



Bar Council response to the Information Commissioner's Office Consultation on Call for views: ICO25 plan

1. This is the response of the General Council of the Bar of England and Wales (the Bar Council) to the open consultation by the Information Commissioner's Office on "[Call for views: ICO25 plan](#)" published on 14 July 2022.¹

Survey Questions

Question 1: I have read the privacy policy and I am happy for my answers to be used in compilation of a public report.

2. Yes.

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our purpose (Section 3 in our ICO25 plan), and Please comment on the reason for your answer.

3. Agree.

4. The Bar Council agrees with the ICO25 Purpose and reasons for its existence. However, its role as a regulator should give prominence to protect people and create a fairer playing field for compliant organisations, particularly those providing essential services (healthcare and legal) over leniency given to business to grow the economy with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Support to steer organisations in ethical development and/or use of data and technology is a critical role to be played by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). It is further felt that its role as regulator needs to take a more prominent position.

¹ <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/ico-and-stakeholder-consultations/call-for-views-ico25-plan/>

Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our strategic enduring objectives (Section 5 in our ICO25 plan), and Please comment on the reason for your answer.

5. Agree.

6. The Bar Council agree that the strategic enduring objectives cover the relevant areas. We are encouraged by the proposed work on cyber security as this is an area of significant concern to the legal profession. The Bar Council would be willing to work with the ICO to assist in amplifying advice and guidance to the barrister profession so that they are in line with professional obligations and working practices.

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our performance measures (Section 7 in our ICO25 plan), and Please comment on the reason for your answer.

7. Agree.

8. In relation to the sentiment aspect, we would encourage you to broaden your research to not only carry out quantitative analysis but also to engage with organisations like us to understand the issues through a qualitative focus. The outcomes measure appears to be eminently reasonable although we would invite the ICO to consult the Bar Council on training materials and templates to ensure they are fit for purpose in our profession but more importantly ensure that the Bar would benefit from them.

Question 5: Is there anything missing from our plan that you would like us to consider?

9. Yes.

Question 6: Finally, have you any other comments on our plan, not covered elsewhere?

10. The Bar Council represents approximately 17,000 barristers in England and Wales. It promotes the Bar's high quality specialist advocacy and legal services; fair access to justice for all; the highest standards of ethics; equality and diversity across the profession in order to serve the public and is crucial to the administration of

justice. As specialist trained, independent advocates and dispute resolvers, barristers enable people to uphold their legal rights and duties, often acting on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society. The Bar Council is open to the ICO's collaborative approach in line with the ICO25 purposes and strategic enduring purposes and can assist where possible, in particular with any legal sector specific guidance and reports as well as the ICO's dispute resolution services.

Question 7: Are you answering as:

11. On behalf of a third sector body (e.g. charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups).

Question 8: In what part of the UK are you based?

12. England.

Bar Council
22 September 2022

For further information please contact:

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