

Northumbria University (UNN)

From: Supervision
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: BTF 28 April 2023 - Agenda items
Date: 12 April 2023 15:30:29
Importance: High

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Dear Colleagues,

The next Bar Training Forum is scheduled for April 28. We currently only have two items for the agenda which are:

1. Artificial Intelligence. We intend to come back to this subject in future, perhaps with some external speakers. At this stage, we are interested in what work is going on in your institutions in this area in relation to both integrity of assessments and building understanding of AI tools into the curriculum.
2. 5-year rule - arrangements for re-sitters update.

With only two items on the agenda, we are wondering if it is useful to go ahead with this meeting. We can update you on the arrangements for resitters separately if we do not go ahead. We are aware that those planning to attend in person need to book tickets, so please can you tell us, by return, if you have any other items for the agenda so we can finalise plans?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Regulatory Operations Department

Bar Standards Board
A: 289-293 High Holborn London WC1V 7HZ
W: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk
E: supervision@barstandardsboard.org.uk
T: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Supervision; [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bar Training Forum 2 February 2024
Date: 05 February 2024 11:31:30

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Dear Colleagues,

Following on from the Bar Training Forum on Friday 2 February, please see attached the package of information on the arrangements for additional resits, as promised. Hopefully this will assist you in contacting your students and former students about this matter. We have also attached [REDACTED] slides from Friday as requested.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bar Standards Board
Direct Line: [REDACTED]
Switchboard: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk
www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: UNN - BPTC students
Date: 17 October 2025 10:31:42

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

As my colleague [REDACTED] pointed out, the 5 year rule only applies to the BTC and not the BPTC. The rules for BPTC students remain unchanged.

Extracts from the Bar Professional Training Course handbook 2019-2020

Maximum sittings

'If an assessment is failed at the first attempt it may be taken again on two further occasions. A maximum of a total of three attempts is permitted for any single assessment, excepting where documented and accepted extenuating circumstances have caused an attempt to be disregarded (ie not counted towards the maximum number of attempts). Where extenuating circumstances have been allowed then the number of attempts will be calculated accordingly. No more than three attempts (not counting those affected by extenuating circumstances) will be allowed.'

Maximum registration period

*For both full-time and part-time students, the course must normally be completed within a maximum of three years of the expected completion date. **The maximum time limit exists to avoid BPTC graduates proceeding to pupillage with "stale" knowledge. For either full-time or part-time students who have documented extenuating circumstances that have been accepted through their provider's usual extenuating circumstances procedures, and who are still within the maximum number of sittings permitted by the BSB, the maximum time limit may be exceeded at the discretion of the BSB to the next available sit only. Application to extend the maximum time limit should be made by the course provider submitting evidence to the BSB of the extenuating circumstances process and decision as soon as that process is complete.'***

Transitional Period for Centralised Exams

From Summer 2022 if you have not successfully completed the relevant components for whatever reason, including where mitigating circumstances apply as determined by your course provider, you will be affected in the following ways:

- you will need to take the new format of centralised assessment for Civil Litigation which will incorporate dispute resolution (formerly a subject area examined by providers) ie it will contain two new syllabus areas: Alternative Dispute Resolution: Adjudicative options, and Alternative Dispute Resolution: Non-Adjudicative Options. There will be no exemption possible if you have already taken and passed a provider-set assessment in Resolution of Disputes out of Court/
- you will need to take the new form of vocational component Professional Ethics examination which will be set by your provider. This will assess the knowledge and understanding of Professional Ethics required for Call to the Bar.
- should you go on to pupillage/work-based learning you will need to take the new centralised examination in Professional Ethics during pupillage. This will build upon the knowledge and understanding of Professional Ethics covered during the vocational component and will benefit from the assessment taking place in the context of real-life

We are concerned with the number of BPTC students still on the course and encourage providers to be proactive in ensuring that students do not remain in the system. This may mean reviewing processes in place.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Standards Department
Bar Standards Board
289-293 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HZ
Direct line: [REDACTED]
www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

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From: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>
Sent: 16 October 2025 14:57
To: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>
CC: Supervision <Supervision@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>
Subject: FW: UNN - BPTC Students

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Dear [REDACTED]

I hope that you are well.

If you could advise, thank you.

The student results are due out tomorrow.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Academic Registry, Student, Library and Academic Services

E: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk
Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, United Kingdom

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From: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>
Sent: 16 October 2025 12:24
To: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>
CC: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: UNN - BPTC Students

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Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

I hope you are all well.

[REDACTED] has brought the matter below to our attention. We have explained to [REDACTED] that there has been some misunderstanding on [REDACTED] part, as the 5-year rule does not apply to BPTC students, only BTC students. We do not consider it pertinent to hold up board decisions/business regarding the BPTC.

I understand that [REDACTED] from the Supervision Team has been liaising with those AETOs who still have BPTC legacy students, and will be following this up with [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bar Standards Board
Direct Line: [REDACTED]
Switchboard: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@barstandardsboard.org.uk

289-293 High Holborn
London WC1V 7HZ
Website: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

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From: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2025 11:03
To: [REDACTED]barstandardsboard.org.uk>
CC: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>
Subject: List of former BPTC students

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for attending our exam board and for your comments.

These are the former BPTC students where you asked me to email you their details.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As mentioned at the exam board, these students have had repeated [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Academic Registry, Student, Library and Academic Services

E: [REDACTED]@northumbria.ac.uk

Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, United Kingdom

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: "5-Year Rule"
Date: 29 October 2025 16:47:05

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail and query below relating to the "5-Year Rule". I wanted to confirm receipt of your e-mail and inform you that I shall be in contact in due course with a fuller response.

I will also add [REDACTED] to my e-mail distribution list.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>
Sent: 23 October 2025 16:56
To: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>; authorisations <authorisations@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>; [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]northumbria@ac.uk>
Subject: RE: "5-Year Rule"

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Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. We don't have any students close to the 5-year limit at this point; [REDACTED]

Our only query relates to the "old" BPTC students. Our administrator, [REDACTED] has made enquiries with [REDACTED] regarding this issue. At our recent Exam Board, [REDACTED] queried whether the 5-year rule applied to them. We were grateful for the very quick clarification from [REDACTED] that it does not apply. However, we would welcome some confirmation as to what the BSB say the approach should be in relation to these students. I understand that this may not be within your remit and by raising the issue I am not attempting to undermine [REDACTED] work in relation to it.

I have copied in [REDACTED] so that he is aware that I have mentioned this to you. I have also copied in [REDACTED]. As [REDACTED] leads on training and compliance, please can you add her to your distribution lists?

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>

Sent: 23 October 2025 09:47

To: [REDACTED]northumbria.ac.uk>

CC: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>; authorisations <authorisations@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>

Subject: "5-Year Rule"

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Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to updating you on our work relating to the "5-Year Rule". [REDACTED] we are continuing to review the position and will be in contact with you in due course pertaining to any next steps.

In the interim, both [REDACTED] and I are your 'points of contact' relating to queries on the "5-Year Rule". We are happy to be contacted directly our e-mail addresses (please also copy in authorisations@barstandardsboard.org.uk).

We recognise that some students may already have reached, or be close to reaching, this time limit and be anxious about next steps. Our advice remains that any students who can undertake assessment or re-sits should do so at their next available opportunity and follow their provider's internal guidance and policies where relevant (e.g. on mitigating or extenuating circumstances).

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation, and please do let me know if you have any queries.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The Bar Standards Board
289-293 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7HZ
T: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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