

PEBA
The Specialist Bar Association for Planning,
Environment and Local Government

Dear Colleague,

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

1. Our last newsletter was produced in July 2018. This newsletter summarises PEBA's activities since then.
2. We have taken an active part in the Rosewell Review (on speeding up the planning inquiry process): (1) members of the PEBA committee met the Review's secretariat; (2) we responded to the call for evidence by submitting a substantial paper largely drafted by James Corbet Burcher; (3) we had PEBA representatives (Sarah Reid, Rebecca Clutten, Isabella Tafur and Thea Osmund-Smith) at each of the workshops conducted by Bridget Rosewell; and (4) we have discussed the issues arising from the Review with PINS (see below). James Corbet Burcher is involved in testing the beta version of PINS' digital transformation proposals.
3. The annual PEBA conference will be held on Friday 17 May 2019 at Hogan Lovells, organised by Tom Cosgrove QC. The speakers this year are: Mr Justice Dove, Bridget Rosewell CBE, Morag Ellis QC, Alexander Greaves, Tom Hill QC, James Burton, Rupert Warren QC, Jonathan Easton, Constanze Bell, Mark Beard and Robert Williams.
4. Specific recent events include:
 - (i) The annual PEBA advocacy seminar took place on 29 November 2018, chaired by Andrew Tait QC and conducted by Martin Kingston QC. We are most grateful to Martin for delivering such a tour de force and to Asitha Ranatunga for arranging it.
 - (ii) The annual PEBA dinner took place in the Inner Temple on 8 March 2019 attended by many PEBA members, our President Lord Carnwath, honorary members Lindblom LJ, Ouseley J, Dove J, Holgate J, Lieven J, Thornton J, Sir Konrad Schiemann, Sir Jeremy Sullivan and George Bartlett QC as well as guests Tim Smith (Law Society), Steve Quatermain CBE (MHCLG), Victoria Hills (RTPI) and Stuart Reid, Christine Thorby and Peter Rose (PINS). Our thanks go to Suzanne Ornsby QC who organised the evening.
 - (iii) The annual PINS-PEBA seminar preceded the PEBA dinner, at which Inspectors Stuart Reid, Christine Thorby and Peter Rose spoke, chaired by Andrew Tait QC. The talks focussed on the implementation of the Rosewell review recommendations.

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- (iv) Meetings with PINS on 19 November 2018 and forthcoming on 29 April 2019, together with representatives of the Law Society's Planning and Environment Committee.
 - (v) The annual meeting of the Planning Court Users' Group. Tim Mould QC represents PEBA on this body. Matters discussed have included the compilation of a list of core authorities (which Richard Ground QC has helped to develop) and the idea (promulgated by Richard Honey) of a PEBA pro bono scheme to assist unrepresented claimants who have obtained permission to proceed with their claim.
 - (vi) We have taken part in three separate training sessions for the Planning Inspectorate, in late 2018 and early 2019. The trainers have been Paul Tucker QC, Tom Cosgrove QC, Ruth Stockley, Sarah Reid, Hashi Mohamed and Victoria Hutton. The sessions have been very well received and we have been invited to undertake a further session on 19 June 2019, at which Suzanne Ornsby QC and Caroline Daly will be the trainers.
5. PEBA's women at the Bar survey was carried out at the end of last year and the outcome was circulated to PEBA members by email dated 24 January 2019. With the assistance of Nina Pindham, the PEBA committee is now engaged in developing its mentoring scheme and discussing best practice at inquiries and hearings with PINS. A survey has been sent to Heads of Chambers seeking further information about work allocation, parental leave and other matters relating to best practice; the results of this survey are to be considered by the committee at its next meeting in May 2019.
 6. At meetings of the Bar Council, PEBA has been represented by James Corbet Burcher. John Pugh-Smith has assisted in providing informal input to the Committee on ADR matters. Hashi Mohamed has continued to develop and implement PEBA's Outreach Programme. Mark Bear represents us on the Bar Wellbeing Group.
 7. With the assistance of Richard Kimblin QC and James Corbet Burcher, the PEBA Committee has agreed several proposed changes to the Pupillage Checklist, which is now out of date in a number of respects. The revised version has been submitted to the BSB. However from 1 September 2019 completion of the BSB checklists will no longer be mandatory and will be replaced by the "Threshold Standard and Competences of the Professional Statement."
 8. On the initiative of Paul Tucker QC, we are considering whether there is scope for developing a planning and environmental law specific session for the New Practitioner Programme.
 9. We have worked to ensure that PEBA is GDPR compliant, thanks to the work of David Smith and Rebecca Clutten. Rebecca continues to be responsible for the production of the handbook and for overseeing our website.

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10. Since July 2018 we have responded to various consultations including the Rosewell review, as already mentioned above, and on the listing of cases and the relevance of conduct and integrity for the QC appointment process. Tim Mould QC has been responsible for co-ordinating our responses.
11. Please let us know if you become aware of any consultation documents to which you think PEBA could usefully respond.
12. We congratulate the five PEBA members who were appointed as Queen's Counsel in 2019: William Upton QC, Robert Walton QC, Giles Cannock QC, Tim Buley QC and Charles Banner QC.
13. We also congratulate two of our members who have been appointed to the High Court Bench in 2019: Mrs Justice Lieven and Mrs Justice Thornton. Both have accepted honorary membership of PEBA.
14. We thank CPT for their administrative support for the work of PEBA.

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