



## **Notice of 2025 Annual General Meeting**

**The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bar of England and Wales will be an in-person meeting held at the Bar Council Offices, 289-293 High Holborn at 11.00am on Saturday 13 September 2025. It will follow a meeting of the Bar Council.**

The agenda for the AGM will be made available to Subscribers, Circuits, Specialist Bar Associations and the Inns of Court as soon as possible after **the closing date for resolutions (Monday 18 August 2025)**, but not less than seven clear days before the meeting (Friday 5 September 2025). In accordance with Part II, paragraph 16(a) of the Constitution, the Bar Council shall present its annual report and accounts at this meeting.

Regulation 32(c) of Part II of the Constitution of the General Council of the Bar states that the terms of any alteration to the Regulations in the Constitution shall be notified to all Subscribers in the notice convening the General Meeting (whether Annual or Extraordinary) next following the meeting of the Bar Council at which the alteration was made.

In compliance with that undertaking, this notice confirms any changes to the Constitution since the last AGM on 7 September 2024. All changes to the Constitution of the General Council of the Bar must be put to Bar Council members for approval by way of an Extraordinary Resolution. One such resolution for a **change** to the constitution will be put to the Bar Council at the meeting preceding the AGM and is detailed below.

**Those wishing to attend the AGM should contact Justina Naik, Governance and Committees Manager: [Governance@barcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Governance@barcouncil.org.uk)**

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## Changes to the Constitution

The Bar Council meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting on 13 September 2025 will consider, with a view to adopt, a set of provisions for the removal of an Officer of the Bar from office (following prior approval by the General Management Committee). Last year, GMC and Bar Council approved a *Procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct by members of the Bar Council*. However, this procedure was not necessarily sufficient to deal with misconduct by an Officer of the Bar, particularly the Chair and Vice Chair, who are also employees of the GCB. This proposed provision is therefore a 'housekeeping' exercise to close the loop.

The constitutional amendments arising are detailed below:

### **Election of members and duration of membership**

#### **New clause proposed:**

**4 (d)** no person who has been removed from the Bar Council pursuant to the *Procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct by members of the Bar Council*, *Dismissal under HR procedures* or a *Directive resolution of the Subscribers to the Bar Council* shall be elected, re-elected, appointed, re-appointed or co-opted as, or shall become ex officio, a member of the Bar Council.

#### **A person shall cease to be a member of the Bar Council if:**

##### **Current clause:**

**6 (h)** they are removed from the Bar Council pursuant to the provisions of the *Procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct by members of the Bar Council*.

##### **Proposed amendment:**

**6 (h)** they are removed from the Bar Council pursuant to the provisions of the *Procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct by members of the Bar Council* or a *Directive resolution of the Subscribers to the Bar Council*.

#### **New clause proposed:**

**6 (i)** as an ex-officio member they are removed from the Bar Council pursuant to the provisions of the *Procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct by members of the Bar Council*, *Dismissal under HR procedures* or a *Directive resolution of the Subscribers to the Bar Council*.

### **Schedule V – Directive Resolutions**

#### **New clause proposed:**

**4.** If the Chair of the Bar Council has a conflict of interest in relation to a Directive Resolution that is proposed, the Vice Chair can act in the delegated function of Chair pursuant to the conditions in paragraph 1 above.

## **Resolutions**

The Constitution provides that any barrister holding a valid practising certificate or subscribing voluntarily to the Bar Council (other than retired or overseas subscribers) is at liberty to bring forward any resolution (whilst noting the provisions of paragraph 7 of Part II, Schedule III of the Constitution of the General Council of the Bar) for discussion and decision of the AGM, provided that prior notice of the intention to do so shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive, and provided that the resolution is seconded by another subscriber. It is suggested that resolutions are phrased "*this meeting invites the Bar Council to examine ...*"

**Resolutions should be forwarded to Malcolm Cree at the Bar Council by 10:00am on Monday 18 August 2025, via Jamie Shaw, Head of Strategy, Planning and Governance: [JShaw@barcouncil.org.uk](mailto:JShaw@barcouncil.org.uk).**

## **Proxy Voting<sup>1</sup>**

"A Subscriber shall be entitled to vote by proxy at an Annual General Meeting if he or she shall at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting have delivered or caused to be delivered to the Chief Executive a certificate that he or she is prevented from attending the meeting for due medical or religious cause and shall have nominated either some specified Subscriber present in person at the meeting or the Chair of the meeting ex officio to vote on his or her behalf (in which case any show of hands shall be so conducted as to ensure that the proxy has a further vote on behalf of the Subscriber in question in addition to his or her own vote)."

Forms for the certification and lodging of proxy votes can be obtained from the Executive Office.

**Completed forms should be delivered to Malcolm Cree at the Bar Council by 10.00am on Thursday 11 September 2025, via Jamie Shaw, Head of Strategy, Planning and Governance: [JShaw@barcouncil.org.uk](mailto:JShaw@barcouncil.org.uk).**

## **AGM speaking limits<sup>2</sup>**

"No Subscriber shall be permitted, without the consent of the Chair of the meeting, to speak more than once or for more than five minutes on the same matter, save in the case of the proposer of the resolution under debate, who shall be entitled to speak for not more than seven minutes."

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution, Schedule III, para 15.

<sup>2</sup> Constitution, Schedule III, para 9.