting the Bar to fulfill their legal obligations with regards to Anti-Money Laundering provisions.

T: + 44 (0) 20 7611 4680
E: contact.us@barco.org.uk



The Direct Access Portal (DAP) is the official and exclusive Bar Council website for Direct Access barristers. It is a joint initiative, started by barristers for barristers.

DAP is free for the public to use, and Direct Access practising barristers can have their own profile page, where they can include information like the areas of law, their location and availability.

DAP demonstrates the Bar Council's commitment to promoting Direct Access practices and is an exclusive benefit for barristers who pay the BRF.

E: MemberServices@BarCouncil.org.uk
T: +44 (0) 20 7611 1307

April

First business development mission sent to Kazakhstan

May

Launched the 'Wellbeing at the Bar' report

Career information sessions expanded to support mature students and career-changers

New guidelines developed for lawyers who come up against litigants-in-person in court

Responded to David Anderson QC's investigatory powers review report, 'A Question of Trust'

Plans to further cut the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS) abandoned by government

Lord Chancellor highlighted "importance of a healthy independent Bar" in one nation justice policy speech

June

Public Access training

Designed to build delegates' understanding of the Public Access rules, explain what work can and cannot be undertaken and provide guidance on how to communicate with Public Access clients. A tailored course is also available for clerks, international barristers and as a refresher.

Full course - 13.5 CPD Hours

Recruitment and Selection training

This training has been developed to help members of chambers meet rC110 of the BSB Handbook, essential during pupillage recruitment. The principle of fair selection and shortlisting techniques are just a couple of topics covered by this course.

4 CPD Hours

Litigation training

A one day training course to prepare practitioners for conducting litigation, important for those now undertaking Direct Access work. Effective client management and maintaining a correct and effective diary management are just a few of the key objectives of this course.

5.5 CPD hours

Equality and Diversity (E&D) training

These sessions aim to raise diversity awareness through a series of practical case studies drawn from the experience of applying equality and diversity policies in chambers.

Introduction to E&D - 1.5 CPD Hours

Advanced E&D - 2.5 CPD Hours

Marketing and business development

Training will take the form of 90 minute marketing and business development surgeries, arranged and developed to suit individual needs. All training will be tailored to help with new business and increasing caseloads.

Further information:

This is just a small sample of the training and events provided by the Bar Council to enable continual development and learning.

Please view the quick reference page for contact details and to view full listings.

Growing and developing

The Bar Council's strategic aim is to secure the highest standards of justice, equality, integrity, access and efficiency in our justice system. To achieve it, the Bar Council is committed to ensuring growth and development of the profession, by providing the support needed by those involved in the Bar, at different stages of their careers. At the same time, the Bar Council continues to strengthen ties with international legal bodies, to identify and promote opportunities for the Bar in overseas jurisdictions.

Bar mentoring schemes

BRF

The Bar Council currently offers three different mentoring schemes, each designed to support individuals at different points in their careers:

Scheme 1 supports established barristers seeking judicial appointment or considering applying for Silk.

Scheme 2 supports Year 12, 13 and undergraduate students from non-traditional backgrounds, interested in a career at the Bar.

Scheme 3 is a general mentoring scheme, available for barristers in either employed or self-employed practice, who are looking for support.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

E: Mentoring@BarCouncil.org.uk

International development

BRF

A significant proportion of the Bar have an international practice, and that number is continuously increasing. Therefore, strengthening the ties with overseas Bar associations and international legal bodies is an essential part of the Bar Council's work in representing the profession.

The Bar Council's International committee and team provide a wide variety of services to help members of the Bar develop their international practices.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1357

E: IntlEvents@BarCouncil.org.uk

September

Responded to the House of Commons Justice Committee [inquiry](#) into 'Courts and Tribunals Fees and Charges'

Launched a new network of Young Barristers, Young Diplomats in London and UN Association Young Professionals in conjunction with a lecture to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations

August

Launched pilot of e-Mentoring for Students Scheme, which forms part of the [Bar Mentoring Service](#)

July

Launched the Bar Council's new [Direct Access Portal](#) (DAP)

Celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Bar Council's [China Training Scheme](#)

Responded to the High Court's declaration that the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act (DRIPA) 2014 was [unlawful](#)

Published the '[Momentum Measures](#)' report

Published [gender research](#) report 'Snapshot: The experience of self-employed women at the Bar'

Managing challenges

In 2015, the Bar Council's Ethical Enquiries service responded to over 500 email enquiries and over 6,000 telephone enquiries. The Bar Council's mission is to support the profession in every step of their career. For chambers, the Bar Council provides a Chambers arbitration and mediation service, aiming to resolve disputes arising within chambers. Furthermore, the Bar Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity across the Bar, by encouraging access to all practice areas of the Bar, irrespective of background.

Equality and diversity helpline

BRF

The Bar Council offers a confidential equality and diversity helpline to all pupils and members of the Bar. Whilst the Bar Council is unable to provide legal advice, it can offer confidential advice to members of the profession, staff and members of chambers, employed barristers, pupils and Bar students about any equality and diversity, parental leave or harassment issue.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1320

E: EqualOpps@BarCouncil.org.uk

Ethics and practice assistance

The Bar Council provides a confidential assistance line for practising members of the Bar with pressing queries about the Bar's Handbook. In addition to this, the Bar Council has published materials to assist barristers and chambers on matters of professional conduct and ethics.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1307

E: Ethics@BarCouncil.org.uk

Member Services

BRF

The Bar Council's Member Services team endeavors to ensure that all queries barristers might have are answered. They assist barristers to collect fees owed to them by solicitors via the fees collection and joint tribunal service and they provide immigration support for non-EEA nationals.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

E: MemberServices@BarCouncil.org.uk

LawCare

BRF

LawCare is a free and completely confidential advisory service to help lawyers, their immediate families and their staff to deal with the health issues and related emotional difficulties that can result from a stressful career in law.

T: 0800 800 0023, or

+44 122 5827 900 (if calling from overseas)

E: Admin@lawcare.org.uk

E: Ethics@BarCouncil.org.uk

Bar Council working group submitted a redrawn [Advocates' Graduate Fee Scheme](#) (AGFS) for advocacy in Crown Court cases to the Ministry of Justice

Launched the new [Young Bar Hub](#) and Toolkit

Responded to the Bar Standards Board [consultation](#) paper: 'The Future of Training for the Bar'

October

Bar Council's [Twitter](#) account smashed 25K followers!

November

Responded to the Government's publication of the [Draft Investigatory Powers Bill](#)

Launched the Bar Council's first ever [Pupillage Fair](#)

Launched the [Pupillage Gateway](#) consultation, which will consider shifting the recruitment period

Responded to the Ministry of Justice's [consultation](#) 'Preserving and Enhancing the Quality of Criminal Advocacy'

December

Launched new online [mini-pupillage hub](#) for students

Criminal courts charge scrapped by Lord Chancellor

Managing challenges

Chambers' arbitration and mediation service

BRF

A service provided to resolve disputes arising between individual members of chambers, or between a member of chambers and a senior clerk.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

E: MemberServices@BarCouncil.org.uk

Remuneration and taxation

BRF

Guidance on conditional fee agreements, taxation, VAT and any other remuneration or fee issues via an online library, handbook and via subscription newsletters.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1307

E: MemberServices@BarCouncil.org.uk

Wellbeing at the Bar

BRF

This programme aims to normalise investment in wellbeing, where needed, as a central part in sustaining performance as a barrister. The Bar Council's Wellbeing Working Group is building further understanding of the specific needs of barristers, to identify what assistance is of most benefit for the profession.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1320

E: SMercer@BarCouncil.org.uk

Bar nursery and parental hub

With the daily professional challenges, some members of the Bar find it difficult to develop in their career, whilst maintaining the balance between their professional and family commitments. Therefore, the Bar Council launched the Bar Nursery project, providing cost-efficient and tailored childcare facilities in London and Leeds, with the hope to expand the service further.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

E: MemberServices@BarCouncil.org.uk

2016

Please help us continue with the extensive representative work which will be carried out throughout 2016 by paying your BRF.

Preparing for the future

In 2014-2015, 17,527 applications were made through the Pupillage Gateway. The Bar Council is committed to improving access to the profession and encouraging greater diversity at the Bar. Four successful Bar Placement Weeks were held during 2014-2015 in London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, with more than 120 students participating in these events. This is in addition to attending Law Fairs and careers days to educate those looking at a career at the Bar. Looking ahead, the Bar Council is doing more to support the Young Bar, as well as students and chambers, with new tools like the Pupillage Gateway, the Young Bar toolkit and hub, the International grant programme and the Pupils' helpline.

Pupillage Gateway

The Pupillage Gateway is the online application system for pupillage. It is a flexible and cost-effective way for Chambers and Authorised Training Organisations to advertise pupillages and manage applications, making it easier to run a modern, online recruitment process without a huge investment in their own systems.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

E: PupillageGateway@BarCouncil.org.uk

Young Bar toolkit and hub

BRF

The Young Bar Toolkit was written by members of the Bar Council's Young Barristers' Committee, with input from barristers, solicitors, pupil supervisors and clerks, and Bar Council staff. It is designed for barristers, including pupils, in their early years of practice. It provides online practical information, covering advice on building and managing a practice, handling financial affairs or work-life balance at the Bar.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1323

E: YBC@BarCouncil.org.uk

International grant programme

BRF

Established in 2009, the programme allows barristers of under seven years of practice to apply for financial assistance to participate in international legal events of their choice. Grants of up to £2,500 can be applied for by applicants who must be fully qualified barristers, working in an employed or self-employed practice and a member of one of the supporting Specialist Bar Associations or Circuits.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1321

E: MembersServices@BarCouncil.org.uk

Pupils' helpline

BRF

The Pupils' helpline gives confidential advice and support to members of the Bar who are currently undertaking pupillage. The helpline puts them in touch with an experienced and independent barrister, who can help with problems encountered during pupillage. The Bar Council has established a panel of advisers, to offer pupils confidential and objective advice. All contacts are treated confidentially.

T: +44 (0)20 7611 1430

E: PupilHelp@BarCouncil.org.uk

Service Partners

The Bar Council's Service Partners are selected on the basis of excellent service, an understanding of the Bar's needs and a commitment to providing tailored services, often with substantial exclusive discounts.

Platinum Service Partner



Close Brothers
Asset Management

Specialist financial advice to the legal profession, chambers and entities

Tailored services for the individual, chambers and entities.



Advanced Laser Imaging

Highly accurate 3D recordings of crime or incident scenes and accurately tested witness statements.



Aon

Specialist insurance of your home, motor and solutions for chambers.



Arthur J. Gallagher

Specialist insurance and professional advice with bespoke solutions for your home, motors and possessions.

Bespoke insurance solutions for chambers, including tailored management liability for chambers policy.



BMW and MINI

Exclusive members' scheme providing preferential pricing on new BMW and MINI models.



Charles Cameron and Associates

Competitive mortgage rates and independent advice with no fee.



Currencies Direct

Foreign exchange, international payment services and home delivery for your holiday money.



Hewetson Shah

A leading international legal search and recruitment specialist for the Bar, offering expert assistance to barristers' chambers and individual candidates.

**LEGAL COST
FINANCE**

Legal Cost Finance

An option for clients to pay legal bills through convenient credit terms. FCA regulated service to arrange 'payment plans' for consumer of barrister services on the basis of third party credit agreements.



Lonmar

Excess layer professional indemnity insurance to top up the Bar Mutual policy.



Lonmart

High value household insurance.



MBNA

An exclusive credit card provided by MBNA Europe, in partnership with the Bar Council offering attractive rates and benefits to cardholders.



Place Campbell

The largest barrister-specialist firm of chartered accountants in the UK.



Vector Professions Finance

Aged Debt Funding services along with vehicle finance and educational fees, IT funding and chambers finance.



Ward Wilson Affiliates

Tailored travel insurance packages specifically designed for those involved with the Bar. Cover includes any issues with court dates or last minute client care.



Xexec

Exclusive discounts on travel, supermarkets, retail, cars and home. The range of substantial exclusive discounts through Xexec is only available to members of the Bar who pay the Bar Representation fee.

***Terms and Conditions**

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

DX: 240 LDE
T: +44 (0) 20 7611 1329
E: MemberServices@BarCouncil.org.uk
W: www.barcouncil.org.uk

