

Breastfeeding lawyer faced £150 room fee

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A breastfeeding barrister has received an apology after she was told she had to pay £150 to use a room at a courthouse in London.

The barrister is on maternity leave but was appearing at the Rolls Building, where the commercial court sits, in a case that she had previously advised on. She was told that she would have to

“hire” a space to express milk. The only reasonable alternative would have been for her to use the lavatories.

Campaigners said the case illustrated outdated attitudes in the justice system that they fear are forcing female lawyers to leave the profession in droves.

Susan Acland-Hood, the chief executive of HM Courts and Tribunals Service, said: “This shouldn’t have happened and I will make sure we investigate, and it doesn’t happen again.”

The barrister, who asked not to be named, contacted the service and was given an apology by officials, who added that the request for payment should not have been made.

A spokesman said: “We have free-to-use rooms for breastfeeding and pumping at the Rolls Building and have investigated what happened in this instance. We are speaking to those involved and, where necessary, will provide additional training to staff.”

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