



Bar Council response to the Fee-Paid Judicial Pension Scheme Draft Regulations

1. The General Council of the Bar of England and Wales (the Bar Council) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Fee-Paid Judicial Pension Scheme Draft Regulations.¹
2. The Bar Council represents over 15,000 barristers in England and Wales. It promotes the Bar's high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services; fair access to justice for all; the highest standards of ethics, equality and diversity across the profession; and the development of business opportunities for barristers at home and abroad.
3. A strong and independent Bar exists to serve the public and is crucial to the administration of justice. As specialist, independent advocates, barristers enable people to uphold their legal rights and duties, often acting on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society. The Bar makes a vital contribution to the efficient operation of criminal and civil courts. It provides a pool of talented men and women from increasingly diverse backgrounds from which a significant proportion of the judiciary is drawn, on whose independence the Rule of Law and our democratic way of life depend. The Bar Council is the Approved Regulator for the Bar of England and Wales. It discharges its regulatory functions through the independent Bar Standards Board,
4. The Bar Council has had the opportunity to see the response of His Honour John Platt, and agrees with the observations he makes both on the principles, and on the drafting. This is particularly true in relation to the question of retirement by those who have held more than one judicial office concurrently; the proposed regulations would penalise these individuals heavily for no clear reason.
5. On the basis that the Bar Council cannot improve upon this response, we intend simply to register our support, and make no further comment.

Bar Council
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*For further information please contact
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¹ https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/fee-paid-judicial-pension-scheme-draft-regulations/supporting_documents/consultationpaper.pdf

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