

Sent by email only to futurebartraining@barstandardsboard.org.uk



17 September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Future Bar Training: Proposed rules for the training framework for the Bar

The Legal Services Consumer Panel (the Panel) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Bar Standards Board's (BSB) consultation on its proposed rules for the training for the Bar. Overall, the Panel welcomes the BSB's proposals and supports the new regulatory training framework. However, in our response to the previous consultation paper we raised a concern¹ about the role of the Inns of Court in barristers training which is worth revisiting.

The Panel continues to believe that the BSB should be responsible for the "Fit and Proper Person" checks, not the Inns of Court. We believe that the BSB should have a clear and direct regulatory responsibility for the register of barristers. In our opinion, this is a regulatory function, and it is common for regulators to carry out such checks. Again we note that the Solicitors Regulation Authority carries out the 'character and suitability' assessment of persons applying to become solicitors.²

We welcome the recommended duration of the pupillage, including the supervisory proposals outlined by the BSB. The Panel also supports the establishment of a minimum pupillage funding award aligned with the Living Wage Foundation's recommended rates. This proposal brings trainee barristers in line with other legal services providers. It also supports the BSB's aim of improving affordability and widening access for students.

We would be very happy to meet and discuss any aspect of this response in further detail. Please contact Lau Ciocan for further queries at lau.ciocan@legalservicesconsumerpanel.org.uk.

¹ Consultation on Future Bar Training: Shaping the education and training requirements for prospective barristers, the Legal Services Consumer Panel, January 2018.

² Looking to the future: phase two of our Handbook reforms, Solicitors Regulated Authority, 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Chambers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Chair
Legal Services Consumer Panel