

<p>BAR STANDARDS BOARD</p>

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Part 1 - Public**Minutes of the Bar Standards Board meeting**

Thursday 22 March 2018, Room 1.1, First Floor
289 – 293 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7HZ

Present: Baroness Tessa Blackstone (Chair)
Alison Alden OBE
Justine Davidge
Judith Farbey QC
Steven Haines
Zoe McLeod
Andrew Mitchell QC
Nicola Sawford
Adam Solomon QC
Kathryn Stone OBE
Stephen Thornton CBE

By invitation: James Wakefield (COIC)

BSB Executive in attendance: Dan Burraway (Corporate Support Manager)
Vanessa Davies (Director General)
Rachael Evans (Senior Policy Officer, Regulatory Policy)
Rebecca Forbes (Governance Manager)
Oliver Hanmer (Director of Regulatory Assurance)
Sara Jagger (Director of Professional Conduct)
Cliodhna Judge (Head of Supervision & Authorisation)
Andrew Lamberti (Communications Manager)
Ewen Macleod (Director of Strategy and Policy)
John Picken (Governance Officer)
Amit Papat (Head of Equality & Access to Justice)
Jessica Prandle (Senior Policy Officer, Equality & Access to Justice)
Wilf White (Director of Communications and Public Engagement)

Press: Neil Rose (Legal Futures)

Item 1 – Welcome

1. Tessa Blackstone welcomed members to the meeting.

Item 2 – Apologies

- Naomi Ellenbogen QC (Vice Chair)
- Aidan Christie QC
- Lara Fielden
- Anu Thompson
- Andrew Walker QC (Chair, Bar Council)
- Richard Atkins QC (Vice Chair, Bar Council)
- Lorinda Long (Treasurer, Bar Council)
- Malcolm Cree (Chief Executive, Bar Council)
- Mark Hatcher (Special Adviser to the Chair of the Bar Council)

Item 3 – Members’ interests and hospitality

2. None.

Item 4 – Approval of Part 1 (public) minutes (Annex A)

3. The Board approved the Part 1 (public) minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22 February 2018.

Item 5 – Matters Arising

4. None.

Item 6a – Action points and progress (Annex B)

5. The Board noted the updates to the action list.

Item 6b – Forward Agenda (Annex C)

6. The Board noted the forward agenda list.

Item 7 – BSB Business Plan for 2018-19

BSB 018 (18)

7. The Board discussed the Business Plan and agreed the changes below.
- adjustment of the Resources Group budget to £4,297k and consequential amendments to the income and expenditure tables;
 - incorporation of “Chair and DG” costs in the “Corporate Services” section in the pie chart on regulation costs
 - clarification that:
 - the “Bar Council reserves” mentioned in the income table come from a shared pot for use by the BSB and Bar Council;
 - the “unregistered barristers” listed under “key facts” are those without current practising certificates;
 - better cross referencing between the departmental functions named under “core work” and the titles used in the income and expenditure tables.
8. We may also need to consider explaining the overall budget increase due to additional one-off programme costs during 2018-19.

9. AGREED

to publish the Business Plan for 2018/19 subject to the above amendments.

AL

Item 8 – Vulnerability good practice guide

BSB 019 (18)

10. Ewen Macleod sought an “in principle” agreement for the publication of the vulnerability good practice guide about immigration. Previous research suggests there is a gap in training for this area. He confirmed prior receipt of several drafting suggestions from Members and invited comments.
11. The Chair referred to a written response from Lara Fielden which suggested several amendments. Members agreed with her idea of reformatting the draft so that information on particular topics are collated together eg language interpreters and asylum seekers.
12. The following comments were also made:
- the guide was well received by the Legal Services Consumer Panel and the Access to Justice Foundation;
 - the current version is quite long so we may need to edit the text down to improve accessibility;

13. Judith Farbey QC offered to provide some further comments on the document outside the meeting.
14. Rachael Evans confirmed that a communications plan has been developed to assist with the distribution and publicity of the guide.
15. **AGREED**
to publish the vulnerability good practice guide subject to further amendment as indicated above. **RE**

Item 9 – Chair’s Report on Visits and Meetings: March 2018

BSB 020 (18)

16. The Board noted the report. Tessa Blackstone gratefully acknowledged the time and assistance given by Doughty Chambers during her visit there on 2 March 2018 which she found extremely helpful.

Item 10 – Director General’s Report

BSB 021 (18)

17. Vanessa Davies referred to paragraphs 27-29 of her report which concerned scope of practice. She advised that the next Regulatory Update to the profession will include a section on this project.
18. **AGREED**
to note the report.

Item 11 – Any Other Business

19. None.

Item 12 – Dates of next meetings

- 20.
- Thursday 26 April 2018 (Away Day)
 - Thursday 17 May 2018 (2pm – joint meeting with LeO; 5 pm – special Board meeting on Future Bar Training)
 - Thursday 24 May 2018 (full Board meeting)

Item 13 – Private Session

21. The following motion, proposed by the Chair and duly seconded, was agreed. That the BSB will go into private session to consider the next items of business:
- (1) Approval of Part 2 (private) minutes – 22 February 2018
 - (2) Matters arising: Board Diversity
 - (3) Action points and progress – Part 2
 - (4) FBT Policy decisions – the role of the Inns of Court
 - (5) Sexual orientation and religion and belief monitoring within chambers and entities – consultation paper
 - (6) Assuring the competence of barristers
 - (7) Property update
 - (8) Revision to Standing Orders for Joint Committees
 - (9) Any other private business

22. The meeting finished at 5.25 pm.