
The General Public Supports a Mandatory UK Register of Hairdressers and Barbers

The Hair & Barber Council is upping the pressure on Parliament to introduce a mandatory UK register of hairdressers and barbers, in order to improve the industry's status and drive up standards. As part of an extremely persuasive strategy, they've commissioned a detailed research report, in conjunction with the 'Vocational Training Charitable Trust' (VTCT), based on survey results generated from over 700 industry professionals and for the first time, the general public.



The UK hair industry has long been an economic and creative success story, enjoying a global cachet, and yet it's still viewed by outsiders ignorant to the disciplines and complexities involved, as a default career choice. This, despite the fact, that the hair, barbering and beauty industry generates almost £7bn in turnover each year.

This blasé attitude to the craft exists not least within government, and self-regulation continues to be the Conservative Party's rule of law. Although the seeds of change are slowly being sewn, the bill being defeated by a handful of votes when last tabled, showed significant progress.

In this climate of potential change, Research Report Hairdressing and Barbering: the case for Mandatory Registration was commissioned to find out just how important it is to both the industry and the public, to have hairdressing and barbering properly and professionally regulated.

Client satisfaction is the crux of the service industry. The report's consumer survey of 2000 individuals reveals the following:

- 82% of respondents stated that hairdressers/barbers should be trained and qualified in order to practice in the United Kingdom.
- 74% stated that a practising hairdresser/barber should have a 'licence' proving they have the necessary qualifications / training to be able to carry out any hair / barbering service.
- 70% of respondents would be concerned, from a health and safety point of view, if their hairdresser/barber was not properly trained and qualified.
- 80% of respondents would feel more reassured if all hairdressers and barbers had to be properly trained and qualified in order to carry out any hair/barbering service.

“We have customers that think all hairdressers are highly trained professionals, yet the truth of the matter is that anyone can open up tomorrow and cut and colour hair. We need to ensure that we are listening and doing all we can to protect consumers’ interests in our industry. The only way to effect change is to get off the sidelines and join the fight, which is why I joined The Hair & Barber Council and now sit as Vice Chair. This survey backs up a lot of the issues that anecdotally we know exist. It shows what the consumer wants and what the individuals in our industry want, and we have a clear remit to meet the expectations of consumer and the industry,” comments Ben Dellicompagni, Managing Director, Francesco Group and Vice Chair of The Hair & Barber Council.



Credit: Great British Barbering Academy

There are 40,000 hairdressing, barbering, and beauty businesses in the UK. The voluntary Register of Qualified Hairdressers and Barbers boasts qualifying graduate hairdressers/barbers, hairdressers/barbers and senior hairdressers/barbers, but mandatory registration would help further unify and drive the sector forward. Joining an accredited register that meets high standards set by a professional body allows individuals to demonstrate their personal



commitment to their career and their clientele, and be a part of a professional community striving for consistently high standards. The £42 annual fee payable to The Hair & Barber Council equates to less than the average cost of a single colour, cut and blow-dry appointment. It's less than £1 a week from the annual wage of an apprentice. It's a small annual investment in a career that can last a working lifetime.

Research Report Hairdressing and Barbering: the case for Mandatory Registration highlights these primary findings:

- There appears to be overwhelming backing for a mandatory UK register of Hairdressers and Barbers. This backing can be found both within the industry (all stakeholders) and within the general public.
- Support from within the industry includes current members of the voluntary register and non-members
- Members recognise the personal benefits which voluntary registration brings to them.
- Non-members identify the benefits they would acquire through membership
- All stakeholders acknowledge that mandatory registration would have a positive impact on:
 - o Consumer confidence
 - o Industry standards
 - o Professionalism
 - o Self-confidence
 - o Health and Safety and Hygiene

“Without mandatory state registration, the hair, barber and beauty industries will never receive the professional status they need and deserve. The public will never be properly protected and the image by the public, and parents of young people coming out of school and making their future career choices, will continue to be a ‘default’ choice, with low expectations of future prospects and high earnings potential. The industry offers so much to potential entrants; glamour, fashion, design, skill, real craftsmanship and future earnings potential to rival any professional trade or career choice. With the compelling results of these surveys, the industry, our stakeholders and the general public at large, require our industries to be properly regulated, skills to be raised, and customers to have confidence in their stylist, barber or therapist. Now is the time to join with The Hair and Barber Council, to put pressure on Government to get this done,” concludes Keith Conniford, CEO and Registrar, The Hair and Barber Council.

To become State Registered, visit www.haircouncil.org.uk

To read the full report: <http://www.haircouncil.org.uk/pdf/hcfinalreport.pdf>

To watch The Hair Council on BBC Breakfast News:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwXqRInPzUk&feature=youtu.be

To interview The Hair Council’s Keith Conniford or Ben Dellicompagni, please contact sam@essencepr.com or call **020 7739 2858**
