



FUTURE BAR TRAINING CONSULTATION
ON THE PROPOSED RULES FOR THE TRAINING
FRAMEWORK FOR THE BAR

Response: September 2018

A response from the Bar Association for Commerce Finance and Industry

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1965, the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry (“BACFI”) represents the interests of employed barristers working in commerce, finance and industry. BACFI’s members include barristers employed in commercial organisations and law firms, employed by the government legal services, and those working through their own consultancy practices.

BACFI is keen to play its part as a representative organisation in helping shape the development of the Bar of England and Wales, by bringing forward the views of its members. BACFI actively supports the objective of an independent and high-quality bar, accessible to all.

GENERAL REMARKS

Having looked at the two questions posed by the Consultation and having seen the Bar Council’s Response to the Consultation, BACFI is in agreement with the Bar Council that it is the drafting that needs commenting upon and wholly agrees with what the Bar Council has proposed.

We particularly wish to highlight rQ31 changes to allow more than one pupil per pupil supervisor and quote from our consultation response from January this year:

“BACFI does not agree that the BSB should allow pupil supervisors to supervise more than one pupil. BACFI has explored this issue at length. The experience of BACFI members is that one-to-one supervision during pupillage is enormously beneficial. Those members working as employed barristers in law firms observe that trainee solicitors are also required to have one, named training principal. Those members employed in in-house legal departments have also observed that training a lawyer is extremely involved and places significant demands on the trainer. Particularly in small legal teams, there would be a risk that allowing one supervisor to supervise more than one pupil would result in a poorer experience for the pupil and lead to a risk that the standard of training delivered was inadequate.”

FURTHER CONSULTATION AND CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

BACFI is grateful to the BSB for providing an opportunity for comment on these areas and looks forward to engaging further with the BSB in the future.