



Report of Finding and Sanction

Case Reference: 2024/1386/D5

Mr Ian Ball

The Director-General of the Bar Standards Board

The Chair of the Bar Standards Board

The Treasurer of the Honourable Society of: Inner Temple, 2006.

Disciplinary Tribunal

Mr Ian Ball

1. In accordance with an appointment made by the President of the Council of the Inns of Court contained in a Convening Order dated 21 October 2025, I, HH David Pugh, sat as Chairman of a Disciplinary Tribunal on 12 November 2025 to hear and determine 3 charges of professional misconduct contrary to the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales against Mr Ian Ball, barrister of the Honourable Society of Inner Temple.

Panel Members

2. The other members of the Tribunal were:

Rhona Stevens (Lay Member)

Rita Eaton (Lay Member)

Alexander Horne (Barrister Member)

Brett Wilson (Barrister Member)

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Charges

3. The following charges were admitted.

Charge 1

Statement of Offence

Professional misconduct, contrary to Core Duty 5 and/or rC8 of the Bar Standards Boards Handbook

Particulars of Offence

Ian Ball, a barrister, acted in a manner which was likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in him or in the profession and/or acted in a manner which could reasonably be seen by the public to undermine his integrity, in that, on 24 April 2014 he was convicted at Bristol Crown Court of seven counts of making indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to the Protection of Children Act 1978 (as amended) and four counts of indecent assault on a male contrary to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and sentenced to thirty months imprisonment.

Charge 2

Statement of Offence

Professional misconduct, contrary to Core Duty 9 and/or rC65.1 of the Bar Standards Boards Handbook

Particulars of Offence

Ian Ball, a barrister, failed to report promptly, or at all, to his regulator, the Bar Standards Board and/or failed to be open and cooperative with his regulator, in that on 18 December 2013 he had been charged with indictable offences namely seven counts of making indecent photographs or

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pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to the Protection of Children Act 1978 (as amended) and four counts of indecent assault on a male contrary to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

Charge 3

Statement of Offence

Professional misconduct, contrary to Core Duty 9 and/or rC65.2 of the Bar Standards Boards Handbook

Particulars of Offence

Ian Ball, a barrister, failed to report promptly, or at all, to his regulator, the Bar Standards Board and/or failed to be open and cooperative with his regulator, in that on 24 April 2014, he was convicted at Bristol Crown Court of seven counts of making indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to the Protection of Children Act 1978 (as amended) and four counts of indecent assault on a male contrary to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and sentenced to thirty months imprisonment.

Parties Present and Representation

4. The Respondent was present remotely and was represented by Mr Marc Beaumont. The Bar Standards Board (“BSB”) was represented by Mr Phillip Stott.

Preliminary Matters

5. The Tribunal raised a query in relation to Charge 2 concerning the version of the BSB Handbook applicable to the the time of offence indicated in the particulars. This matter was addressed by Mr Stott and Mr Beaumont.
6. The Tribunal subsequently directed that Charge 2 should remain as set out and not be amended.

Pleas

7. The Respondent admitted all charges.

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Findings

8. At the commencement of this hearing three charges were put to Mr Ian Ball. Charge 1 relating to professional misconduct, contrary to Core Duty 5, in that he acted in a manner which was likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in or in the profession or acted in a manner which could reasonably be seen by the public to undermine his integrity.
9. In that on the 24th of April 2014, he was convicted in Bristol Crown Court of 7 counts of making indecent photographs/pseudo photographs of a child, and four counts of indecent assault on a male contrary to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and was sentenced by that court to thirty months imprisonment.
10. The Charge 2 professional misconduct contrary to Core Duty 9, in that having been charged on the 18th of December 2013 with those matters, that he failed report promptly or at all to his regulator, the Bar Standards Board.
11. Charge 3 professional misconduct contract, according to Core Duty 9, in that having been convicted on the 24th of April 2014 of those matters, that he failed to report promptly or at all to his regulator, the fact that he had been so convicted.
12. To those charges, Mr Ball made full admissions. It therefore fell to the Tribunal after having heard submissions with regard to the appropriate sanction.

Sanction and Reasons

13. Charge 1, which is the most serious charge, involved misconduct which the panel found fell within misconduct Group B.
14. Regarding culpability, the panel took into account the seriousness of the underlying offences and particularly the contact offences which were committed in 1992 involve sexual abuse of a child and the use, by the Respondent, of his position of trust to groom that victim. The panel considered that that meant charge 1 fell within the upper range of seriousness, which would indicate a sanction of disbarment.
15. The panel also had regard to the Sanction Guidelines at paragraph 5.12, in which it is stated that a respondent should not generally be allowed to return to practise while the respondent remains on the sex offenders register. It also noted that the Respondent himself has invited the Tribunal to disbar him.

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16. Taking into account all relevant matters, the panel concluded that the appropriate sanction in relation to charge 1 is disbarment.
17. Charges 2 and 3 would not of themselves have merited disbarment. Despite that, we accept the submission made by both the parties that those charges are subsumed within the more serious charge. Accordingly, we impose no separate penalty on those two charges.
18. As to costs, both parties applied for their costs to be paid by the other party. The panel concluded that it had been in the public interest to pursue the charges. It noted that although the Respondent, when notified that he was being investigated, stated that he admitted the breach of the code, he later, once charges had been brought, denied them. Whilst he did attempt to negotiate an outcome which would have resulted in his disbarment without the charges being pursued. The panel accepted The Bar Standards Board was entitled to continue to maintain its position that the public interest required them to pursue.
19. The Respondent raised a number of technical issues which he later abandoned. It was only in the week prior to the hearing that he finally informed the Tribunal that that he would be admitting the charges. Under those circumstances, the panel determined that the application for the Respondents costs to be paid by the Bar Standards Board be refused.
20. Taking into account the shortened period, the Tribunal determined that the costs of the Bar Standards Board in the sum of £2,200 inclusive of VAT should be paid by the Respondent. The Tribunal have taken into account the limited financial information that was supplied but we also note that that the Respondent was able to raise the funds in order to pay for his defence in these matters, which is said to be in the sum of over £12,000. Under those circumstances, the costs order stands as previously set out.
21. Finally, although the Tribunal accepted that it had the jurisdiction to anonymise the name of the Respondent in any publication of its decision, it determined that given the age of the convictions and the fact that the respondent has changed his name, it would be inappropriate to depart from the principle of open justice, which is set out within the Tribunal rules.
22. The victim of the Respondent's offending behaviour remains entitled to anonymity for life.

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23. As per rule E 227.3, given that the Respondent has been sanctioned to disbarment and that he does not currently hold a practising certificate. The panel order that the BSB are not to issue Mr Ball with a practicing certificate, effective immediately, pending any appeal.

24. The Treasurer of the Honourable Society of Inner Temple is requested to take action on this report in accordance with rE239 of the Disciplinary Tribunal Regulations 2017.

Appeal

25. Mr Ball has 21 days from the date of receipt of these written reasons to appeal.

Dated: 26 November 2025

HH David Pugh
Chairman of the Tribunal

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