

**IRELAND – the Bar Council**  
(Introduced in 2005, mandatory since 2007)

1. Legal basis			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Continuing Professional development scheme rules (CPD)</u></li> <li>- Entry into force: 01/10/2005</li> </ul>		
2. Training			
2.1. Basic information			
	Extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 points/practice year (period of 12 months ending on 30 September each year)</li> <li>- Transmission of surplus possible (where a barrister undertakes CPD activities in the months of August or September of any year and thereby exceeds the total CPD points for that year, any excess points up to a max. 5 may be applied to the following years CPD activities)</li> </ul>	
	Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Motivated reasons (leave of absence, maternity leave, certified long term illness)</li> <li>- Exemptions granted by the Internal Relations Committee</li> <li>- The first year barristers during devilling year are exempted (however attendance of <i>New Practitioner</i> lectures is compulsory)</li> </ul>	
2.2. Activities and methods			
Activities	Courses <sup>1</sup>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 hour = 1 point</li> <li>- Max. 9 points</li> </ul>
	Language courses	NO	
	Teaching	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 hour = 1 point</li> <li>- Max. 6 points for ongoing lecturing of law for the first year; max. 3 points for subsequent years</li> <li>- Max. 4 points for preparatory work for a seminar or conference (attendance of the event: max. 6 points)</li> <li>- Max. 4 points for exam marking for the first year; max. 2 points for subsequent years</li> </ul>
	Writing/publishing	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 hour = 1 point</li> <li>- Max. 4 points for article/paper</li> <li>- Max. 8 points for textbook (co-authorship attracts the same number of points)</li> </ul>
	Foreign training activities	✓	
	Other <i>Note: list is not exhaustive</i>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charing: 1 hour = 0,5 point (additional points may be claimed for attendance at the event);</li> <li>- Legal research: 1 hour = 1 point;</li> <li>- Max. 2 points for either reading legal journals (1 article = 0,5 point) or viewing recorded CPD DVDs or listening to MP3 downloads of CPD seminars (1 DVD/MP3 = 0,5 point)</li> <li>- Post graduate legal studies: 1 hour = 1 point;</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Course means "an education programme, seminar, workshop, lecture, conference, in-house group discussion, distance learning, face-to-face training session held as part of a distance learning course, summer school, revision sessions, computer-based learning and course presented by means of videotape, audiotape, simultaneous broadcast or such other system or device".

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewing legal textbooks: 1 hour = 1 point;</li> <li>- Undergoing training in a one-to-one situation in online research (e.g. training in use of legal databases): 1 hour = 1 point;</li> <li>- Preparing, editing, revising etc., papers, reading guides, materials, mock trials, mooted problems, model answers etc., for legal exams or CPD programme: 1 hour = 1 point; e.g. judging moot trial max. 2 points</li> <li>- Preparing curricula, reading guides, teaching materials for CPD activities: 1 hour = 1 point; e.g. preparing curricula max. 2 points</li> <li>- Voluntary legal work: 1 hour = 1 point; max. 6 points</li> <li>- Relevant Private or Group Study: 1 hour = 1 point; max. 2 points</li> </ul>
Methods	Availability of e-methods	✓	- E-learning
<b>2.3. Course providers</b>			
	Bar/Law Society	✓	
	Accredited provider	✓	Regulations state that the Bar Council can accredit CPD service providers; however, it does not do so at this time. A barrister must use the criteria (please see below point 3) to decide if he/she wishes to claim CPD points for a particular activity.
	Other provider (free market providers)	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of providers: N/A</li> <li>- Prior application for a course accreditation: N/A</li> </ul>
<b>3. Assessment of training activities</b>			
	<p>(1) All appropriate CPD events conducted by or on behalf of the organisations mentioned below are automatically regarded by the Bar Council as relevant CPD activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council of the Bar of Ireland</li> <li>- The King's Inns</li> <li>- Groups of barristers organising their own events</li> <li>- Circuit barristers</li> <li>- Advocates organisations in other jurisdictions</li> <li>- Third level institutions<sup>2</sup></li> <li>- Other professional bodies (e.g. Institute of Taxation)</li> <li>- State or semi state bodies (e.g. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney General, Crown Prosecution Service)</li> </ul> <p>(2) Barristers may satisfy CPD requirements with other organisations.</p> <p><u>Procedure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A priori</i> and <i>a posteriori</i> assessment/approval</li> <li>- Applicant: barrister</li> <li>- Assessment body: CPD Manager / Internal Relations Committee</li> </ul> <p><u>Criteria for assessment/approval:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significant intellectual or practical content</li> <li>- Link to the practice of law</li> <li>- Suitable qualifications of training providers (persons/bodies)</li> <li>- Relevance to a barristers' immediate or long term needs in relation to the professional development</li> </ul>		

<sup>2</sup> Higher, post-secondary, tertiary, or third level education refers to the stage of learning that occurs at universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, and institutes of technology. Higher education also includes certain collegiate-level institutions, such as vocational schools, trade schools, and career colleges, that award academic degrees or professional certifications.

<b>4. Supervision</b>		
<b>4.1. Compliance procedure</b>		
	Regular control	- The barrister submits the CPD Compliance Card to the Bar Council CPD Unit on an annual basis
	Random control	- The Bar Council may audit the CPD records of any member of the Bar at any time
<b>4.2. Sanctions</b>		
	Non-disciplinary	NO
	Disciplinary	NO